

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)

#03-0961

The Kingdom of Our Lord #1.

January 6, 2009

The Declaration

And the seventh messenger did sound, and there came great voices in the heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of the world did become those of our Lord and of His Christ, and he shall reign to the ages of the ages!' (Revelation 11:15 YLT)

And the seventh messenger trumpets. And loud voices occurred in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of this world became our Lord's and His Christ's, and He shall be reigning for the eons of the eons!" (Revelation 11:15 CV)

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night." (Revelation 12:10 NASB)

Lately, I have been considering what the Lord's kingdom will look like as it takes root in the earth. How will it operate? What things will change in the way that the world operates? Issues #02-0882 (September 23, 2008), #02-0883 (September 24, 2008), and #02-08121 (September 25, 2008) began to answer this question. Lord willing, in this series, I am going to answer this question, at least in part and with what light I have been given. I plan to leave this series as an open-ended one that I will expand upon over the next year as I seek more light on the matter.

The above verses indicate that a time will come when loud or great voices in heaven will declare that a major change of government has taken place on earth. For 6,000 years, the nations have been ruled through the often-failed attempts of man, but an eon (age) is coming when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. The kingdom of Christ will not fail but instead will increase until it fills the whole earth.

Today, the Lord Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth; however, His authority has not been acknowledged among the nations of the earth. The good news is that in the next eon, not only will Christ be acknowledged as the King of the nations, but His reign will be tangibly manifested on earth among the nations. Those who are counted worthy of the age to come will reign with Christ and be His kings, lords, judges, administrators, and ambassadors. These are the conquerors that have matured to be like Christ, having the mind of Christ in order to administer the divine laws of God, to teach the inhabitants of the world righteousness, and to manifest the love of God. The conquerors will be the ones who are counted worthy of the *out*-resurrection (first resurrection) and transfiguration, for they will be manifested as the sons of God, the sons of glory that have been changed into the image of Christ with celestial, spiritual, glorified, immortal bodies. (If you are curious about the word *celestial*, read issue #02-0863, August 4, 2008.) They are the firstfruit anointed, the first ones to see Christ by attaining to the Feast of Tabernacles and the eighth day in which the spirit will flow out from their innermost being as rivers of living water (John 7:38).

I am starting this series with the concept of the conquerors because it seems to me that this truth has been lost in the maze of Christian teaching. Much teaching erroneously tells believers that before the next age, they will fly off to heaven and walk on golden streets, leaving this world eternally behind, as if heaven, as they perceive it, is the future home of all who believe. However, this is not true. In the next eon, Christ has a work to do as He sums up all things in the heavens and on the earth (Ephesians 1:10), and He has a chosen company of believers called the conquerors (overcomers) that will be His

complement to bring about God's plan (Ephesians 1:23 CV). The destiny of this elect or chosen group is to minister in both the heavenly (celestial) and earthly realms, and they will do this until the two realms become one in God's day (see Revelation 21-22).

Now, there is one more important matter that must be addressed before considering the nature of the kingdom of our Lord, and that is how and when His kingdom will come. As I listen to what is taught on the matter of the kingdom, I hear a variety of views or theories. I don't pretend to know all the views or the permutations or differences within the views, so I won't attempt to go onto that ground in any detail. However, it seems that the views could be grouped into three broad camps.

One camp sees the kingdom coming all at once at the end of the age. The King will come out of heaven riding on His white horse, slay all His enemies, and establish His rule on earth. It is as if the kingdom comes instantaneously. The timing of this manifestation is generally viewed as imminent; that is, it will come at a time that no one can know or will know, and is most often aligned with the pre-tribulation rapture theory. See Article #17, January 2009, *Snatched Away*, [The Rapture].

The next camp sees the kingdom coming gradually, based on the church diligently working to establish the kingdom of our Lord on earth before the King Himself comes to earth. The main feature of this camp is that they see the kingdom taking root in our present wicked eon and progressing until the church has overtaken the nations by infiltrating every aspect of society and government. It is only when the church has accomplished this mission that the King will come. In other words, the kingdom must be established on earth before the King can literally come to earth to manifest Himself. This camp places all the emphasis on the church doing its job, which leaves the coming of the kingdom totally dependent on the church while occupying bodies of death and leaves the full manifestation of the kingdom on an open-ended timeline. Consequently, if the church is passive, then it will take much longer for the kingdom to come.

The third camp sees the kingdom coming when the sons of God are manifested in accordance with the Feast of Tabernacles. It will take fully matured conquerors or overcomers who have been glorified as Christ has been glorified to teach the inhabitants of the world righteousness and to lead the nations in righteousness. This cannot be done while occupying bodies of death, which are weak and prone to failure. It requires the first resurrection and transfiguration to occupy new tabernacles or dwellings from heaven that are celestial in nature. There is a progression of maturity based on the feasts. When we first believe, we apply the blood and fulfill **Passover**; then we receive an earnest (a down payment, not the entire payment, so to speak) of the spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:14) under **Pentecost**. But, we must realize that Pentecost was not meant to be a perfect feast, for it was celebrated with leaven (Leviticus 23:17), which refers to corruption. This is why there has been so much church failure during the last 2,000 years. Consequently, we must move beyond Pentecost to **Tabernacles** to receive new bodies like the body of the risen and glorified Christ and to see the love of our life. These new glorified, celestial bodies will be spiritual bodies and will fulfill the Lord's words given on the eighth day of the feast: "**From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water**" (John 7:38 NASB). When the sons of God are manifested, the kingdom of our Lord will begin to take root in the earth and will progress or increase for the next 1,000 years until it fills the whole earth. Like the previous camp, the kingdom is seen progressing; but unlike the previous camp, this will not occur until there is a glorified company of saints called the conquerors or overcomers to administer the kingdom to the nations. This camp sees the kingdom coming in the age or eon to come according to a time fixed by the authority of the Father. This time is based on seven days of 1,000 years each (2 Peter 3:8), and during these days, God has worked in a series of prophetic time-cycles that have been repeated throughout history. Consequently, the kingdom of our Lord will come with the completion of six days and in accordance with prophetic cycles set by the Father.

If you have not figured it out by now, the third camp is the one that I see as the truth of Scripture. However, there is one other point that I want to stress. I believe we currently are in a period of transition in which some aspects of the kingdom are being manifested, but we aren't there yet.