

# 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)

#03-0914

**Today's News**

January 13, 2009

I am caught by the news of the day in light of mystery Babylon, and where I believe we are on the prophetic calendar. Here are some headlines that appeared in the news today.

## **“Clinton seeks a ‘smart power’ Middle East strategy.”**

Hillary Rodham Clinton appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in her confirmation hearing to become the Secretary of State. She talked of the need to pursue peace and diplomacy in order to resolve world conflicts. I have no problem with such a goal; we should seek peace instead of war. But what caught my attention was her call for a “smart power strategy” in the Middle East. I am not quite sure what this means or what it will look like practically, but we can be assured that it will be smart.

In case you missed it, on January 5, 2009, I posted issue #03-0902, titled *Babylonian Leaders Are Smart*, and I referenced her in this elite group of smart people. And now, she confirms that “smart” is in among the higher echelons of Babylon. I wonder if she means being “alert; clever; capable; shrewd, sharp, as in one’s dealing.” After all, this is the definition of smart.

In *Babylonian Leaders Are Smart*, in reference to being smart, I wrote: This describes how Babylon operates and who is rewarded the most under this system. The clever and the shrewd ones are the ones that are most revered in the great city Babylon. They are the ones that not only survive but also rise to the top to lead others. The ones that are not labeled smart are not revered but often scorned or looked down upon.

I might add that she did not hesitate to criticize the Bush administration’s strategy. After all, according to the elite, Bush is not one of the smart guys. I bring this up not as a statement of support for the so-called Bush doctrine, but simply as an acknowledgement that “the elite club of the smart” does not include George Bush in their company.

So smart is in again, and Babylon is cheering!

## **“Obama scrambles on Geithner, bailout concerns.”**

President-elect Obama’s nominee for Treasury Secretary hit a slight snag on the road to confirmation. Somehow this really smart guy forgot to pay taxes to the tune of \$25,970. Evidently, several years back, he had hired a housekeeper who did not have the proper immigration papers, and he also failed to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes for himself. Impressive! This is another one of those Obama nominees that everyone declared was really smart and the perfect choice to lead the nation through the current financial crisis. He is one of the smart guys. In case you don’t know, Mr. Geithner is the current President of the New York Federal Reserve and from 2001-2003 worked for the International Monetary Fund. And yet, this man, who is going to be responsible for doling out billions of dollars of our money to the financial institutions, did not do such a hot job in hiring a housekeeper or in paying his taxes. If I recall correctly, paying taxes has something to do with managing your money. Of course, these were honest mistakes, and according to Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader, these issues are a few little hiccups on the road to confirmation. Did I hear someone say Zoe Baird and Kimba Wood? I guess the lesson we are to learn is that smart guys only make honest mistakes and occasionally hiccup.

Last year I shared a dream that I had that indicated the American people have been tied to a corrupt political system that is under judgment. See issues #02-08125, September 30, 2008, *The Cords of Falsehood*, and #02-08132, October 23, 2008, *The Cord of Corruption is Cut*. So far, we have seen the circus coming out of Obama's home state involving the governor and the appointment of a replacement for Obama's senate seat, and the withdrawal of the Commerce Secretary nominee, Bill Richardson, who everyone on the "team" knew, before his nomination, was in the midst of an investigation.

**"Bernanke: No 'lasting' recovery without more bank aid."**

Speaking to an audience in London, Ben Bernanke, the Fed Chairman, stated that it is "highly uncertain" when there will be economic recovery. They are estimating that growth dropped by 5% last year, the largest drop in 26 years. This is sobering news from another smart guy. So what is his solution? It is to throw more money at the problem in order to further stabilize the financial system. I thought that was the modus operandi back in the fall of 2008. If Bernanke is correct, then it has not worked in spite of all these smart guys who have been steering the Titanic. Of course, the problem is that the world financial system is like the Titanic. It has been running at full steam ahead as it keeps throwing more and more money into its credit engine to fuel the world economy, as it heads for the iceberg that will send it to the bottom. I refer you to issues #02-08131, October 17, 2008, *The Titanic and Waterloo*. The world's Waterloo is coming!

**"Citi On Fire?" Is Citi beginning its final plunge."**

This is probably the most telling headline of the day in light of Bernanke's sobering comments. As a reminder, Citigroup has had several bailouts already, and it is still not out of the woods, and now there are serious questions whether it can be saved. As the news report, anxiety is growing about the fate of this financial giant. The fear is that this giant is about to fall or, as the caption implies, crash and burn. I refer you to issue #02-08154, December 5, 2008, *The Great City – Citi Bank*.

This should remind us of the fate of mystery Babylon that will burn in one hour. Perhaps Citigroup is a symbol of mystery Babylon and a harbinger of its fall.

**(9) "And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, (10) standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'" (Revelation 18:9-10 NASB)**

I recall a financial adviser telling me last year, more than once, that Citi is too big to fail (Where have we heard that one before?), and that the guys in Washington are too smart to let it fail. I still cannot figure out the "smarts" in salvaging Bear Stearns and allowing Lehman Brothers to fail. I might add that one of the really smart guys, Robert Rubin, an ex-Treasury secretary, has been on the board of Citi for quite some time and has been criticized for not keeping this financial institution from the fire.

Finally, to cool things down, so to speak, the following headline also appeared in today's news.

**"Shocking cold wave drops temps to 40 below zero."**

This is global warming! In the upper Midwest of the US, the temperatures reached Arctic levels, which is pretty cold. It is interesting that during times like this the news media seem to grow silent on the dire consequences of global warming. Where is the smart guy that invented the Internet? Which smart guy is going to take up the mantle for global cooling? Well, if you are interested, read issues #02-0873, April 22, 2008 and #02-0874, April 29, 2008, *Who Can Count the Clouds By Wisdom?* #1 & #2.

This is the news for the day. **Lord, have mercy!** (See issue #02-08128, October 10, 2008.)