

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)

#02-08106

NOVEMBER 14, 2008

BEHOLD, I AM MAKING ALL NEW! #2

As stated in the first issue, some Christians were looking to 08-08-08 as a special day since this combination of the number 8 comes along only once every thousand years, and 8 is the number of new beginning, new birth, or new creation. Interestingly, on that day, the 2008 Olympics began in Beijing, China, and a war broke out between Georgia and Russia that some are saying could lead to a new cold war of sorts. Time will tell the significance of this day in the history of mankind. But then again, we must realize that what truly matters is what is transpiring among the celestials, that is, in the realm of spirit. **The heavens do rule** and what took place in the spirit realm on that day will dictate what will transpire on earth in the days to come.

However, for me, the day before, that is, on the 7th, was of great significance, for on this day the spirit of God opened the eyes of my heart to see more clearly that God becoming all in all is intimately joined with the declaration of the One sitting on the throne: **“Behold, I am making all things new. ... Write, for these words are faithful and true.”**... **“It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost”** (Revelation 21.5, 6 NASB). These words are faithful and true, and the Lord will accomplish all that He has willed. The Lord spoke through Isaiah the prophet: **“Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it?”** (Isaiah 43.18-19 NASB). **“My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure”** (Isaiah 46.10 NASB). **“So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it”** (Isaiah 55.11 NASB). His word is faithful and true, so we can be assured that a day is coming when all will be new to the glory of God. His word has gone forth, and it will accomplish the purpose of God.

I believe that there is a reason for me receiving this revelation on the 7th, and it has to do with the number 7 itself, which speaks of spiritual perfection. We must pass through the seventh day to arrive at the 8th day; therefore, we must come into spiritual perfection before all is new. The seventh day speaks of the coming kingdom of Christ as He establishes *the reign of the heavens* over the nations of the earth for the next 1,000 years, until the glory of God fills the whole earth. Simply, the seventh day leads to the eighth day, just as spiritual perfection leads to all is new. The oncoming eons will take all mankind and all creation from glory to glory.

Interestingly, there are six words that begin with the letter *r* that pretty much sum up God's plan for the eons: **restoration, restitution, revival, recovery, reconciliation, and redemption**. Each of these words speaks of bringing something back to where it once was. This makes sense because the prefix *re* can mean “back, again, anew, over again.” In music, *re* is “a syllable representing the second tone of the diatonic scale.” We could say that *re* indicates a second time.

Six is the number of man, and God's plan calls for mankind to be brought into His all through what each of these words represents.

Of even more interest is the fact that the letter *r* is the 18th letter of the English alphabet. The number 18 refers to coming out of bondage and into spiritual freedom. We see this in type in Judges 10.8 where the sons of Israel had been afflicted and crushed for 18 years, so that Israel was greatly distressed. They cried out to the Lord and they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord, who could bear the misery of Israel no longer (see Judges 10.16). We see the

antitype to this account when the Lord Jesus healed a woman who for 18 years had a sickness caused by a spirit.

And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness." And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God. (Luke 13.10-13 NASB)

This woman was doubled over, and, in a sense, she could not see straight, for, when she walked, all she could do was look down at the ground. Jesus was putting His finger on the spiritual condition of the Judahites that sat in the synagogue. Spiritually, they were doubled over and could not see straight to the point that they could not discern that the Messiah was in their midst, and that, at its root, His kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, not a political one as the people had expected. Jesus came to free them from their spiritual bondage, but the religious leaders of the day rejected Him and consequently remained in bondage.

Most commentators look at the number 18 as the number of bondage, but I prefer to see it as the number of freedom, for, in both accounts, it was after 18 years that freedom came. So, the number 18 refers to release from bondage into freedom.

Given this understanding, it is easy to see that the letter *r* as the 18th letter of the English alphabet also points to freedom from bondage. And, in fact, this is exactly what we see in the meaning of all six words that begin with the letter *r*, and most of Scripture speaks forth God's heart to free all creation and to reestablish all things through restoration, restitution, revival, recovery, reconciliation, and redemption.

Now, here is the point that I want to make: First, without going into what each means, as a group these words speak of bringing mankind back onto some ground that has been lost, but they do not necessarily speak of something new. If we go back far enough in the history of mankind, we will discover the original state or condition that is being regained. Second, it seems to me that the Lord's people divide themselves along one or more of these **re** words. Consequently, there are those who see everything that God is doing through the prism of restoration, others through revival, and others through recovery, etc. There is nothing wrong with this and I am not being critical of anyone who holds one or more of these views, for each can be explained according to Scripture. The danger that I see is that we can become so fixated on these things, some of which are described as moves of God, or simply movements, that we can lose sight of, or never even come into sight of, the glory of God's ultimate purpose. We can begin to see these moves or movements as ends unto themselves and fail to see that they are merely part of God's plan. He will reconcile; He will redeem; He will restore, He will reconstitute; He will revive; and He will recover all things because this is His plan to bring about His purpose.

There is another danger that must be guarded against and it is seeing all in reference only to the "church," as if the rest of mankind is destined never to come into the **all new** of God. Some speak as if when the last saint is saved in our age the church has arrived. No! We have just begun, for there is a greater work to do and that is to bring the rest of mankind and all creation into the Presence of God through our Lord Jesus, the Son of God and the Creator of all. Some speak as if when the last saint comes in, the door of the good ol' gospel ship is shut and the Lord and His people go flying off into eternity, leaving everything else behind. No; no; a thousand times no; this is not what it is all about! For God the Father to be all in all by making all new, all mankind and all creation must be included in His all and in His new.

Dear beloved ones in Christ, let us not retreat to the past, even the good past, let us press on, continually moving on to the fullness of God's purpose. We must not retreat, for our God is not retreating, He is pressing on by His spirit. He has a purpose, a goal in view, and nothing will stop Him from reaching that goal, and it requires and involves ALL.

Behold, I am making ALL NEW!