

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 Days of Noah #5.

February 5, 2009

The Number 120

I had not intended to write five issues for this series, but then it seemed right to summarize the negative and positive meanings of the number 120 in light of the days of Noah. After all, we either just came out of those days, or we are still in them with the end in sight. What follows has already been presented, along with some additional thoughts.

The negative meaning of the number 120 (or the days of Noah) refers to the time in which all mankind, save a few, were corrupt and violent, which led to God bringing judgment upon mankind through the flood of water. However, it was not that God did not warn them, for He most assuredly did as He commanded Noah and his grandfather Methuselah to speak to the people to turn back to the Lord and forsake their evil ways. If we accept the book of Jasher, then we also know that the Lord told them they had 120 years to get their act together, so to speak. The Lord is merciful, for He always gives people a chance to repent and return to Him before He exercises His right over His creation. However, Scripture reveals that they did not repent and the flood came with the completion of the 120 years.

This got me thinking. It is generally acknowledged that the Lord's exhortation to the seven ecclesias in Revelation 2-3 represent an historical view of His ecclesia from shortly after Pentecost to the end of our present wicked eon (age), as Paul called it. It is also recognized by many that the Laodicean ecclesia represents the overall condition of the ecclesia at the end of our eon. This ecclesia is obviously in love with its riches, which seems to go hand-in-hand with the prosperity gospel of our day, which, by the way is not the gospel of Jesus Christ or of the kingdom of God.

(14) "And to the messenger of the ecclesia in Laodicea write: 'Now this is saying the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, and God's Creative Original: (15) I am aware of your acts, that neither cool are you nor zealous! Would that you were cool or zealous! (16) Thus, seeing that you are indifferent, and are neither zealous nor cool, I am about to spew you out of My mouth. (17) Seeing that you are saying that 'Rich am I!' and 'Rich have I become, and of nothing have I need!' and you are not aware that you are wretched and forlorn and poor and blind and naked, (18) I am advising you to buy of Me gold refined by the fire, that you should be rich, and white garments, that you may be clothed and the shame of your nakedness may not be made manifest, and eye-salve to anoint your eyes, that you may be observing. (19) Whosoever I may be fond of, I am exposing and disciplining. Be zealous, then, and repent! (20) Lo! I stand at the door and am knocking. If ever anyone should be hearing My voice and opening the door, I will also be coming in to him and dining with him, and he with Me. (21) The one who is conquering, to him will I be granting to be seated with Me on My throne as I, also, conquer, and am seated with My Father on His throne. (22) Who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying to the ecclesias.'" (Revelation 3:14-22 CV)

Here we discover the Lord exhorting His people to repent, and if they do not, He will spew them out of His mouth, that is, reject them when He comes to establish His throne over the nations of the earth. Again, He warns His people. He is the Faithful and True Witness, and His assessment of the condition of His ecclesia is true; it is not open for debate. The call has gone out to all who have a spiritual ear to hear; it is time to repent and return to the Lord. Those who conquer are the ones that heed this exhortation and will sit upon His throne in the next eon.

As I considered this, I began to wonder when the modern-Laodicean era began, for just as the call for repentance went forth for 120 years of the days of Noah, perhaps it will go forth, or has gone forth, for 120 years of our modern era. In doing a little research, I discovered that there is no one consensus on when the Laodicean era began; some place it as early as 1880 and others as late as 1914. However, if we take the earliest date and add 120 years to it, we arrive at the year 2000. And yet, if we pick a later date, like 1890, we arrive at 2010, a year that I believe is of great significance on the prophetic timeline. See Article #18, February 2009, *When the Day Comes*. I am in the camp that believes there is a time of transition between the end of our present age and the beginning of the Kingdom Age. Could it be that the 120 years of warning were completed in 2000, and we are in a transition as the company of conquerors is being prepped for the new age? Perhaps so!

Now, this leads to the positive meaning of the number 120. As shown in the preceding issues, the number 120 also refers to the Lord's conquerors experiencing Tabernacles as they are transfigured into the image of Christ. This is the next great spiritual move of God as the conquerors receive their inheritance of spiritual, glorified, celestial, immortal bodies in order to reign with Christ and bring the kingdom of our Lord to the nations.

The positive meaning of the number 120 is seen in the 120 priests that dedicated Solomon's temple, resulting in the house of the Lord being filled with the cloud of glory. The 120 priests signify the dedication of the temple of God (2 Chronicles 5:11-14). It has not been mentioned previously, but Solomon also sacrificed 120,000 sheep during the dedication (2 Chronicles 7:5). The 120,000 sheep is an intensification of the number 120 and speaks corporately of the entire house of the Lord that has been crucified with Christ, and individually of the ones who have heard the voice of the Lord, heeded His commands, and, most importantly, laid down their lives for others. **"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me"** (John 10:27 NASB).

The type comes into sharper focus on the day of Pentecost when the 120 men and women (sheep) were gathered together and the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:15-17). We could say that they were the beginning of the dedication of the temple of the Lord, the dwelling of God in spirit, New Jerusalem. However, as stated, this was only the beginning, for they, as well as all who have followed since that day, have received only a down payment of the spirit of God. All who have an earnest of the spirit must experience Tabernacles to receive the full measure of the spirit. This is the beginning of the next great flood of God that will ultimately lead to the glory of the Lord filling the whole earth as the waters cover the seas. We see a type of this in the queen of Sheba giving a gift of 120 talents of gold to Solomon because he was seated on the throne to administer justice and righteousness. Gold speaks of glory, so again we discover that the number 120 signifies the glory of the Lord going forth in the next eon when justice and righteousness shall rule the day, for this is the foundation of the Lord's throne (2 Chronicles 9:8-9).

Finally, we come to Moses who lived 120 years, and at the end of his years, his eyes had not dimmed, meaning he had good vision, and his vigor had not abated (Deuteronomy 34:7). He was still a strong, vigorous man on the day that the Lord took his breath. He had learned the ways of the Lord, even the difficult lesson of not being able to enter the Promised Land in that day. His greatest lessons were learned while in the wilderness for his last forty years. Starting in Egypt as the nation was called out of bondage, moving on to Mount Sinai where he met the Lord in the cloud of glory in order to receive the law of God and a veiled glory, and continuing for that long season in the wilderness with a stubborn and obstinate people, the spiritual eye of Moses was opened to see God's purpose and plan. This is why the word of God declares that his eyes were not dim nor his vigor abated. He saw clearly.

To conclude this series, we need to ask ourselves: What about us? Are our spiritual eyes not dim? Is our spiritual vigor unabated? You see, this is not a matter of our physical condition. It is a matter of our spiritual condition. If repentance is in order, then repent. If obedience is in order, then obey. If dying to self is in order, then die. We need the eyes of our heart opened to see God's purpose and plan, and we need to be encouraged that it won't be long until the great and last flood of God comes.