

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)

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For He Is Coming To Judge

August 5, 2009

(1) Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. (2) Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. (3) Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. (4) For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. (5) For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. (6) Splendor and majesty are before Him, strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. (7) Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. (8) Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; bring an offering and come into His courts. (9) Worship the LORD in holy attire; tremble before Him, all the earth. (10) Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity." (11) Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all it contains; (12) let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy (13) before the LORD, for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness. (Psalm 96:1-13 NASB)

The last issue barely touched upon this psalm, which, I believe, speaks of the eonian good news that will go forth through the angel flying in midheaven and will be proclaimed by the 144,000 conquerors as they lead the nations and teach them the righteousness of the kingdom of God (Revelation 14.6-7). **For when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness** (Isaiah 26:9 NASB).

The new song that will be sung to the Lord will bless His name and proclaim the good news of His salvation. It will speak of His glory and His wonderful deeds done among the peoples. It will lead the nations to praise the Lord and to fear Him.

In the context of the next eon, the word *fear* refers to being in awe of or having reverence for the Lord.

Today, the world in general has little fear of the Lord. They are not in awe of His love, His faithfulness, His righteousness, His justice, His mercy, and His grace, to name a few attributes that speak of His character and nature. Rather, the world rejects much about the Lord and cares little that He alone is the answer to all the world's challenges and problems.

Mankind has created many gods in its own image. But the gods of the peoples are idols.

(20) The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; (21) and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts. (Revelation 9:20-21 NASB)

Man's gods cannot hear nor walk, and they have no creative power. But the Lord created the heavens. What god of man's making can make such a claim? Many reject that all things that are visible and invisible came into being by God. But the Lord is the Creator God, for by Him (His Son) all things were created, in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible (Colossians 1:16).

As the glory of the Lord begins to go forth throughout the earth and the nations see His glory, especially through the Lambkin's conquerors, they will begin to see His splendor and majesty and His strength and beauty in the face of a people that have been conformed into His image. They will look upon His people and see the face of Christ, the glory of the Lord, as in a mirror.

In their awe, the families of the peoples will be exhorted to ascribe, that is, give unto the Lord all the praise, honor, and glory that He so richly deserves. All the earth will be led to worship the Lord, not in some religious and ritualistic fashion but in spirit and truth.

Then the psalmist proclaims: **Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."** Who will make such a proclamation? Will it be the angels? Perhaps they will have some involvement since an angel flying in midheaven will preach the eonian good news. But the ones charged with speaking to the nations are the ones raised up to lead the nations and to teach them righteousness. They are the ones represented by the 144,000 with the name of God and His Son on their foreheads. For the most part, the church-at-large of our present eon has failed to say among the nations that the Lord reigns. But praise God; a day is coming when a faithful company will go forth declaring that the Lord reigns, and the nations will hear and respond, all to the glory of God.

Because the Lord reigns, the world cannot be moved. It is firmly established because God's King is firmly established. **"But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain"** (Psalm 2:6 NASB). Zion is firmly set with God's King seated upon His throne. Absolutely nothing can move this throne, and from His throne, He will judge the peoples with equity. The nations have never known true and perfect equity, but in the day of Christ, they will see it and rejoice in it.

It is probably safe to state that the world in general fears the judgments of God. Why shouldn't they? After all, the church-at-large has presented to the world a god that is vengeful and as hateful as man is toward one another. It is a sad truth that down through the centuries, the church has told people that God is out to destroy them and send them by the billions to an eternal life in hell, a place of endless torture and torment, while He looks on with a perverted sense of glee. Even His Son, who died for the sin of the world, will look upon the billions in hell and shake His head as if there was nothing He could do to keep them from such a destiny. Thank God; the conquerors will set the record straight. God is love. When His judgment comes, it will be a judgment based on His love for mankind and for the world, for God so loves the world, and He wills that all mankind be saved, *eventually*.

But take note; the heavens are commanded to be glad, the earth to rejoice, the sea and all the creatures within it to roar, the field and all the creatures within it to exult, and the trees to sing for joy before the Lord. Why?

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. (20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (Romans 8:19-22 NASB)

Creation knows that its emancipation comes with the manifestation of the sons of glory, Christ's conquerors. Creation is waiting and groaning in anticipation of its freedom. When it comes, all creation will rejoice. The earth itself will have a different sound as creation sings of the glory of God.

Finally, all creation will rejoice, **for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness.** Creation knows that this is a good thing, a glorious thing. Don't you think that, as the Lord's people, we should know this, as well, and be prepared for His coming? His judgment of the world and the peoples will be good and right. Let us cast off all our manmade gods and be prepared for the Lord who made the heavens. The Lord reigns, let the peoples tremble, for He is coming to judge the earth! He will judge in His faithfulness, for **He is called Faithful and True** (Revelation 19:11). Amen!