

# 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)

#03-0930

## ***Five Thoughts For Today***

February 23, 2009

I have written quite a bit about mystery Babylon in order to warn and exhort the Lord's people that we must divorce our hearts from this kingdom of men that will be shaken until it crumbles into dust and is blown away like chaff. We need ears to hear what the spirit of God is saying and spiritual sight to see where we are on God's prophetic clock, as well as our true condition in the sight of our Lord. We should be reminded of the Lord's exhortation to the ecclesia at Laodicea to buy from Him eyesalve to anoint our eyes so that we may see (Revelation 3:18). There are many ministries that speak of anointing, especially ones that preach prosperity, as if they have a special anointing; but they are blind, and they are leading the blind into a pit. We need the Lord's eyesalve!

I have no doubt that some of what is being taught to the Lord's people is based more on the mind of the Babylonian than on the mind of Christ. In a twisted sort of way, some are preaching that the church is immune from what is happening to the world economy simply because we belong to the Lord, and the way through this time is to apply Babylonian principles, not kingdom of God principles.

I recently scanned the televangelism cable channels and was caught by two broadcasts. In keeping with my policy not to draw attention by name to specific Christian individuals or organizations, I will refrain from mentioning who they are. My reason is simple: I do not know their hearts, only the Lord does. They could be very sincere in what they do and truly believe that what they are doing is according to Scripture. So, I am not judging their hearts, but simply making observations about what they are doing and saying. However, Paul warned against deception. The Concordant Version refers to it as the systematizing of the deception (Ephesians 4:14), something that I have written about, which is a danger for all of us. See issue #02-08118, October 1, 2008, *Systematizing the Deception*. Once the deception takes root, it seems that whole ministries revolve around it, and this is what I see in some of these ministries, especially the faith-sowing and blessing ones.

Now, there is one televangelism station that I periodically tune to that, more times than not, has the same individual on screen trying to get people to part with \$1,000. He does not seem interested in small donations, but is very interested in the larger donations and ones that can come in quickly. His latest pitch went something like this: "The Lord is speaking to someone right now to sow your seed of \$1,000. Don't delay, for delay is disobedience. The sooner you get in your seed money, the sooner you will be blessed. So, call in now and put it on your credit card. Perhaps, God will wipe out all your credit card debt. Pick up the phone and send your \$1,000 now; do not delay." And then, much to my surprise, a disclaimer appeared on the screen along with the phone number to call. It said something to the effect that giving money to their ministry was not a guarantee that God would bless them. I imagine their Babylonian lawyers crafted the disclaimer to offer some level of protection from law suits or criticism from those that give and never receive a blessing. The reason for the appeal to give by credit card is because they will get the money much quicker through a credit card than if someone mailed in a check. Besides, instantaneous giving avoids the pitfalls of delayed giving in which the giver has time to think about it. It is an old marketing ploy. Have you ever tried to buy a car and the salesman gave you an offer but you had to take the offer right then or else lose it? It is the same concept, which is why I dislike buying cars so much and equally dislike ministries that do likewise.

On the same day and hour, another televangelism program was on the air with a young preacher who was also teaching about money. He was talking about how the economy was going down but that "your economy will not go down, it will keep going up and up." In other words, a Christian is immune from

the effects of a worsening economy. Frankly, I had about all that I could take at this point, so I changed the channel and missed his sales pitch.

Another very large ministry that I have listened to over the last year is also into the seed-sowing and blessing doctrine. Interestingly, they do not have a disclaimer but readily admit that not all are blessed when they sow their seed money. So, how do they answer the challenge? Easy; it's the devil! The reason ones are not blessed is because the devil is blocking the blessing, so they must place a demand on their money and demand that the enemy release the blessing. It seems that they too believe that Christians should thrive during an economic recession.

What catches my attention more than anything is the apparent blindness that seems to permeate so much of Christendom in our day. Actually, it should not surprise us, for God purposely blinded the ancient Israelites due to their stubborn and rebellious hearts. It is the Lord's doing. The Lord led Israel into Babylonian captivity, and He has led us, His ecclesia, into Babylonian captivity as well because we have shunned the laws of His kingdom as if they were no longer valid. The ministry that tells its listeners to sow their seed by using a credit card to go into debt is a prime example. This ministry not only blatantly ignores the kingdom law against usury but also encourages usury. They speak of delay as disobedience, but they fail to see that they are the disobedient ones by ignoring God's divine law. See issue #03-0967, February 17, 2009, *The Kingdom of Our Lord #7. The Law Against Usury*.

In one sense, the entire world has been in Babylonian captivity since Nebuchadnezzar ruled the known world during Daniel's day. In another sense, the US, as an antitype of ancient Israel, was led into captivity to Babylon's economic system in 1913, when President Wilson signed into law the Federal Reserve Act, and in 1914, when the Federal Reserve Bank took root. I realize that I sound like a broken record, but this system is part of the Babylonian economic system that is crumbling in our day as the Lord shakes it to dust. Another way of looking at it is that the Stone Kingdom is crushing the statue of gold, silver, bronze, clay, and iron (see Daniel 2:31-35). The day is coming when the Stone Kingdom will become a great mountain and fill the whole earth; all to the glory of God. See issues #02-0884-86, May 2009, *The Stone Became a Great Mountain*.

Now, five thoughts come to mind as I ponder these things.

**Repent!** It seems that this word has been lost in our day. However, consider the Lord's exhortation to all who conquer, as written in Revelation 2 & 3. Many want to be blessed but few want to hear that they need to repent. Why is it that the prosperity preachers never speak of repentance? Perhaps, if they did, they would discover that they have much to repent of. Conquerors are ones who repent! Brethren, it is time to repent. See Article #12, August 2008, *Repent!* Let us start by repenting of usury.

**So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking which is to come.** (Hebrews 13:13-14) It is time to come out of religious Babylon as well as Christian Zionism that fails to see that our Jerusalem is New Jerusalem, our mother that is above, not the one on earth in the center of the Middle East.

**Come out of her, My people!** (Revelation 18:4) Babylon is falling. Although we are physically under Babylonian captivity, may our hearts be removed from all that is associated with it.

**Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.** (Acts 14:22) Trial is the lot of all who are going on in the Lord and who are conquering or overcoming. If we have nothing to overcome, then how can we be called overcomers?

**Heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.** (Romans 8:17) Being a fellow heir with Christ speaks of reigning with Christ in His coming kingdom. The conquerors are ones that have suffered with the Lord and have been trained through suffering. But let us not fear, for the Lord is faithful, and He will lead us through these times and provide for our needs. Rejoice, for our day of emancipation is coming! Glory!

Trust Him, cling to Him, and love Him. He will not fail! He loves you!