

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)

#03-0941

Kingdom Thoughts #1. Kingdom Building?

March 5, 2009

Lately, I see myself like an old vinyl record that is caught in a groove. Well, those who remember the old 78, 45, and 33 rpm records will understand what I mean. For those of the high-tech generation of electronic gadgets, it simply means that I keep playing the same part of a song over and over again. In this case, it isn't a song but rather a question. I keep asking myself: "How will the kingdom of our Lord operate? What will it look like?" This is the reason why I am writing a series titled *The Kingdom of Our Lord*. I am asking the Lord to reveal to me how His coming kingdom will operate and to write it on my heart so that I can help others to see as well. I do not have all the answers. In fact, I feel like I am just beginning the process.

Well, I find that I have days in which I must vent, so to speak. Periodically, I hear or read things about the kingdom of our Lord that concern me, and I have the urge to express these concerns or the musings that are generated as a result of them. However, I do not want to commingle my musings with the kingdom series, so with this issue, I am starting another series called *Kingdom Thoughts*. Frankly, I am not sure if there will be others to follow; nevertheless, I have numbered this #1, with some expectation that others will follow. The difference between this series and others is that, at times, it might be light on Scripture and much of what I share will have already been covered in more detail elsewhere.

Considering the day in which we live and the late hour on the clock of our present eon (age), the question of how the kingdom will operate has become a critical question that begs for an answer. After all, all who desire to reign with Christ in His coming kingdom should have some idea of how it will operate. In fact, we need to be trained in its operation and its guiding principles or laws if we are to be effective, and this is to take place, at least in part, in our present life as the word of God is written on our heart and worked out through our life experiences under the leading of the spirit of God. Of course, I am sure that, as the day of Christ commences, the ones that will be part of the administration of the kingdom of our Lord will be given further instruction. Perhaps all will go through a crash course called 101 Kingdom Administration.

My musing for the day began as I considered what is being taught by some groups about *kingdom building*, which refers to the church building the kingdom of God on earth in our present day. The challenge with discussing most Christian teaching is that there are so many variations on the theme that one cannot do any of it justice. So, please understand that I am only going to approach this from a very high altitude.

At the outset, it must be noted that neither the term *kingdom building* nor the phrase *advancing the kingdom* are found in Scripture. This alone should cause us to pause. We are to see the kingdom, seek the kingdom, receive the kingdom, enter the kingdom, proclaim the kingdom, and preach the kingdom, but we are never told to build or advance the kingdom. However, as the body of Christ, we are told to build ourselves up in love. For a discussion of the various uses in Scripture of the word *kingdom*, I refer you to my book titled *The Purpose and Plan of the Eons*, Volume 1, Chapter 3, *The Kingdom of God the Father*.

Now, I do not believe we are called to build or to advance the kingdom; however, for the sake of my musing, let us approach the matter as if it were true, and try to answer one question: Can we build the kingdom in our day, especially in what Paul calls **our present wicked eon** (Galatians 1:4 CV)?

Generally, this teaching states that it is time for the kingdom of God to infiltrate all the major aspects of life, including the government, the market place (i.e., business), and the financial system, to name a few. The emphasis is on making great change in the way things operate during our present eon. As the thinking goes, Christians have every provision and advantage available today to take the nations for Christ and establish His kingdom on earth. There is nothing lacking to get the job done. After all, we are seated together among the celestials in Christ (Ephesians 2:6 CV), and Christ is in us. In other words, there is nothing to stop the church from establishing the kingdom on earth, and she needs to get out of her religious box and get on with it to make it happen. So, people are pumped up to get them actively engaged in kingdom building. To be fair and balanced, as they say, some realize that there needs to be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the order of Pentecost, or perhaps greater, for this to occur.

I could not agree more with the need to get out of the religious box, something I have seen for years. As for the Holy Spirit, I agree there is a need for an outpouring, but not a Pentecostal one; we need a Tabernacles outpouring, an eighth-day outpouring that fills to overflowing. Pentecost is a leavened feast celebrated while we still occupy bodies of death. Tabernacles is a feast commemorated by new life that comes forth from the first resurrection and transfiguration into the image of Christ, which refers to receiving a spiritual, celestial, glorified, immortal body. This life overflows with the spirit of God.

I have no doubt that the heart of those who teach and believe in this type of kingdom building is in the right place; however, it seems that they are jumping the gun, so to speak. They clearly see that great change must and will come to the nations, and they have a real heart for it. But, they see it as occurring in our present age and not in the age to come, and they see Christians bringing it about apart from a constitutional change within them and without a clear understanding of the laws of the kingdom.

I believe that one of the reasons for this is a near famine of understanding that the entire world we now live in is in captivity to mystery Babylon, and this captivity has been brought upon us by the Lord Himself. In fact, the Lord blinded the eyes of His people to this mystery so that they would not revolt against it but submit to it. While in captivity, we are not to fight it, as if to change its constitution, but to submit to it and learn the lesson the Lord intends to teach us, and to repent. For example, Daniel and his people were sent into Babylonian captivity by the Lord for 70 years. Daniel was blessed while in captivity due to his heart for the Lord, but when he saw, in Scripture, the reason for the captivity, he repented for himself and his people (Daniel 9:2-19). Like Daniel, many of us have been blessed while in captivity, but this does not mean that this has come based on the principles of the kingdom of our Lord. The system is still mystery Babylon. Unfortunately, the Lord's blessing on the church while in captivity has produced the false prosperity gospel, and Babylonian ways have not only infiltrated the operation of the church, but they have been embraced by the church as if they are the ways of the kingdom of God. The best example is the Christian mortgage companies that lend money with interest to other churches; this is usury that is banned under God's law. Another example is the near obsession to ask for money based on Babylonian marketing techniques, including the whole notion of seed money.

Due to blindness, some of the Lord's people are being led to think that the current systems that govern us are fundamentally sound; the problem is not with the systems but with the corruption introduced into them by carnal people. What the systems need are righteous, moral, and ethical people to run them, so the thinking goes.

However, the Lord's plan is to lead us out of Babylon altogether and into His kingdom. We are not called to reform, clean up, or radically change Babylon. Obama is doing this, and he doesn't need our help. You cannot make a rotten fig ripe and full of flavor. You cannot take a counterfeit hundred dollar bill and make it into legal tender. You cannot take a serpent and change it into a lamb. So, why do we think that we can take mystery Babylon, which is a counterfeit kingdom, and make it into the kingdom of our Lord? We cannot, so let us not try! When mystery Babylon has served its purpose, it will fall.

It is time for spiritual sight, for the day is approaching when the Lord will bring mystery Babylon down by His fiery law, so that His unshakable kingdom can come. We are to receive it, not build it.