

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)*

#03-09132

Eonian Good News

June 16, 2009

Revelation 14 is a fascinating chapter, for it begins with the Lambkin's conquerors purchased from the earth, as symbolized by the 144,000, singing a new song before the throne. They are the first fruits to God and to the Lambkin or Christ's first fruits (Revelation 14:4; 1 Corinthians 15:23); the blameless ones without spot or wrinkle (Revelation 14:5; Ephesians 5:27). They are New Jerusalem.

With the manifestation of the conquerors, John saw two angels, the second of which proclaimed: **"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality"** (Revelation 14:8). In other words, the end of mystery Babylon comes in relation to the conquerors (overcomers) being before the throne of God.

Now, nestled between the manifestation of the conquerors, who are the manifested sons of God or the sons of glory (Hebrews 2:10), and the pronounced fall of Babylon, John saw another angel flying in midheaven with some good news to preach.

(6) And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel [eonian evangel] to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; (7) and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters." (Revelation 14:6-7 NASB [CV])

Given all the imagery of destruction in *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, one might wonder how this gospel that proclaims His judgment has come is good news. After all, the word *gospel* or *evangel* means "good news." Death and destruction along with blood flowing to the bridle of horses does not sound very good. See issue #03-0910, January 26, 2009, *1600 Furlongs of Love*.

Unfortunately, most Christians of our day have been taught that God is an angry, vengeful god in the image of man, who seeks to kill most of mankind and throw them into an abode of fire and worms called *hell* to torture them forever and ever with no chance of reprieve. If you have read much of my material, you know that I reject such a notion, for **God is love** (1 John 4:8, 16), and **He wills all men (mankind) to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth** (1 Timothy 2:4).

Since the angel will pronounce good news to all who live on the earth, it only follows that the judgment that will come upon every nation and tribe and tongue and people is a good thing, not a bad thing. But how is this so? There are two sets of verses that give us the answer.

(7) The way of the righteous is smooth; O Upright One, make the path of the righteous level. (8) Indeed, while following the way of Your judgments, O LORD, we have waited for You eagerly; Your name, even Your memory, is the desire of our souls. (9) At night my soul longs for You, indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; for when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. (10) Though the wicked is shown favor, he does not learn righteousness; he deals unjustly in the land of uprightness, and does not perceive the majesty of the LORD. (11) O LORD, our hand is lifted up yet they do not see it. They see Your zeal for the people and are put to shame; indeed, fire will devour Your enemies. (Isaiah 26:7-11 NASB)

In this set, Isaiah pours forth his heart in relation to righteousness and judgment. Notice that he (they) waited eagerly as he followed the way of His judgments, and how he longed for the day in which the earth experiences His judgments, for, in that day, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

So, the purpose of judgment is to teach righteousness to mankind, which is a good thing, for righteousness refers to right standing before the Lord.

Also notice, although the wicked are shown favor, they do not learn righteousness. Even in our day, we can look around and see how the wicked are shown favor by the Lord. But if this favor does not turn their hearts to see the majesty of the Lord, what will? Judgment will! But what kind of judgment? It is judgment by fire. But what kind of fire? It is the fire of God's law or the spiritual word of God. It is not the physical sword that kills the flesh but the spiritual sword that kills every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God and that which is disobedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

The law is spiritual and the word of the Lord is like fire, a fiery law (Romans 7:14; Jeremiah 23:29; Deuteronomy 33:2). The spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning is the Lord's way to purge mankind (Isaiah 4:4). But let us be crystal clear that spiritual judgment is not hell or any form of torture or even physical death; it is His word that divides soul and spirit (Hebrews 4:12).

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

See the series issues #03-0947 through #03-0953, April 2009, *A Hammer Which Shatters A Rock*, and my book titled *The Purpose and Plan of the Eons*, Volume 2, Chapter 5, *Our God Is A Consuming Fire*.

The next set is discovered in Psalm 67, which reveals the real heart of judgment.

(1) God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. Selah. (2) That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. (3) Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. (4) Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You will judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the arth. Selah. (5) Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. (6) The arth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. (7) God blesses us, that all the nds of the earth may fear Him. (Psalm 67:1-7 NASB)

The purpose of judging the inhabitants of the earth by teaching them righteousness is to bring joy to all the nations. Just consider the nations today; there is much unrighteousness and injustice throughout the earth brought on by bad government and bad rulers. Even the governments and rulers that mean well have fallen far short of creating a world in which joy rules the day and all the peoples praise God. If anything, the peoples are praising men of flesh and blood who cannot and never will bring true joy and happiness to mankind. In our day, it has gotten so bad that one world leader is being hailed as one almost like God. The world needs the judgment of the Lord in order to learn righteousness and **worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters** (Revelation 14:7). When the nations worship the Creator of all, then the earth will be a blessing to all as it yields its bounty for mankind to enjoy. Today, the nations, tribes, tongues, and peoples, along with their rulers, do not fear God and do not give Him glory. But rejoice, for a new day is coming!

This leads to another question: How will this good news go forth? Will one angel deliver it as it flies through the midheaven? No; the good news will be preached through the conquerors or overcomers described at the beginning of Revelation 14. They have a heart for God's way to be known to all. They are the ones who ask God to be gracious to them and to cause His face to shine upon them. This refers to the transfiguration when the conquerors are changed into the image of Christ, when they receive immortal, glorified, celestial, spiritual bodies like the Celestial One.

In that glorious day, they will be fully equipped to teach the nations righteousness and to progressively establish the kingdom of Christ on the earth over the course of a 1,000-year eon. They will be the Lord's rulers in His kingdom who will teach the inhabitants of the earth to worship God, not as something forced upon them by threats of an eternal hell but out of love for Him because they see the love of God and of Christ in the conquerors.

Dear brethren, this is the eonian evangel, for it is the good news that will go forth throughout the coming kingdom of Christ. It is the good news that brings down mystery Babylon and the good news that establishes the kingdom of God on earth until the whole earth is full of the glory of the Lord. It is the good news that will go forth for the entire eon to come; thus, it is the eonian good news.

For an understanding of the word *eonian* or *eon*, please see issue #03-09131, June 15, 2009, *Eon (Age), Not Eternal or World*.