

# 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)

#03-0926

**Behold! Lo! Look!**

March 23, 2009

I don't know if you have noticed, but the innumerable talking heads of the media along with most of the politicians use the word *look* quite a bit. I noticed this phenomenon especially during the 2008 presidential campaign as the candidates, as well as their supporters and detractors, were interviewed by the media. When asked a question, especially one that they wanted to either avoid or twist for their advantage, they would start out with a few mumbling words, as if they were trying to get their thoughts together, and then almost immediately say "Look," and then continue to state their position. President Obama does this quite frequently. It is almost as if the *uh* of speech has been replaced with **look**. Anyone who has taken a speech class knows that using *uh* in speaking is not a good thing. It seems that the word *look* is a little more palatable, but in reality it is no different than saying *uh*. Of course, the challenge is compounded further when one uses *uh* and *look* at the same time, which is heard quite often as well.

Personally, I think that when one uses the word *look*, especially politicians, we need to be particularly vigilant in our hearing, for it might be an indication that we are about to be fed some lie, twisted truth, or spin about an issue. It is as if the word *look* has become a mantra to let us know that the person speaking has some important knowledge that we don't have that we need to receive. "Look, I know something you do not!" It seems to me, in our day, the word *look* is used in a very condescending way. Of course, this is a general observation; many people use the word *look* in a very innocuous way to draw attention to their words.

Well, what does this have to do with anything of substance? Really nothing, except that whenever I hear the word *look*, I immediately think of Scripture and the word *behold*, especially in light of the book of Revelation. In the record of John's Patmos vision, the word *behold* is used 25 times, 17 of which refer to something good in reference to Christ and His conquerors. As a reminder, the number 17 signifies victory. Surely, when the word *behold* is proclaimed, it signifies the victory of Christ, along with that of His conquerors. I cannot think of anything greater than proclaiming the coming of Christ and His kingdom. **Behold, He is coming!**

In the Greek, the word *idou* is used as the imperative lo!, and is translated as *behold, lo, look, see*. Now, the following is a list of the *behold* verses found in the book of Revelation. I simply present them for your encouragement.

To the conquerors:

**"I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name."**  
(Revelation 3:8 NASB)

**"Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you."** (Revelation 3:9 NASB)

**After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands....**  
(Revelation 7:9 NASB)

**“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”** (Revelation 3:20 NASB)

After these things I looked, and **behold**, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, **“Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”** (Revelation 4:1 NASB)

Then I looked, and **behold**, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. (Revelation 14:1 NASB)

**“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”** (Revelation 16:15 NASB)

To all:

**BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS**, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. (Revelation 1:7 NASB)

And I was dead, and **behold**, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. (Revelation 1:18 NASB)

Immediately I was in the Spirit; and **behold**, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. (Revelation 4:2 NASB)

**“Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”** (Revelation 5:5 NASB)

Then I looked, and **behold**, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. (Revelation 14:14 NASB)

And I saw heaven opened, and **behold**, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. (Revelation 19:11 NASB)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, **“Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them....”** (Revelation 21:3 NASB)

And He who sits on the throne said, **“Behold, I am making all things new.”** And He said, **“Write, for these words are faithful and true.”** (Revelation 21:5 NASB)

**“And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”** (Revelation 22:7 NASB)

**“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.”** (Revelation 22:12 NASB)

So, the next time a politician, or anyone else for that matter, says *look*, think of John’s testimony about our Lord Jesus Christ and His conquerors and proclaim to yourself: **Behold!**

**Behold, the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ is coming!**

**Behold, the Love of our life is coming!**