

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)

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THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

The words *hope* and *change* have been very much in the forefront of news coverage over the last year in the race for the White House. Many people are hungry for change. I believe this hunger is the Lord's doing, but the change that is coming may be nothing like what they expect.

As I have written elsewhere, today, the nations are under Babylonian leadership, for the world has been yoked to mystery Babylon. The spirit of antichrist rules the world today. It is a mystery because people, especially American Christians, do not realize that they are yoked to it. This is the Lord's doing, for He has blinded not only the world but most of His own people to this yoking. If Christians had known that they were in bondage to a financial/banking system, as well as many other systems [*isms*], they most likely would have rebelled and tried to get out from under it. However, the Babylonian system that we find ourselves in is according to the sovereignty of God, which means it is all part of His plan to achieve His grand purpose of the eons.

The fact of the matter is that most of the world and even many Christians do not acknowledge the sovereignty of God in the kingdom of men. The Lord spoke to Nebuchadnezzar that **the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes** (Daniel 4.25, 32 NASB). Why? Because **heaven rules** (Daniel 4.26)! Everything, and I repeat, everything, even the blinding of His people and the world, is being worked out according to God's plan to bring about His purpose.

As Paul told Timothy, here is a trustworthy statement: Men try to rule in the absence of God, but no matter how hard they try, God is still sovereign, and He alone has the first and the last word in the affairs of mankind. After all, through His Son, He is the Creator, and He alone is responsible for His creation, down to the minutest detail.

“Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure’”.... (Isaiah 46.9-10 NASB)

Daniel was brought before Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful ruler on the face of the earth in his day, and he told the king: **There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries** (Daniel 2.28 NASB). It is interesting that the mystery that Daniel was given to reveal was related to what will take place in the latter days, in the future. God has hidden many things from mankind down through the centuries, but as we approach the end of our present eon, He is removing the blinders and allowing some to see more of His mysteries, which, I must stress, are all summed up in Christ. As Jesus spoke to His ecclesia: **Buy from Me ... eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see** (Revelation 3.18). Some are buying in this late hour. They will not have to go off and buy oil when the midnight shout goes forth that the Bridegroom has come (Matthew 25.6).

People of God, we are moving into days in which what has transpired to date will pale in comparison to the problems that mankind will face. Consider what the leaders, especially the US leaders, are doing today. They are throwing everything they can think of at the financial collapse, even to the point that they are now considering measures that could increase the US annual budget deficit to one trillion dollars. Of course, with even a suggestion of such action, the beast, that is, the Stock Market,

soared 430 points in one session. This is without sound logic. As if on cue, over the course of the next few days, it plummeted over 700 points. What drunkenness!

A day is coming when the leaders of the nations will not have solutions to the perplexing problems that they are facing. Perhaps the situation in the US and the entire world will become so severe that mankind will begin to cry out for answers that no man will have, and the church of God will finally fall on its collective face, cry out for mercy, and repent for not being the salt and light to the nations.

We are living under Babylonian leadership as we are yoked to mystery Babylon. This kind of leadership lacks the mind of Christ and, as such, is very limited in its ability to solve the world's challenges. The fact of the matter is that Babylonian leadership (collectively and historically speaking) has led to the challenges the world faces. It is amazing to listen to and watch leaders today running for cover and blaming others, as if they had no part in the making of the current crisis. The word that keeps coming to me is: **And all liars, their part will be in the lake of fire** (Revelation 21.8). Of course, I do not believe that this refers to the eternal hell of literal fire and worms that so many hold to today. But it does mean that all liars will not participate in the glory of the kingdom of our Lord that is coming to this earth soon. These leaders will fail.

Please do not read into what I have stated that these leaders are our enemies or that any of us would do a better job. There go I but by the grace of God! Simply, I see them as fulfilling their part in God's plan. In many respects, all leaders are like Nebuchadnezzar to varying degrees. The fact of the matter is that we are all like Nebuchadnezzar in that we all need to be brought to the place of knowing that we can do nothing apart from God or, more specifically, apart from Christ. Isn't this what the Lord Jesus taught His disciples (John 15.5)? A day will come when the leaders of the nations will declare that there is only one name and one Lord who will be King over all the earth (Zechariah 14.9). His name is Faithful and True!

Let us face the fact; the political leaders of our day talk of having a better way than their opponents, but when all their ideas (both sides) are netted out, seldom do any of them have righteous and just answers. It is not so much an indictment of any individual as it is of a system that has gone amuck. To be sure, there are some in government who have noble and honest desires; some might even have a measure of righteousness; but the system itself has become corrupt and its yoke on us must be broken so that the kingdom of God and His righteousness begins to reign over the nations. It is the mercy of God to break this yoke, and the sooner the better.

In this regard, a change of mind must occur and new leadership must be raised up. But for this to happen, mystery Babylon must fall to make way for the kingdom of Christ and the leaders of His kingdom. All that holds the world system(s) together in our day must fall (be shaken) to give way to God's kingdom of righteousness, justice, mercy, peace, and love. All that is happening today and will be happening in the near future is driving toward this goal. Why? Because God is sovereign!

We need God's perspective on the matter and not man's, and this perspective is based on the sovereignty of God. What is transpiring in our day is all in accord with the will of God. It is no surprise to God, as if He did not see it coming. On the contrary, it is all being worked out according to **the times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority** (Acts 1.7 NASB). **It is He who changes the times and the epochs** (Daniel 2.21 NASB). Unfortunately, so much of what is being presented by the news media is from man's view, which is based on a worldview that seeks to keep God out of the picture and refuses to declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God.

The good news is this: No matter how hard man tries to keep God out of the picture, he can do nothing of the sort. History is God's story. He wrote the story, and He is directing each and every chapter because He is the Sovereign of His creation, and He will not fail to bring it to pass because His Son did not fail on the cross.