

# 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)

#03-0969

***The Kingdom of Our Lord #9.***

March 3, 2009

***Justice for the Orphan***

The law of impartiality is very important in the kingdom of our Lord, for the love of God is to be manifested not to the few but to the many, to all mankind. God is love and He extends His love to all. Likewise, those who will reign with Christ in His kingdom in the next eon must have His laws written on their heart. But it is not merely something to be manifested in a future day; it is something that must be manifested in this day as we prepare the way for the Lord and the coming of His kingdom.

All that reside in a kingdom nation, whether a citizen or an alien, are to receive impartial treatment. However, the Lord takes special interest in the orphan and the widow. Like the alien and stranger, they are vulnerable to injustice, for they have no one to protect and support them. Now, although the orphan and the widow are often referenced together, let us restrict this issue to the orphan.

**(17) “For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. (18) He executes justice for the orphan and the widow....”** (Deuteronomy 10:17-18 NASB)

**A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation.** (Psalm 68:5 NASB)

**The LORD protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow, but He thwarts the way of the wicked.** (Psalm 146:9 NASB)

**Woe to those who enact evil statutes and to those who constantly record unjust decision, so as to deprive the needy of justice and rob the poor of My people of their rights, ... so that they may plunder the orphans.** (Isaiah 10:1-2 NASB)

In Hebrew, the word for *orphan* literally means “fatherless.” However, in English, it refers to a child whose father and mother are dead, and it sometimes applies to a child who has lost only one parent by death. This is the practical definition of an orphan on an individual level; however, we need to recognize that an orphan can also signify something spiritual and national.

Spiritually speaking, we could say that all who do not personally know Christ as Savior are fatherless, since they are cut off from a personal relationship with the Heavenly Father. The way to the Father is through the Son. God is not dead, for He is the God of the living. However, on a spiritual level, He is dead to the ones who do not know Him through His Son. Consequently, all in this condition are orphans because they do not know both the fatherly and the motherly heart of God. Let us not forget that God is both a father and a mother; a father begets and disciplines, and a mother gives birth and nurtures. We see an example of this heart in Paul the apostle (1 Thessalonians 2:7, 11). The good news is that it is God’s purpose that all mankind eventually will know and love Him as the Father of all. This will not occur all at once but will progressively unfold in the oncoming eons until the consummation of the eons. How do we know? We know because God our Savior wills all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). The truth declares that **God is love** (1 John 3:8, 16), and He so loves the world (John 3:16). Love never fails!

I believe that this is why the Father has such a heart for the orphan. His desire is that all will come to know His love as the Father and a Mother of all creation. In His house, there are no orphans.

The fact of the matter is that God the Father is after sons. His heart of love desires to bring many sons to glory (Hebrews 2:10). How can an orphan grow up to be a son of God unless he (or she) knows the Father? An orphan must grow from a child to a son, and this kind of growth can only come as the orphan comes to be known as a child of God the Father. I believe that this is the primary reason for protecting orphans. How can an orphan be told that the Heavenly Father loves him (or her) if he does not have very practical experiences of love in his life?

On the national level, a nation can also be like an orphan. Jeremiah lamented over the fallen condition of Jerusalem, and he cried out that they had **become orphans without a father** (Lamentations 5:3).

Now, it is a known fact that in the kingdom of men, especially in mystery Babylon, there is much iniquity and injustice due to partiality. But in the kingdom of God, there is no partiality. Orphans are the most vulnerable citizens of any nation, for they are children without a parent to protect them, defend them, discipline them, nurture them, and love them. Consequently, they must not be left on their own but be supported and cared for by a father to the fatherless. Justice must be executed for them, for they must be treated justly and not robbed of justice. Babylon's answer for the orphan runs the gamut from leaving them on the streets to fend for themselves, to selling them into slavery and all sorts of bondage, to placing them in orphanages or in foster care so they become wards of the state, or to allowing them to be adopted into the sort of family that meets the government's criteria, including, in some cases, same sex marriages. Making them a ward of the state is like making them the property of the government and subject to the failed social policies of man. Adoption is a better option; but it is not the best, for it is not uncommon for siblings to be separated from each other, leaving emotional scars. Further, there is no guarantee that the child will receive the kind of nurturing love and discipline that he or she needs. It is not uncommon to hear of adult Christians who had been adopted early in life having a difficult time comprehending the love of our Heavenly Father because they had not experienced love through their adopted father.

So, what is the proper course of love for the orphan? I believe the answer lies in God's principle of a kinsman-redeemer. Of course, there is much spiritual meaning to a kinsman-redeemer, especially in relation to an inheritance. However, the heart of the matter deals with the continuation of the family relationship. An orphan must be placed in a family. But is the answer to place orphans in their natural family, that is, to be adopted by a biological family member? What if there is no natural family or the family is woefully dysfunctional; is it love to expose an orphan to such a thing?

A kingdom nation must treat the orphan with the respect and dignity afforded all citizens. They must be loved, and the way for them to know love is to be in a loving family with a father and a mother. The criterion is love! This is so obvious that it seems unnecessary to discuss it. But where is this kind of love to be found? It is found in the family of God. In other words, in kingdom nations, the priority for true orphans, especially ones with no biological family, is to ensure that they become part of a family that belongs to the Lord, knows the Lord, and loves the Lord with their whole heart.

Of course, in the next eon, as love takes root in many nations and its citizens manifest the love of God toward one another, the number of orphans will diminish. However, we must realize that although the coming kingdom of our Lord will be a tremendous age compared to all that preceded it, it nevertheless will not be perfect. After all, the vast majority of the inhabitants of the world during the coming age will still be in bodies of death, and sin will continue to reign in death, but perhaps not to the same degree as people learn the ways of the Lord and submit to His reign. As the Kingdom Age begins to take root, there still will be many orphans throughout the world, many of whom will have had horrible experiences. These hurt souls will require much love. Kingdom nations will have to execute justice on their behalf to insure that they are cared for and protected, and this care is best found in a family of God that knows and lives the love of God.

As Jesus was about to leave His disciples, He encouraged them: **"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you"** (John 14:18 NASB). There are no orphans in His kingdom!