

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)

#03-0950

A Hammer Which Shatters A Rock #4

April 2, 2009

As a reminder, this series is about the word: “**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,’**” which I have connected to Jeremiah 23:29: “**Is not My word like fire?**” declares the LORD, “**and like a hammer which shatters a rock?**” If you have not already read the previous issues, then I encourage you to do so.

I believe that the time, 9:21 pm, at which I received this word has significance in its interpretation. As stated in the first issue, 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**. Consequently, this word pertains to both judgment and the purpose of judgment, which is to bring about divine order and perfection, which speaks of glory. Judgment is not unto destruction or annihilation but unto **revival and restoration, even a renaissance** (Matthew 19:28 CV). In other words, I believe that the judgment that is coming is a good thing and that it will lead to the kingdom of Christ and God taking root, not only in the United States but also in other nations, not all at the same time but gradually as the glory of the Lord begins to spread across the globe and the nations seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. What is coming is beyond the imagination of man.

For thus God loves the world, so that He gives His only-begotten Son (John 3:16 CV)! **God is love** (1 John 4:8, 16). In a day when the love of God is often maligned, even among some Christian groups, there is a need to continually speak of God is love, keeping His very nature in the forefront of all teaching.

The word *world* comes from the Greek word *kosmos*, which means “orderly arrangement.” How could God love the world and yet hate the nations? God loves the nations, not in the past tense, as if His love were only on display at Calvary. He loved then, He loves today, He will love for the eons (ages) to come, and He will love forever. This is His character, His very essence; and absolutely nothing can or will alter who God is. He does not hate man’s attempt to create orderly systems through which the nations govern and conduct commerce. God knows that mankind needs order, for the alternative is chaos. This is the purpose of government. But let us not forget that **by Him** (Christ) **all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him** (Colossians 1:16 NASB). Obviously, God has a better way to govern, and this way is in His Son. Ultimately, His way will overtake the nations as His glory fills the whole earth. In that day, the inhabitants of the earth will rejoice as they see and experience the great blessings of God.

As stressed in the last issue, the Lord is not set on destroying the US any more than He is set on destroying other nations. During the Kingdom Age, there may be some realignment of nations as boundaries are reset to some ancient lines that long ago were obscured. Today, some nations consist of rival ethnic groups that were forced together into a nation, often creating dissension and outbreaks of hostilities, skirmishes, and even wars. Consequently, the kingdom of our Lord, in fact, might remedy these conflicts by resetting the boundaries of some nations and forming new ones.

Now, in this light, I want to make three points.

First, the Lord has declared that His word is like a hammer which shatters a rock. As seen already, the Hebrew word *selā* is translated as the word *rock* or *stone*, which means “to be *lofty*; a craggy *rock*, literally or figuratively a *fortress*.” We have seen that the thoughts and intentions of the heart can be fortresses that must be torn down and will be torn down by the word of the Lord. They are lofty things,

or, we could say, they are lofty thoughts. One meaning of the word *lofty* is “haughty; over-proud; arrogant.” Thus, lofty thoughts are arrogant thoughts. Psalm 2:2-3 gives us an example of lofty thoughts: **The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, “Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!”**

To be sure, this word is prophetic not only as to how the nations responded to the Son of God when He came to earth 2,000 years ago, but also as to how the nations view Him as the day of the Lord nears. But there is another word just as germane to our day that refers to the lofty heart of mystery Babylon, the harlot and great city that sits upon many waters, which are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues (Revelation 17:15). Simply, **mystery Babylon** is a great city that has engulfed the entire world. It is not one physical city on earth but a **counterfeit kingdom or global system** to which all the nations have been yoked. **It is a mystery because the nations of our day do not recognize it and because most do not understand how it operates and the extent to which it has brought all under its seductive power.** Consider the lofty heart of Babylon that metaphorically is represented as a woman.

“As much as she glorified herself and lived in luxury, [by] so much give to her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart [fig., inner self], ‘I sit [as] a queen, and I am not a widow, and I shall by no means see sorrow.’” (Revelation 18:7 ALT)

Now, in respect to the US, the word of the Lord will go forth to break to pieces the lofty fortress of mystery Babylon, which is a hammer in its own right as it has kept the United States under its bondage. All that is lofty and lifted up against the Lord will be shattered by the living word of God. His word will go forth to break apart the craggy rock that has kept the American people under bondage and corruption. All that can be shaken will be shaken by the living word of God which is shaper than any two-edged sword that man might fabricate to cut flesh. God’s sword cuts to the very heart of the matter.

Second, His word, like a fire that refines, will go forth like a hammer that pounds metal into something precious. According to Isaiah, the hammer is used to smooth metal; it is not used to mar it or to destroy it but to smooth it so that it becomes something good.

So the craftsman encourages the smelter, and he who smooths metal with the hammer encourages him who beats the anvil, saying of the soldering, “It is good”; and he fastens it with nails, so that it will not totter. (Isaiah 41:7 NASB)

In other words, the word of the Lord will go forth with a two-fold purpose: **to bring down that which has held the nation in bondage and, through this process, refine the nation by hammering her into something precious.** I believe that the word of the Lord will go forth in the midst of a major crisis with the sole purpose of bringing the US to a place of **repentance and release.** It will be the judgment of God. As painful as judgment might appear for those of us in the midst of it, we must understand that God’s judgment is for the purpose of discipline, release, and restoration. When His hammer strikes its mighty blow to the heart of the US, it is for a grand purpose. It is to smooth out the craggy places.

Third, in the midst of crisis (*krisis*), the word of the Lord will be spoken to the nation through a company of believers, an Elijah company. The spirit of God has been preparing a company of conquerors or overcomers that have been trained in the hidden places, in the wilderness, to proclaim the heart of the Lord with “Thus saith the Lord.” They will be anointed to proclaim to the US and other nations the word that will shatter every high and lofty thought that stands against the knowledge of God and that will begin to bring every thought coming from the leaders of the nations into captivity to the obedience of Christ. They will go forth with the word of the Lord to convict the heart of the leaders of this once great nation that only give lip service to Almighty God, as well as to the leaders of Christianity that have lost sight of **the word of the kingdom** or have been holding to and preaching a leavened word (Matthew 13:33). The unleavened good news of the kingdom of God is going to go forth in power and under the anointing of the spirit of God that will prepare the way for the Lord.