

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)

#02-08148

NOVEMBER 24, 2008

“FINANCIAL CRISIS CAN BE OVERCOME IN 18 MONTHS”?

On November 23, 2008, I was struck by several reports summarizing a meeting of the 21 APEC nations held in Lima, Peru. APEC stands for *Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation*. Some of the nations included in APEC are Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States.

It is obvious from some of the press releases on the summit that the group sought to assure the world that they can resolve the global financial crisis and that they are aggressively attacking the problem.

The leaders of these nations made a 12-point declaration. One declaration stated that they are “committed to strengthening the social dimensions of globalization” and that the current global financial crisis “is one of the most serious economic challenges we have ever faced. We will act quickly and decisively to address the impending global economic slowdown and will take necessary economic and financial measures to resolve the crisis.”

President Bush, who attended the meeting, was quoted as saying: “Recovering from the financial crisis is going to take time. But we’ll recover, and in so doing, begin a new era of prosperity.” Peruvian President Garcia stated: “Know that this crisis will be overcome by all of us.”

But what struck me as I read these reports was their declaration that they believe **the current global financial crisis can be overcome in 18 months** because they have already taken urgent and extraordinary steps to stabilize their financial sectors and strengthen economic growth. Really?

First, as with any **Babylonian leader**, we cannot trust their words. I am not implying dishonesty on their part; it is just that they do not know any better. To be sure, many have noble intentions, but it does not change the fact that Babylon must fall as the King of glory comes through the door to this earth.

In case you do not understand what I mean by Babylonian leaders, I have made the point repeatedly that the world system that all nations are yoked to, what many call **the global financial system**, is what Scripture describes as **mystery Babylon** (Revelation 18). All nations are part of this; consequently, the leaders of all nations are Babylonian leaders. They know no other system, and their goal is to save this system no matter what the cost. They have no intention of scrapping it. They have no intention of seeking God’s kingdom and His righteousness. They have no intention of repenting for shaking their fist at Almighty God. And, at this point, they have no intention of declaring that God’s Son is the rightful heir of the earth and the King of the nations. The good news is that the day will come when all this will change for the good, but that will only come when the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ comes and takes root among the nations, replacing the kingdom of this world (Revelation 11.15), including man’s global financial system. It is a system based on greed and the love of money that makes its living, so to speak, through usury and credit, and that has made the inhabitants of the world its slaves. It is a beast system that will never be satisfied. Just consider the billions upon billions of dollars fed to it recently.

Second, I was caught by the repeated use of the word *overcome*. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* records that the Lord Jesus dictated letters to the seven ecclesias. Each ecclesia was exhorted to overcome: **To him who overcomes, I will grant.... He who overcomes will not be hurt....** (see Revelation 2-3). The Lord identified the failures of His ecclesia and gave seven exhortations to overcome and the reward for all who do overcome. But now we have world leaders declaring that they will overcome and right a

system that is based on greed and the love of money. It is as if they are declaring that they have all the wisdom they need to make the system solvent again. But do they and can they? To make matters worse, some of the very people who created the crisis are the very ones who say they can fix it. It is like the fox guarding the chicken coop. Case in point; the new Treasury Secretary in the Obama administration is currently the head of the NY Fed Reserve. Lord, have mercy!

Third, the declaration that really caught my attention was their intent to overcome this crisis in **18 months**, which would indicate the crisis will be resolved mid-2010 or, perhaps, **May 2010**. Unless they have some special inside knowledge of why 18 months and not some other number, I imagine this is mostly guesswork designed to assuage the worried inhabitants of the world and to buy some time as they throw mud on the wall to see if it sticks, so to speak. They don't have a clue! If I am correct about the time on the prophetic clock, this system is destined for the ash heap in the next couple of years, if not sooner, and I am not alone in this view.

This leads me to the number **18** and **May 2010**. The number **18** signifies **bondage that leads to freedom**. There are two places in Scripture where the number 18 is referenced. The first is in Judges. The sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord by serving the gods of other nations. They forsook the Lord and did not serve Him, so the Lord's anger burned against them and He sold them to the Philistines, who afflicted and crushed them for 18 years, until they confessed their sin. Finally, the sons of Israel said to the Lord: "**We have sinned, do to us whatever seems good to You; only please deliver us this day.**" The Lord could not bear their misery any longer and delivered them (see Judges 10.6-16). Thus, freedom followed 18 years of bondage. The second example of the number 18 is discovered in Luke 13.10-16 where the Lord Jesus freed a woman from her sickness of 18 years. A spirit had caused her to be bent double so that she could not straighten up at all. Jesus said: **And this daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?** (Luke 13.16). Thus, the woman was released from her 18-year bondage to this spirit on the **Sabbath, the seventh day**.

Perhaps these 21 leaders have declared a prophetic truth without knowing it. I find it interesting that there are 21 nations in APEC; the number **21** signifies **the exceeding sinfulness of sin**. If the meaning of the numbers 21 and 18 apply to the current crisis, the world may be in for a very tumultuous period from now until sometime in 2010. Is total economic collapse on the horizon that will lead the leaders of the nations to finally cry out to God, confess their sin before God, and plead for deliverance? Like Israel that served the gods of other nations, are not the nations serving the god of mammon or of wealth? Didn't Jesus state that **you cannot serve God and wealth?** (Matthew 6.24). Doesn't mystery Babylon require worship? The nations today are very much like the sons of Israel that were sold into Philistine bondage. They are even like the doubled-over woman who could not see straight ahead; they have a sickness brought on by **the spirit of the world** and **the spirit of antichrist**. They cannot see things as they need to see in order to resolve the crisis. They think they know where they are going, but they do not, for they are like the blind leading the blind, and they all will fall in a pit.

According to a variety of sources, it seems that many things are pointing to the year 2010. I find it fascinating that president-elect Obama has announced an economic stimulus plan for the US that will "save or create" 2.5 million jobs by the end of 2010. "Save or create" sounds like a hedge to me. On top of this, there are numbers being floated around from \$175 billion to another \$700 billion that need to be thrown at the problem. Regardless, the point is that the new administration is looking out to two years for a fix. They may be in for a real surprise. God has a plan that will not be thwarted. A **Sabbath day, the seventh day** is coming in which the nations will be set free from bondage.

I have much more to say about the year 2010, for I believe this is a critical year, perhaps even the year that we will see the kingdom of Christ begin to overtake the nations. May and September may be interesting months. I have already written an article on the year 2010, but I am waiting on the Lord as to if and when it should be posted. So please pray for me that I would know the Lord's will on the matter. Perhaps He will reveal more to me in the interim.

Please be encouraged. **The kingdom is coming!** All these things must take place in order for it to come, which is a good thing. The bad news of today is going to turn into joy for all who love the appearing of the Lord. **Put your trust in the Lord; make Him your trust. The Lord reigns!**