

# 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)

#03-0948

***A Hammer Which Shatters A Rock #2*** March 31, 2009

This series is about a word that came to me at 9:21 on February 10, 2009: **“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.’”**

As presented in the previous issue (#03-0947, March 30, 2009), the heart of a nation generally refers to the seat of government, which in this case refers to Washington DC and all that our capital represents in the life and affairs of the nation, which also includes Wall Street and the banking/financial system. 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?”** Consequently, I believe that the Lord has spoken to me that He has lifted up a word of judgment over the political and financial/economic sectors of the nation that is likened to a cord of falsehood tied to the American people. The word of the Lord is going to strike (has been striking) Washington and Wall Street.

I recognize that some respected brothers in Christ have related prophetic visions and words, along with their own speculation, regarding judgment coming upon the US as well as the world. Some of these visions and speculations are apocalyptic in nature as they see powerfully destructive forces, such as nuclear bombs, dirty bombs, devastating fires, and riots in the street, released across the globe, especially in the US. Whether these things, in fact, will happen as envisioned, I cannot say. **Each of us must seek the Lord on the matter, just as you must seek the Lord on what I am sharing.** After all, the context around the verse quoted above contains some mighty powerful prophetic warnings against false prophets and dreamers. This will be taken up in a later issue.

I do believe that there is more to come and that the current global economic crisis, as it is called, is only a precursor to what is coming. I, along with many others, have been warning of impending judgment, so I am not alone in this matter, although, admittedly, my voice is only a faint voice out in the wilderness. Nevertheless, as I have testified in many issues, I am trying to be faithful to what I believe the Lord is speaking to me. See issues #02-08146, November 13, 2008, *The Coming Crisis*; #02-08148, November 24, 2008, *“Financial Crisis Can Be Overcome In 18 Months”?*

At times, it seems that recent events have been orchestrated. Some would say that there are men in smoke-filled back rooms, so to speak, plotting conspiracies to change the world. I do not know if this is true, so I try to stay clear of such speculation; although, I admit to some fascination over the possibility. However, I do believe that there is a conspiracy among the spiritual forces of wickedness, the world forces of darkness, to influence the decisions made by men, especially unscrupulous men, to shape the course of the world and build up mystery Babylon. The powers of darkness achieve their purpose by appealing to man’s greed, desire for power, ambition, pride, intellect, and ideology (worldview). However, I also believe that the Lord is confounding the wisdom of man and leading very smart (“clever”) people into a state of confusion and failure, even chaos, through a spirit of deception. I believe this is what we are seeing in our day. The good news is that, if I am hearing and interpreting the Lord correctly, He is using the crises of our day to expose and release the American people from **the cord of falsehood**, which ultimately will lead to His people coming out of mystery Babylon.

The good news is that change is coming!

However, my heart has been exercised lately that this change will not come about by a physically destructive force, that is, by the physical sword, but by the mighty power of the sword of the word of God that divides spirit and soul. This is not to state that the coming crisis will not be manifested in the physical realm, that is, that there will not be some difficult times ahead for the US. I most assuredly

believe that serious, if not severe, challenges are on the horizon. But these alone will not change the heart of the nation, any more than 9/11 did. **The word of God is what changes hearts.**

I believe that not only has the Lord lifted up His voice and spoken a word over the nation, but His word is about to be sent forth. It is His word that will strike the heart of the nation. I do not believe that this word will be spoken in a vacuum, so to speak. It will be spoken when the people, especially national leaders as well as those of the church-at-large, are ripe to hear. The coming crisis will be designed to expose the heart of the nation so that the people will repent, cry out for mercy, and receive the word of the Lord.

Two sets of Scripture might shed some light on the nature of the word that is coming.

**(7) “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. (8) And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; (10) and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; (11) and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”** (John 16:7-11 NASB)

The work of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world; so perhaps, we can expect that the word that will shatter the rock is one that will bring conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment. But through whom will this word of conviction be spoken?

**(14) It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, (15) to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”** (Jude 1:14-15 NASB)

Enoch, who was pleasing to God, is a type of the conquerors or overcomers who walk in a manner worthy of the God who invites them into His own kingdom and glory (1 Thessalonians 2:12). They will be the ones filled with the spirit of God who have the anointing to speak forth the word of the Lord to bring conviction of sin and all ungodly deeds. The word *judgment* in the Greek is *krisis*, which is very similar to the English word *crisis*. Again, I believe this judgment will come in the midst of crisis or, perhaps, at the end of one. Interestingly, the word *crisis* can mean **“the turning point in the course of a disease, when it becomes clear whether the patient will live or die.”** Perhaps the US will be brought to the very brink of its survival. Will it go on as a nation, or will it fall? This should remind us of the word of the Lord spoken through Isaiah to the sinful nation of Judah.

**(5) Where will you be stricken again, as you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick and the whole heart is faint. (6) From the sole of the foot even to the head there is nothing sound in it, only bruises, welts and raw wounds, not pressed out or bandaged, nor softened with oil.** (Isaiah 1:5-6 NASB)

But Hosea has prophetically given some good news regarding Judah (Kingship) and Israel (Kingdom).

**(1) “Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. (2) He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him.”** (Hosea 6:1-2 NASB)

National sickness does not have to lead to death of a nation but can lead to healing through spiritual revival, as if it were a resurrection from the dead. I have no doubt that God so loves the United States that He is not going to destroy her but will revive her to a level that far exceeds the glory of her past. But I believe that this will occur during the coming Kingdom Age. She will be a kingdom nation, if not one of the lead nations, in the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. I have heard Christian leaders, as well as political leaders, state that America’s best days are ahead. I believe it is true. The question that remains is what she must go through before she gets there. I continue to believe that the crisis will involve the political and financial systems. My guess is that we are at the mid-stage of it. May God bless America!