

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)

#03-0988

Blessed Is The One Who Comes

August 18, 2009

(33) ‘Serpents! brood of vipers! how may ye escape from the judgment of the gehenna? (34) ‘Because of this, lo, I send to you prophets, and wise men, and scribes, and of them ye will kill and crucify, and of them ye will scourge in your synagogues, and will pursue from city to city; (35) that on you may come all the righteous blood being poured out on the earth from the blood of Abel the righteous, unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the sanctuary and the altar: (36) verily I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation. (37) ‘Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that art killing the prophets, and stoning those sent unto thee, how often did I will to gather thy children together, as a hen doth gather her own chickens under the wings, and ye did not will. (38) Lo, left desolate to you is your house; (39) for I say to you, ye may not see [eido] me henceforth, till ye may say, Blessed [eulogeo] is he who is coming in the name of the Lord.’
(Matthew 23:33-39 YLT)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; we have blessed you from the house of the LORD. (Psalm 118:26 NASB)

The point that I want to underline in this issue is discovered in the above psalm quoted by Jesus as He walked out of the temple and left the house of Judah and Jerusalem desolate. In particular, I want to show that the *he* in *blessed is he* does not refer to the Lord nor to the Jews that rejected Him but to the ones who will come in His name as the next eon unfolds. Some translations of Matthew 23:39 capitalize *He* to imply that it refers to the Lord Jesus, but I believe this is interpretative bias, and, frankly, it makes no sense according to the context of the passage nor to the structure of the sentence.

The point that I want to underline is that the *he* refers to the Lord’s conquerors, the true sons of God, the sons of the first resurrection and transfiguration.

To begin, there are two words in the above verses that we need to understand, the words *see* and *bless*.

The word *see* comes from the Greek word *eido*, which primarily means “to see” but by implication means “to know.” In fact, *eido* is often translated *know*. Consider the following examples, taking special note that they refer to knowing a person or something about a person.

“But so that you may know [eido] that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.” (Matthew 9:6 NASB)

“But he answered, “Truly I say to you, I do not know [eido] you.” (Matthew 25:12 NASB)

“Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know [eido] who You are—the Holy One of God!” (Luke 4:34 NASB)

“I did not recognize [eido] Him....” (John 1:31 NASB)

So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know [eido] neither Me nor My Father; if you knew [eido] Me, you would know [eido] My Father also.”
(John 8:19 NASB)

His parents answered them and said, “We know [eido] that this is our son, and that he was born blind....” (John 9:20 NASB)

“When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know [eido] his voice.” (John 10:4 NASB)

But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know [eido] that it was Jesus. ... Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples ventured to question Him, “Who are You?” knowing [eido] that it was the Lord. (John 21:4, 12 NASB)

Given these examples, verse 39 could have been translated as **you may not know [eido] me henceforth, until you say.** The Jews that had rejected Him saw Him, but they did not know Him as the Messiah and God’s King. The issue on the Lord’s heart was them coming to know Him, not just seeing Him.

The Concordant Version translates *eido* as *perceive*, which means “to take hold of, comprehend, grasp mentally”: **“You by no means be perceiving Me henceforth.”** This could be rephrased as: “You will not comprehend or grasp who I am.” This particular translation seems to capture the essence of the Lord’s meaning.

Next, the word *bless* comes from the Greek word *eulogeo*, which means “to speak well of, praise.” Matthew 23:39 could be paraphrased: “Speak well of and praise the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

It is apparent by the context of Matthew 23:33-39 that Jesus was speaking to the house of Judah that was rejecting Him and would demand that He be crucified, just as they had slain the prophets sent by God to warn them, but they would not listen and repent. Due to their rebellion and apostasy, Jesus walked out of their house and the kingdom was given to the nation that would bear the fruit of the kingdom (Matthew 21:43), the true Judahite nation, for it accepts Jesus as their King and Messiah. That generation was condemned to the judgment of **gehenna** (death and destruction, not torture in a place called *hell*), which pointed to 70 AD when God sent *His* Roman army to destroy the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 22:7), along with its temple, and to bring an end to the old covenant and all that was associated with Judaism, at least in the eyes of God. It is true that the ones claiming to be Jews continued on with their tradition(s), but the Lord was no longer in it, for it became obsolete (Hebrews 8:13) as it gave way to the new covenant based on the sacrificial blood of the Son of God.

Now, this leads to the main point, and that is the identity of the ones who will come in the name of the Lord. Who are they? When will they come? They are the immortal conquerors of the body of Christ that will rise in the first resurrection (those asleep in Jesus), along with those who will be transfigured (those who are alive and remain), at the coming of the Lord. This is the company of the true Judahites, the ones counted worthy of being the true Israel, sons placed in the kingdom. In other words, they are the ones that have the birthright of Israel. Thus, they are the **true Judah** and the **true Israel**, for they have possession of the scepter of Judah (Genesis 49:10), meaning they have the right to reign, and possession of the birthright of Israel, meaning they have the inheritance of sonship, just as the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, possessed the birthright (Genesis 48; 1 Chronicles 5:1-2).

Since the generation of Jews that rejected Christ 2,000 years ago is dead and will not rise until the second resurrection to appear before the Great White Throne (Matthew 12:32), we must assume that this applies to the generation on earth when the true sons of God are manifested as the kingdom of Christ takes root among the nations in the oncoming eon. The Jews who say they are Jews and are not, but lie (Revelation 2:9; 3:9), for they continue to reject Jesus as Messiah, will come to know who Jesus is when they see the sons of God and realize that they have lived in unbelief and rebellion. I do not believe that, at this point, those who have lived this lie will see the Lord face to face. They will see the face of Christ in the face of the ones in His image, and, when they do see Him in them, they will proclaim: **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.** They will see joy and love in these ones, their eyes will be opened, and they will be led by the sons of God to learn of God’s righteousness, much as another self-righteous Pharisee whose heart was turned to the Lord had to learn. It was Paul who learned that righteousness comes through faith in Christ (Philippians 3:9).

In conclusion, I have a word for those who call themselves Jews today. If you claim to be a Jew and do not know Jesus as the Messiah and the only Way to the righteousness of God, then you have been living a lie because God does not consider you a true Jew. You need a circumcised heart (Jeremiah 4:4), and this comes from believing on Jesus, the Son of God. God loves you! Believe!