

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)

#03-0949

A Hammer Which Shatters A Rock #3

April 1, 2009

This series is about a word that I received: **“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 with anything that we think comes from the Lord, it is vital that we inquire of the Lord to see if it is from Him, and, in particular, we must turn to the word of God to see if a similar word has been spoken that might offer an interpretation.

In this case, the place to start is with the word *hammer*, which appears in Scripture in two significant places, one in reference to the word of the Lord and the second in reference to Babylon.

“Is not My word like fire?” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?” (Jeremiah 23:29 NASB)

“How the hammer of the whole earth has been cut off and broken! How Babylon has become an object of horror among the nations!” (Jeremiah 50:23 NASB)

In these two verses, there are three words which stand out—*hammer*, *shatters*, and *rock*.

The Hebrew word *pattiysh* is translated as the word *hammer*, which means “to pound,” and refers to a hammer that is used to smooth metal, which could be likened to something precious (Isaiah 41:7).

The Hebrew word *puts* is translated as the word *shatters* or *breaks*, which means “to *dash* in pieces, literally or figuratively (especially to *disperse*): - break (dash, shake) in (to) pieces, cast (abroad), disperse (selves), drive, retire, scatter (abroad), spread abroad.”

The Hebrew word *sela* is translated as the word *rock* or *stone*, which means “to be *lofty*; a craggy *rock*, literally or figuratively (a *fortress*): - (ragged) rock, stone (-ny), strong hold.” (Source: *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, 1996, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

In other words, the Lord spoke through Jeremiah that His word is likened to a hammer that pounds a rock to shatter or smooth it, and that ancient Babylon was like a hammer, an object of horror among the nations, that had pounded the nations and whose day of judgment had come (Jeremiah 50:29-46). Given that we are in the day of mystery Babylon, it appears that both words have great significance. We could say that the hammer of the Lord is going to shatter the hammer of the nations, the counterfeit kingdom of the harlot that sits upon many waters. It is like two kingdoms colliding and one coming out victorious. In this case, the victorious kingdom is the kingdom of Christ and God (Ephesians 5:5).

We need to be clear that the force that will shatter the rock is not some physically destructive force like that which is administered by, for example, a literal bomb. Just as God's word is likened to a spiritual fire (Romans 7:14; Psalm 29:7; Isaiah 4:4) that purifies and cleanses, which refers to His fiery law (Deuteronomy 33:2), so is His word likened to a spiritual hammer that shatters all that stands against God.

It is unfortunate that so many Christians of our day are so comfortable with war and destruction, and the killing of millions, sending them to hell, supposedly God's eternal torture chamber; something that I find abhorrent and not in the character of **God is love**, the love that wills that all shall be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

Many continue to preach about Armageddon as the final battle of the world in which millions are killed by nuclear warfare and the like. They preach that the blood will rise to the bridles of horses. If you are interested in a spiritual explanation of Revelation 14:20, then please read issue #03-0910, January 26, 2009, *1600 Furlongs of Love*. As the end of our current age nears, some see devastating skirmishes,

such as riots in the street, explosions of dirty bombs, use of chemical/biological agents, and the list goes on. Perhaps some of these things will occur in various places around the globe, but this is not the meaning of the word I received.

The Lord is not after destruction of this earth and the killing of millions of people. In specific reference to my nation, He is not after the destruction of the United States. He is after the destruction of every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God. He is not after human flesh; He is after the fortresses that have been built in hearts and minds. **Another way to look at it is that the hammer or the word of the Lord will strike the lawlessness, lies, hypocrisy, immorality, unethical behavior, and everything else that opposes righteousness.**

In his reminder that Christians are in a spiritual battle, Paul, without stating so directly, confirms the purpose of the hammer of the Lord, which is the sword of the spirit of God. The writer of Hebrews also confirms that the word of God is a sword sharper than any physical sword of man.

(3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, (4) for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. (5) We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, (6) and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. You are looking at things as they are outwardly. (2 Corinthians 10:3-7a NASB)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. ... And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:12, 17 NASB)

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12 NASB)

Ezekiel also spoke a prophetic word regarding the end of this present evil age (Galatians 1:4). The mountains, hills, ravines, and valleys cover the whole spectrum of the kingdom of this world. The Lord declares that He is going to bring His sword of the spirit, His word, which is likened to a hammer, to bear on all the nations, not just the US. His word will destroy all the high and lofty things (thoughts, imaginations, intentions, etc.) that have been raised up against the knowledge of God.

And say, 'Mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, the hills, the ravines and the valleys: "Behold, I Myself am going to bring a sword on you, and I will destroy your high places."' (Ezekiel 6:3 NASB)

Finally, Paul, John, and Isaiah concur that, at the end of the age, fortresses will not be destroyed through the physical sword but by the very word that will proceed from the mouth of the Lord.

Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming.... (2 Thessalonians 2:8 NASB)

From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. (Revelation 19:15 NASB)

But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. (Isaiah 11:4 NASB)

When the Lord speaks, His word will go forth like a hammer to shatter every fortress that the nations, particularly the wicked, have built up in opposition to the kingdom of Christ and God. Again, it is by His spiritual sword, a word that convicts hearts, not man's physical sword that kills bodies. The word that will proceed forth will not return to Him empty, without accomplishing what He desires, and without succeeding in the matter for which He sent it (Isaiah 55:11). We can count on it! Praise God!