

# 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)*

#03-0947

## ***A Hammer Which Shatters A Rock #1*** March 30, 2009

I seldom get a word from the Lord that actually begins with “**Thus saith the Lord.**” However, on February 10, 2009, as I laid my head on the pillow for the night, I heard three words. The first word came at 9:18 pm, the second at 9:21 pm, and the last at 9:23 pm. I believe the time at which each came relates to the word I received. It was a very interesting experience, for the first word came just as my head hit the pillow. I sensed it was the Lord, so I immediately got up and wrote it down and went back to bed. But as soon as my head hit the pillow the second time, another word immediately came to me, so I got up, wrote it down, and again returned to bed. The third word came exactly the same way.

Now, I believe that, at this point, I am to share only on the second word that came at 9:21 pm. Perhaps, I will be given the liberty to share on the other two words at a later time.

First, let me address the time of 9:21. As a reminder, in God’s economy, numbers signify spiritual truths, and I have shared on several numbers in previous issues. For example, see issues #02-08153, #02-08157, #02-08159, #03-0907, #03-0910, #03-0927, and #03-0928. What is not always recognized about biblical numbers is that a number can have both a negative and a positive meaning. In the case of the numbers 9 and 21, the number **9** can signify **judgment** or **the perfection of divine order**, and the number **21** can signify **the exceeding sinfulness of sin** or **divine perfection**. In like fashion, when the Lord speaks to us, His word can have both a negative and a positive meaning.

Well, the word that came to me at 9:21 was this: “**Thus saith the Lord, ‘I have lifted up a hammer over the United States and I am about to strike at the very heart of the nation.’**”

I cannot express in one issue all that is on my heart regarding this word, so six issues will follow in which Scripture will be presented to clarify this word. At this point, I offer an interpretation with some explanation, which may require some adjustments in the future as events unfold. Please keep in mind that a good amount of what follows is my opinion; thus it is open to correction.

The heart of a nation generally refers to the seat of government. We see scriptural examples of this with the two capitals of ancient Israel, Shiloh and Jerusalem, the two places where the Lord placed His name. The hammer is the word of the Lord, based on Jeremiah 23:29: “**Is not My word like fire? declares the LORD, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”**” In other words, the Lord has spoken a word of judgment over the United States, specifically the political system that drives the Federal government based in Washington, DC. There is a spirit that is driving the political system that is manifesting its character through corruption, lies, hypocrisy, immorality, injustice, and lawlessness. Please bear in mind as you read this series that this is not about any one person, group, or party per se. It is about a spirit that is driving the politics of the US that influences the decision-making process; the process that gives us our laws, regulations, policies, spending, and taxes, and affects nearly every aspect of life in America. Given the decisions that are coming out of Washington these days, it is apparent that this spirit is a powerfully deceptive one that can persuade even the best of our elected officials, even the ones that are sincere and honest and trying to do the right thing for the country. It is the spirit of the world, the spirit of antichrist, and the spirit of mystery Babylon all in one.

The interpretation of this word is supported by a dream that came to me last year as explained in issues #02-08125, September 30, 2008, *The Cords of Falsehood*, and #02-08132, October 23, 2008, *The Cord of Corruption is Cut*. The dream came on February 28, 2008, and its interpretation came on September 16, 2008, two days prior to the near meltdown of the global financial system, which, undoubtedly, was a very clear turning point in the presidential election. Simply, the American people have been yoked to a corrupt system, and this corruption, most notably, is being manifested through the economic crisis and the way it is being managed. It is likened to a cord attached to the people, a cord that needs to be cut.

Since then, I have wondered how the Lord will cut this cord of corruption that is like a noose that is strangling the very life of the people. As a nation, we are on life support; we need the Lord.

I was given the dream; then seven months later, I was given the interpretation; and then five months later, I was given this word that the Lord is about to strike. Thus, what I am sharing has been in the works, so to speak, for about one year or, to be precise, 349 days. I have not been told specifically when the strike will occur, only that the Lord is about to do it. By the way, the Lord's "about" could be sooner or later. It's His call! In other words, one year after I received the dream, the Lord is now speaking to my heart that He is about to make His move. His first step has been to declare His word over the US capital. The word of the Lord has gone forth from the throne of God, which is the throne of judgment. His second step is to strike the heart of the nation, which must be the execution of this judgment.

It seems apparent that the Lord is using the economic crisis, all or in part, to expose the very depths of the corruption and lawlessness that has gripped our nation as manifested **in Washington and on Wall Street**. It is no coincidence that men like Bernie Madoff are being exposed, along with the downright arrogance and corruption of some in the financial/insurance sector and the apparent ineptitude, arrogance, and corruption of some politicians. Even though there is a wicked spirit at work, we must not overlook the fact that there are evil or wicked people (sons of disobedience) in the world that are driven with a hunger for power and money. The fact of the matter is that some politicians, regulators, and bankers/financiers have been complicit in creating the very crisis that they now bemoan, as if they had nothing to do with it, and that they are now in charge of trying to fix. Either they are liars (deceivers), or they are deceived themselves. Let us not forget the role that the media has played and continues to play in all this hype and distortion. I liken them to **modern-day false prophets**. The Lord is exposing all of this for His judgment. **This is God's idea of transparency!**

As I was writing this issue, the US national motto of "**In God we trust**" came to my mind. Amazingly, this is our national motto (United States Code 36 U.S. 302). I plan to write another issue on the motto, but what came to me is that since this is the motto that came out of Washington, perhaps it will be tried by fire, which is also the word of God, to reveal how little the leaders of the nation have truly trusted in God and how far we, as a nation, have moved away from this trust. It is not what comes out of our mouths that counts but what is in our hearts. The Lord looks upon the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). We can say things like "in God we trust" but truly not believe it or act upon it. God will not be mocked by our words, even if they sound nice and eloquent.

**"You shall be careful to perform what goes out from your lips, just as you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God, what you have promised."** (Deuteronomy 23:23 NASB)

**"This people draws near to Me with their mouth [fig., speech] and honors Me with the lips [fig., words], but their heart is far distant from Me."** (Matthew 15:8 ALT)

It is just like the phrase "**God bless America**" that is so often spoken, as if a prayer, by our political leaders. According to Acts 3:26, when we ask God to bless us, we are asking Him to turn every one of us from our wicked ways. As a nation, do we truly trust in the one true God, the Almighty God of the Bible? Are we serious about repenting of our evil ways? Do we think we can repeatedly proclaim these things and not expect God to respond at some point? Do we think He is deaf to our words and prayers?

These are questions that demand answers, not only from our political leaders but from Christian leaders and individual believers. Judgment begins with the household of God (1 Peter 4:17), and, as a nation that professes to be predominantly Christian, at least in name, we must accept responsibility for the present state of affairs in the United States, just as believers in other predominantly Christian countries must accept responsibility for their nations. However, in one sense, there is a big difference between the US and some other nations. We actually proclaim God in our motto, in our pledge, on our coins, and on many of our public buildings. We are in more danger with God for being hypocrites, than, say, those who live in China, whose government makes no such pretense. Consequently, as believers residing in the US, we must humble ourselves and repent for our rebellion against the Lord and for not being the light of the world (2 Chronicles 7:14; Matthew 5:14-16). Until the next issue: May God bless America!