

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)*

#03-09137

The Number and Year 1776

June 25, 2009

I have heard the question asked: Is the United States mentioned in Scripture? As should be expected, some say no and some say yes. For me, the answer to this question is not really the issue. More importantly, I would ask: Where is the United States in the economy of God? Another way to ask the question is: Where does the United States fit in the history of nations as ordained by God? After all, through Jeremiah we are told that the Lord pulls down or builds up nations or kingdoms.

(7) “At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; (8) if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. (9) Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; (10) if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it.” (Jeremiah 18:7-10 NASB)

God is sovereign over His creation and, as such, nothing transpires outside His will. Since there is no authority except from God (Romans 13:1), it is safe to state that there are no nations or kingdoms except from God since government is where authority over a nation or kingdom is vested. Take away the authority of government and there is no nation or kingdom.

Recently I was reading the book *Jesus Christ the Number of His Name* by Bonnie Gaunt, (Adventures Unlimited Press, 2002). This writer has done a tremendous amount of research on the gematria of Scripture. Gematria is a system in which numerical values are assigned to an alphabet. For example, in the Hebrew language, *aleph* is assigned the number 1, and in the Greek language, *alpha* is assigned the number 1. By applying gematria to Bible words and verses, numeric values are derived. It is uncanny how some numbers appear repeatedly referring to the same or similar topic.

In reading Bonnie Gaunt's book, one number that caught my attention was the number 1776, which, according to gematria, is discovered in the following phrases.

Jesus of Nazareth = 1776

Lord of the Sabbath = 1776

I am the Root and Offspring of David = 1776

And they shall call you The City of God, Zion of the Holy One of Israel = 1776

The Lamb in the midst of the throne = 1776

River of life = 1776

Obviously, the first three are titles referring to the Lord Jesus, and the last three also refer to the Lord as represented in New Jerusalem, a topic to which I have devoted a series.

The interesting thing about the number 1776 is that it is also the year in which the Second Continental Congress of the American colonies met in Philadelphia and declared the independence of the United States. In other words, the US was essentially born as a nation on July 2, 1776. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, the Constitution of the United States was enacted in 1789, and Washington DC was established as its capital in 1800.

I have written about the year 1776 before (#03-09155, April 15, 2009, Tax Day Tea Party #2) as I noted the relationship between the ancient nation of Israel and the modern-day nation of the United States and what this could mean to the US. It appears that the history of the US is on a parallel course to ancient Israel as revealed in a 2,520-year cycle, which is made up of twelve 210-year cycles. The numbers 21 and 210 refer to Jacob's distress on an individual and national level. See issue #03-09126, May 28, 2009, *Jacob's Distress, 21 & 210-Year Cycles*. When multiplied by 12, which refers to divine

government, the number 210 yields a much longer period of time, which could be called a prophetic time cycle. A similar pattern is seen in Revelation 11:2-3 with the reference to 42 months and 1,260 days. Applying days to years (2 Peter 3:8) and doubling the 1,260 yields 2,520 years.

Of significance is the fact that, in 745 BC, the Assyrians took captive the house of Israel, and, in 1776, 2,520 years later, the United States was established as an independent nation. Is this a coincidence or the hand of God? Again, as a reminder, God plants nations. Besides, if there was ever a modern-day Christian nation, the US is the closest thing to one.

As I considered this, I also began reading another book titled *A Miracle That Changed the World, The 5000 Year Leap*, by W. Cleon Skousen (National Center for Constitutional Studies, 2007). Mr. Skousen points out how the founding fathers of the US viewed government and what their understanding of law was, specifically, ruler's law verses people's law and common law. What caught my attention was that he notes how the founders saw similarities between the Anglo-Saxon Common Law and the People's Law of Ancient Israel, and they attempted to incorporate the principles of these ancient laws into the governmental framework of the US. In fact, the original intent of the founders was to incorporate representations of both the ancient Israelites and the Anglo-Saxons in the official seal of the United States. In the end, it was not so incorporated because it was "a little complicated for a small seal," which led it to be a mere footnote, if that, in our great heritage. It is unfortunate, for it gives great insight into the thoughts of some of the founding fathers and provides a clear connection to the laws of God.

However, there is one more fascinating thought in relation to the Anglo-Saxons. We might think of the ancient Anglo-Saxons in a secular way, but is this the proper way to view them? Who were they and where did they come from? Obviously, I cannot answer this question in the space that is left, so I will cut to the chase, so to speak. They could be part of the lost house of Israel that was taken captive in 745 BC and dispersed among the nations and that, most notably, migrated north to Europe.

The book titled *Secrets of Time* by Dr. Stephen Jones (God's Kingdom Ministries, 1996) offers an historical account of the migration of the ancient house of Israel. Dr. Jones points out that the house of Israel was really never lost; they simply became known by other names, such as Bit-Humri, Omri, Caucasians because they migrated by way of the Caucus Mountains, and Saka or Saxons. Ultimately, these ancient people settled in the nations of Europe and spread into the "New World." Dr. Jones states:

The fact that these people are descended from the tribes of the House of Israel explains why Christianity took root in the West, rather than in other lands. It was in the overall Plan of God that the Gospel should go to them first, even as Hosea 1:10 had prophesied. God intended that the House of Israel should be the primary source of the world missionary movements that would carry the Gospel to the rest of the world. This is precisely what has occurred. ... In the great parable of the nations, we see the European nations representing the sons of Jacob. Britain stands at the head of those nations, geographically pictured as Jacob himself. In fact, their flag is called the "Union Jack." Jack is a shortened form for Jacob. America was populated largely by religious persecution in Europe among Jacob's sons. Joseph was "sold" into the wilderness and was "separate from his brethren" (Gen. 49:26) for 210 years. The land of Joseph itself in this parable became two nations, Canada and the United States, even as Joseph had two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. During this time of Joseph's separation, we came into prominence among the nations, even as Joseph was elevated to rulership during his time of being "lost" and separated.

They were lost because they lost their national identity and have not recovered their true identity, even in the modern-day state of Israel, which is not the house of Israel as seen by the Lord. If this is true, then, at least in part, the lost house of Israel began to emerge 2,520 years later with the independence of the United States. Please understand that this must be in part, for, as noted, other nations, such as Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and South Africa saw the migration of Anglo-Saxons as well.

However you view this matter, you must admit that this all quite interesting.

Is there any doubt that the United States, even with all her flaws and weaknesses, has been a nation blessed by God in so many ways? Should we doubt that the Sovereign God planted this nation to be a blessing to the world? The answer to both is no. I believe that the number and year 1776 is God's way of telling us so. **As a nation, let us repent, turn from evil, and obey the voice of the Lord.**