

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 Number 888

February 18, 2009

February 10, 2009 was a very interesting day. The US Stock Market dropped 382 points to 7888.88, and the US Senate brought the misnamed stimulus bill to cloture by a vote of 61 to 37, which led to final passage of a nearly \$800 billion bill on February 13, 2009 by a vote of 60 to 38. Then, the evening of the 10th, the Lord spoke three times to me, two of which were in reference to something coming upon the US. Actually, the period of February 2-10 was interesting as I had several dreams and words that seemed to be of the Lord that all point to change coming, both good and bad. At this point, I will refrain from sharing on the specifics of these things as I continue to seek the Lord for further clarification. I only share this part to confirm my point that this was a very interesting day and, for me personally, the culmination of a 7-8 day period, all of which I believe has prophetic significance.

The reason February 10th was interesting is found in the numbers 888 (from 7888.88), 61, and 37. As we approach Tabernacles and the coming of our beloved Lord and His kingdom, I am on the alert for anything that can be used to highlight this glorious event. I will leave it to you, the reader, to discern whether these numbers appeared on this day as a prophetic sign. At any rate, let us consider these numbers, starting with the number 888. The numbers 61 and 37 will be reviewed in a subsequent issue.

To begin, we need to understand the number 8 in order to understand the significance of the number 888. In Scripture, the number 8 refers to beginning, most notably a new beginning or a new order of things. Another way to look at this number is to consider the number 7, which is the number of completion. There are seven days to a week, followed by the eighth day, which is actually the first day of the new week; thus, the number 8 signifies a new beginning. Jesus was resurrected on the first day of the week, which is also the eighth day. It was on this day that a new creation, one that is beyond death, was birthed. Just as the number 4 speaks of the first creation, the number 8 speaks of the new creation that is in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15).

We discover specific examples of the new beginning, starting with the eight members of Noah's family, including Noah (1 Peter 3:20), that were brought through the flood to start anew and repopulate the earth. Being brought through the water (flood) by being sealed in the ark is a type of resurrection. When they left the ark, a new world order began with these eight people.

Circumcision was performed on the eighth day for the sons of Israel as a sign of the true spiritual circumcision, the spiritual circumcision of the heart, made without hands. Medically speaking, the eighth day of the newborn is the best day for the cutting of the flesh, for the blood will clot best at this point. Thus, the eighth day represents that there is no longer a need for the shedding of blood as sin has been dealt with once and for all. This also has reference for all who believe, for **in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ** (Colossians 2:11 NASB). Again, this speaks of the new creation in Christ.

On the last day, the great day of the feast, or eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the Lord Jesus cried out: **"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"** (John 7:37-38 NASB). Prophetically, this speaks of the feast that will conclude our present wicked eon as the sons of God are manifested; they are the Lord's conquerors that have been transfigured into His image, the anointed firstfruits of the new creation, that is, the first ones to be fully spiritual, having received their inheritance of celestial and immortal bodies. The spirit of God will flow forth from them in a way that the world has never seen as they take the kingdom of Christ to the nations.

Now, there is another way in which the number 8 appears in Scripture. The Hebrew and Greek languages use the letters of their respective alphabets not only for forming words but also for designating numbers. It is done by assigning numbers to each of the letters in their alphabet. This arrangement is called **gematria**. For example, in the Greek language, the first letter *alpha* corresponds to the number 1, the letter *pi* corresponds to the number 80, and the letter *omega* corresponds to the number 800. Thus, when Jesus said: **“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End”** (Revelation 22:13), it was as if He were saying: “I am the number 1 and the number 800.” Thus, the number 800 corresponds to the last or the end.

According to gematria, zeroes added to a number do not change or diminish the basic meaning of the number. In fact, the meaning of a number can be intensified either by adding zeroes or by repetition, especially if it is repeated three times. The number 3 by itself refers to resurrection, divine completeness, and perfection. In light of this, consider the following gematria:

Lord = 800

Jesus = 888

“I am the Life” = 888

The light dwells in Him = 888

Salvation of our God = 888 (Isaiah 52:10)

“He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet” = 8888 (1 Corinthians 15:25)

Of course, together these speak of the Light of the world who saves the world and gives life, but they also speak of the same one who is coming to establish His kingdom over this earth that will ultimately lead to life for all. This one is Jesus (888), the One who is coming to reign over the nations.

Thus, it should be abundantly clear that when we see the number 8, singly or multiply, the Lord Jesus, as well as resurrection and the new creation, are in view.

So, you might ask: What does all of this have to do with the number 7888.88 as the closing value of the DOW for February 10, 2009? Well, by itself, it is just a number, but let me remind you that the stock markets of the world are part of mystery Babylon’s financial system that is being judged and will fall. On the negative side, this serves as a reminder that God is going to remove those things that can be shaken, and the global financial system is one of those things. However, on the positive side, the good news is that the number 7888.88 speaks of the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom we receive that cannot be shaken. Five 8’s appearing in a row is like a neon sign flashing the name JESUS! It should encourage our hearts during a time when a lot of the news is pointing to a potentially bleak future. For those who have put their hope and trust in Christ, there is no such thing as a bleak future. The kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ is coming. There is nothing better, nothing more glorious!

In light of where we are on the prophetic clock, Christ’s conquerors should be encouraged that our present eon is near its end and the manifestation of the sons of God, the reigning sons of glory, is coming soon. After all, the number starts with the number 7, which is the number of completeness or spiritual perfection. It appeared on day 10, and the number 10 by itself signifies ordinal completion, meaning the completion of a whole cycle. Spiritual perfection speaks of the new creation that comes into view in the eighth day or God’s day as revealed in Revelation 21-22. All who are counted worthy to reign with Christ in His coming kingdom during the next eon (age) will reach perfection as they experience tabernacles at the close of our present eon. In other words, they will be the first to be part of the new creation and enter onto the ground of the eighth day, even as they reign with Christ during the seventh day of the Tabernacles Age. For further understanding of this, please see my book *That God May Be All In All New* (January 2009), pages 40-42.

Well, the number 888 was not the only number that appeared on the 10th. The numbers 61 and 37 also appeared, and, in a subsequent issue, it will be shown that they complement the number 8.