

# 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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## ***The 144,000 First Fruits to God #2***

August 7, 2009

**And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand [144,000] sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel....** (Revelation 7:4 NASB)

**Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb [Lambkin] was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand [144,000], having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.** (Revelation 14:1 NASB [CV])

To understand *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* as given to us through John the beloved apostle, we need to approach it for what it signifies. Too often, Christians view Scripture through the lens of the natural eye with natural concepts and fail to appraise all things, being taught by the spirit of God, combining spiritual with spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:10-16). We need spiritual discernment and understanding in these days of darkness, having the eyes of our heart enlightened (Ephesians 1:17-18).

In the last issue of this series, I made three points. First, the number 12 signifies governmental perfection. Second, since the voice of the 144,000 will be like the sound of many waters, the number 144,000, most likely, signifies a much larger number. Third, being included in one of the tribes of the sons of Israel is based on the spiritual seed of Israel, the name given to Jacob by the Lord, and not on the natural seed of Jacob, that is, genealogy or bloodline. Being included in one of the tribes of the sons of Israel is based on blood, but not on the blood of men. It is based on the blood of one Man, the Son of God, the very blood of God that was shed for the remission of sin.

So, let us continue looking at some other aspects of the 144,000.

#4: They have the name of the Lambkin's Father written on their foreheads. Over the years, I have heard a lot preached on the mark of the beast (Revelation 13:16) but very little on the name of God being written on the foreheads of the 144,000. It is a glorious thing to have the name of the Father written on one. When God's name resides on something or someone, it means that He has taken up residence there or made it His abode. We see this in the ancient history of the sons of Israel. Back then, God placed His name on temples made of wood and stone. The first place was Shiloh.

**Then the whole congregation of the sons of Israel assembled themselves at Shiloh, and set up the tent of meeting there; and the land was subdued before them.** (Joshua 18:1 NASB)

However, due to their rebellion and provocation, God abandoned the dwelling place of Shiloh, meaning He removed His name from that place.

**(60) So that He abandoned the dwelling place at Shiloh, the tent which He had pitched among men, (61) and gave up His strength to captivity and His glory into the hand of the adversary.** (Psalm 78:60-61 NASB)

**"But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I made My name dwell at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel.** (Jeremiah 7:12 NASB)

Later, God placed His name on Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. When it was dedicated to the Lord, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord (1 Kings 8:10-11). Unfortunately, this only lasted for a season because of the corruption of the sons of Israel.

**(15) “I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brothers, all the offspring of Ephraim. (16) As for you, do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you. (17) Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?”** (Jeremiah 7:15-17 NASB)

During the days of Ezekiel, the glory of the Lord began to depart from the house of the Lord until it stood over a mountain east of the city. The name of God was no longer dwelling in Jerusalem.

**Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple, and the temple was filled with the cloud and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.** (Ezekiel 10:4 NASB)

**(22) Then the cherubim lifted up their wings with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel hovered over them. (23) The glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood over the mountain which is east of the city.** (Ezekiel 11:22-23 NASB)

The glory of the Lord never filled the second temple built by Ezra and Zerubbabel, so it cannot be stated that God placed His name on this structure of wood and stone. He waited for another temple to come on the scene, namely the temple of the Son of God.

**Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”** (John 2:19 NASB)

**(1) Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. (2) And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.** (Matthew 17:1-2 NASB)

After His resurrection and appearance to over 500, the Son of God ascended back to heaven to sit at the right hand of His Father. The glory that Ezekiel saw hovering over the mountain east of the city had waited long enough for the day in which there would be a new temple of flesh and bone, not one of wood and stone. The Son of Glory, upon whom was the name of God, departed as proof that God’s interest is not in wood and stone but in a living stone that brings forth many living stones (1 Peter 2:4-5), the holy temple in the Lord, the dwelling of God in spirit (Ephesians 2:21-22 CV).

On the day of Pentecost, the glory of God returned to earth in the spirit of God that took up residence in His new temple on earth, **the ecclesia, which is the body of Christ, the complement of the One completing the all in all** (Ephesians 1:22-23 CV). From Pentecost on, the name of God was written on the ones destined to be the sons of glory (Hebrews 2:10), flesh and bone (Luke 24:39) temples filled with the glory of the Lord. **Christ in you, the hope of glory** (Colossians 1:27). Paul reminds us: **For we are the temple of the living God** (2 Corinthians 6:16).

But there is a special promise for the conquerors, the first fruits of God and of the Lambkin.

**“He who overcomes [one who is conquering], I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.” They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. ... And they shall be reigning for the eons of the eons.** (Revelation 3:12; 22:4 NASB; 22:5 CV)

Many Christians and Jews are looking for a third temple of wood and stone to be built in Jerusalem on which God will place His name and fill with His glory. If one is built by the strength of man, we can be assured that the name of God will not be on this structure of wood and stone, for God has His temple of living stones, and it starts with His first fruits, the 144,000 conquerors with His name on their foreheads. God’s temple of living stones is **New Jerusalem, having the glory of God!**