

# 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)

#03-09171

## ***A Sea Change #2***

September 22, 2009

This series is about sea changes that God has brought about and will bring about, as revealed in His word. Simply, sea changes of any value are the Lord's doing and for the glory of God.

So that we do not lose sight of what a sea change is, its definition will be repeated in each issue of this series. In its literal sense, a sea change refers to "**a change brought about by the sea,**" that is, a change by a literal body of water called the sea. In a broader context, a sea change refers to "**a great change, transformation, or alteration,**" regardless of the source or cause. Such a change could come about by any major event, not just a literal sea event.

The first four literal sea changes were presented in the first issue of this series. The first sea change was in relation to the pre-Adamic eon, of which we know so little, except that out of the chaos came a restored earth and the formation of man from the soil of the earth. The second sea change was brought about by the flood in Noah's day as a judgment of man for his abject nature of violence and corruption. The third sea change was brought about by the parting of the Red Sea so that God's people could come out of Egypt (the world). The fourth sea change was brought about by the parting of the Jordan so that the sons of Israel could enter the land of promise after their 40-year sojourn through the wilderness. Each sea change reveals a profound truth about God's plan to achieve His purpose.

Now, let us consider the fifth and the sixth literal sea changes, both of which have yet to be manifested.

The fifth literal sea change will occur when **the sea gives up the dead** in the second or general resurrection so that the dead appear before the Great White Throne.

**(11) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.** (Revelation 20:11-13 NASB)

Our present eon will come to its full conclusion when the Lord's conquerors (ones either asleep in Jesus or alive and remaining when He comes) are either raised from among the dead in the first resurrection or transfigured into the immortal image of Christ. They will reign on the earth and among the celestials for 1,000 years. The rest of the dead, the great and the small that do not come alive, will be raised up from the state of death in the second or general resurrection in order to be judged by God's law, which is likened to a fire. After all, the Lord says: "**Is not My word like fire?**" (Jeremiah 23:29).

Believers who did not conquer by not enduring to the end and by not obeying the gospel so that the law was written on their hearts will appear before the throne to be **saved, yet so as through fire** (1 Corinthians 3:15). Theirs will be **a resurrection of life**. Unbelievers who either rejected Christ or never heard of Him will appear before the throne for their deeds or works to be judged by God's fiery law. Theirs will be **a resurrection of judgment** and will lead to a period of discipline, correction, and restitution that will continue until full restitution has been made (Matthew 5:26; Luke 12:59), which for some, or perhaps many, could last until the consummation of the eons and the grand Jubilee.

**(28) Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, (29) and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.** (John 5:28-29 ASV)

See issues #02-0838, June 6, 2008, *You Surely Will Not Die*; #02-0839, June 13, 2008, *All Who Are in The Tombs Will Hear*; and #02-0840, June 20, 2008, *Sons of the Resurrection*.

For the dead to appear before the Great White Throne, they must be resurrected from either the sea or Hades, the unseen. In this case, I believe the sea is used in the literal sense, not the figurative. The sea giving up the dead signifies that, from that point on, there is no more physical death for mankind, which is a mighty sea change. There are no more places in which to hide the dead, for death is no more.

The sixth literal sea change also is yet future, for it will occur when all things are new in the day of God. Only in this case, the sea change is that there is no more sea; it has no home on the new earth.

**(1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.** (Revelation 21:1-2 NASB)

Notice that when the new heaven and new earth, along with New Jerusalem, come into view after the Great White Throne, there is no longer any sea. Again, I see this as a literal sea; however, its absence has great significance in the plan and purpose of God, especially in the context of God's Day, which is about removing all that has separated man and God.

Death is a cessation of life, and, in reference to a relationship with God, it is a separation from God who is **not the God of the dead, but of the living** (Matthew 22:32).

Death itself is a separation from life. The two cannot go together; you either have death or you have life, contrary to the Christian teaching that says there is life *in* death. Further, in the natural realm, the sea separates nations and peoples, and all the seas of the world act as great barriers that hinder the free flow of people. Consequently, the sea signifies separation on all levels.

The good news is that in God's Day there will be no more separation of people or nations from one another, or separation of man from God. Why? Because God will dwell among His people!

**(3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, (4) and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (5) And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."** (Revelation 21:3-5 NASB)

The first things will pass away, which means that there will be no more death of any kind for His people. God is going to make all things new; the old must and will flee away in His day.

However, we must recognize that, until the consummation of the eons, another kind of death will continue for those who are under the judgment of God's fiery law. It is the second death, which is a death of works, not of the mortal body. The good news is that they too will come out of this death one day and be restored to God. A day must come when Christ gives up His reign to the Father and the last enemy of mankind, death, is fully and utterly abolished (1 Corinthians 15:25-26), to the glory of God.

Thus, the sixth sea change, which is the removal of the sea itself, signifies that, in making all things new, God will remove all that has separated man from Him, and man from one another. Praise God!