

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*

IN CHRIST JESUS.

(Philippians 3.13-14 NASB)

#02-08129

OCTOBER 13, 2008

I SPOKE TO YOU IN YOUR PROSPERITY

Issue #02-08128, October 11, 2008, was supposed to sum up issue #02-08127, October 8, 2008, but as I wrote it, I felt led to write about the Lord having mercy on us. It must have been a prod from the spirit of God. Well, I will attempt again to sum up the issue titled *A Great Storm—A Time Fixed By The Father's Authority*.

As stated previously, I concluded the issue with some things that I discovered while researching the current financial meltdown, as so many call it, or a great storm, a tumult, as the Lord called it as He spoke to my heart during the months leading up to September. Again, do not be distracted by the change of events from day to day. We need spiritual sight to see through the events of today to see them as our Lord does and to know what He is doing in this day. We need to be clear that people of the world will always look at the outward appearance of things and have no clue as to what lies behind them. They are blind, and it is the blind leading the blind, and they will all fall into a pit. This is a word the Lord gave to me recently. Unfortunately, as I have written, there is also blindness within the church of God, and the Lord's people need their spiritual eyes opened to see. It is time to buy eye salve.

As I did some research on the great financial storm that has been sweeping across the sea (the world), I discovered a few things regarding periods of time that I believe might give further indication of the Lord's hand in the matter and possibly where we are on His timeline.

As a reminder, the following events were presented.

1910 — the idea of creating a **central banking system** began to take root among some prominent financiers and politicians.

December 23, 1913 — President Woodrow Wilson signed the **Federal Reserve Act of 1913**, creating a central banking system.

1914 — The **Federal Reserve System** was enacted.

February 23, 1938 — **Fannie Mae** was created.

September 1, 1968 — Fannie Mae was authorized to bundle mortgages and sell them as securities called **Mortgage-Backed Securities** (MBS).

July 24, 1970 — **Freddie Mac** created to compete with Fannie Mae.

September 7, 2008 — **Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac fail** and are taken into conservatorship.

One brother has shown that the enactment of the Federal Reserve System in 1914 was precisely 2,520 years after Jerusalem fell to Babylonian captivity. 2,520 years is a prophetic cycle that has been repeated many times throughout history. It is based on 7 times the prophetic year of 360 days. Consequently, it has been proposed that in 1914 the US was yoked to Mystery Babylon through the central and independent (from the government) banking system that is driven by usury, the loaning of money with interest. Practically all commerce is based on credit, and today the world is in a colossal credit freeze, which is what the governments of the world are trying desperately to resolve as panic grips the global financial markets.

Just ask yourself: Is the credit system that we live under a good thing when you consider the trillions of dollars of debt that is mounting by the billions every day? We are slaves to this system.

As I considered this matter, I figured that the year 2008 must be significant in the time fixed by the Father's authority, so I began to research some key events that occurred during that time, in particular laws and regulations passed that helped to create the environment for such colossal failure. This is when I discovered the main culprits in this crisis began 70, 40, and 38 years ago.

There is much discussion today as to how the financial system got to where it is today. However, by most accounts, the current financial meltdown started with Fannie Mae and the bad loans that were issued and then packaged into MBS, which in turn were packaged into other types of securities. Without doubt, there are many more factors and technical details involved, but for the sake of this discussion, let us keep it simple. In particular, I want to focus on the two critical events that occurred, respectively, 70 years and 40 years ago, both of which have played a major, if not the major, role in what we have seen happen during September 2008. Seventy years ago, Fannie Mae was created, and forty years ago, Fannie Mae was allowed to bundle the mortgages into MBS.

What strikes me about these dates is that, based on Scripture, 70 years and 40 years are spiritually significant periods of time or cycles. We know that Daniel and his people were taken into Babylonian captivity for 70 years, and the sons of Israel under Moses wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Thus, in these contexts, a 70-year period signifies captivity, and a 40-year period signifies probation, trial, chastisement, and testing. However, we should not merely look at these cycles from the negative but from the positive, for once the cycle is completed, there is deliverance. Consequently, there is good news to report if we are at the end of these prophetic cycles. Deliverance from Mystery Babylon may not be very far off!

When we look back on this period, we must agree that the greatest increase of wealth has occurred during this time, especially during the last 40 years. For those who hold to what is called "the prosperity gospel," this is seen as a good thing, for, to them, it is the blessing of God. After all, as their thinking goes, God does not want any of His people suffering by being poor. Aren't the Lord's people to have the wealth of the nations? So, during this time, people who could not afford to buy a home were given mortgages without stating their income or without proving that they could pay back the loan with interest. Some Christians fell for this and gave God all the credit for them getting these loans. It just fed upon this gospel which, as Paul would say, is another gospel.

So, where is the Lord in all this? To answer this question, let us consider a word spoken to Judah through Jeremiah.

"I spoke to you in your prosperity; but you said, 'I will not listen!' This has been your practice from your youth, that you have not obeyed My voice." (Jeremiah 22.21 NASB)

Notice that the Lord spoke to them in prosperity. He blessed them. But it was a time of testing their hearts. What was the Lord seeking? He was seeking for ones who would hear His voice and obey Him. Prosperity did not lead them to seek the Lord and obey Him. Quite the contrary; they rebelled.

Now, if we turn to Revelation 2-3, what does the Lord declare repeatedly to His ecclesias? **"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (ecclesias). To him who overcomes, I will grant..."** (Revelation 2.7 NASB). But what is the heart of the seventh and last ecclesia? **"I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing."** What has happened? They have fallen for the love of money, and, I will say, they have fallen for the so-called "prosperity gospel." What does the Lord have to say about their condition: **"You do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. I advise you to buy from Me..."** (Revelation 3.17-18a NASB). Prosperity has led many of the Lord's people to become as materialistic as the rest of the world and to obsessively seek ways to increase wealth. Rather than placing their trust in the Lord, many have placed their trust in their 401ks and the Stock Market, to the point of idolatry. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Dear beloved people of God, prosperity has not led the church to obey the Lord. Wealth has robbed many from their first love, if they ever had it. Many are blind and do not see their true condition. It is the mercy of the Lord to open the spiritual eyes of His people by bringing this materialistic system to its knees. He is after our hearts, not our wallets. The Lord has spoken to us in our prosperity. We did not listen. It is time to listen and obey the Lord. Today is the day! His kingdom is coming!