

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)

#03-09172

A Sea Change #3

September 23, 2009

As stated in the first issue, as I was meditating on all that has been happening in the United States, the phrase *sea change* came to my mind. What was on my heart at the time and continues to be on my heart is that we all need a sea change; the world needs one, the nations need one, the church of God needs one, all the religions of the world need one, and we, individually, need one. The fact of the matter is that one and the same sea change is needed for all mankind in these last days at this late hour. **We need the sea change of the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.**

As a refresher, a sea change refers either to **“a change brought about by the sea,”** that is, a change by a literal body of water called the sea, or to **“a great change, transformation, or alteration,”** regardless of the source or cause.

We have already looked at six literal sea changes as presented in Scripture; four have already passed and two are coming. Now, let us consider a seventh sea change that is coming and that does not directly involve a literal sea but is truly a sea change that not only rivals in magnitude all literal sea changes of God discussed so far, but actually exceeds these in its positive effect on all mankind and the earth.

I need to add that when I first considered this phrase, I saw only six literal sea changes, as presented in Scripture. However, on closer examination, according to Scripture, there are actually eight sea changes, the last two being sea changes that do not involve literal seas. These two sea changes, without doubt, are the most profound and glorious changes yet to come. The seventh sea change involves the next eon, the seventh day for the second earth; and the eighth sea change involves the last eon as presented in Scripture, the eighth day that brings forth the third earth, the day in which all things are new. **The seventh sea change is about glory. The eighth sea change is about life.** Finally, I must add that the seventh sea change is not the seventh in chronological order, but it stands apart from the six literal sea changes and rightfully must stand with the eighth one.

The seventh sea change is a great transformation brought about by the glory of the Lord.

But indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. (Numbers 14:21 NASB)

And blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. (Psalm 72:19 NASB)

And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.” (Isaiah 6:3 NASB)

They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9 NASB)

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:14 NASB)

The seventh sea change occurs in the next eon when Christ comes a second time and His conquerors begin to reign with Him over the nations. In that day, which is the day of Christ (Philippians 1:6, 10; 2:16), the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:8), or the Lord’s Day, the glory of the Lord will begin to fill the whole earth like a mighty flood.

Notice how Habakkuk compares this filling to waters that cover the sea. The Lord promised never to flood the earth again by water (Genesis 9:11), but He never promised not to flood it with something else;

only His next flood is a good thing for mankind and the earth. Not only will God fill the whole earth with His glory, but He also will fill it with the knowledge of the Lord and with His spirit. These three go together—**the glory of the Lord, the spirit of the Lord, and the knowledge of the Lord**. After all, God our Savior wills that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4). In our day, which is **Man's Day** (1 Corinthians 4:3 YLT), there are many speculations and lofty things raised up against the knowledge of God, but in the **Lord's Day**, the knowledge of God will begin to fill the whole earth.

For a discussion of the spirit of God flooding mankind, please see the five-part series titled *The Days of Noah*, #03-0903 through #03-0907, January-February 2009.

What needs to be underlined is the fact that **the glory of the Lord will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea**. Considering the amount of water that covers the sea, we are talking about an awesome amount of glory to come in the next eon. As this glory begins to fill the earth, the knowledge of the Lord also will increase.

What is glory? Glory is a difficult word to define, and I don't have space to do it justice, so I refer you to my book, *The Purpose and Plan of the Eons*, Volume 3, Chapter 7, *The Expectation of Glory*, for more detail. However, let me offer a thought about glory. It may sound rather strange, but glory is best defined as **the way things ought to be**, and it is based on the word *seem*. Simply, when glory comes, everything will seem as it was always meant to be, as God intended it to be. God the Father will be the happy God, and all of creation will sing for joy. When we enter glory, we will say: "Wow!"

Well, I told you it was hard to define, so please see the chapter on glory in my book on God's purpose.

Glory has been manifested progressively down through the eons in limited and often hidden ways. Adam was covered in the glory of God, but this was lost in his fall. The good news is that glory has been recovered in the last Adam. The glory came down upon Mount Sinai in Arabia as the Lord appeared to Moses and the sons of Israel, and later His glory filled Solomon's Temple. But a day came when His glory was removed from the temple, and it hovered over Jerusalem. Ezekiel was given a vision of the glory of the Lord departing the temple and yet continuing to hover over Jerusalem.

Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple.... The glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. ... the glory of the God of Israel hovered over them. 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 10:4, 18, 19; 11:22-23 NASB)

The glory remained hidden until the Lamb of God came to earth and revealed His glory (Matthew 17:2). He died for the sin of the world and was raised from the dead. Then, He stood on the same mountain upon which Ezekiel saw the glory hover, and He rose up in a cloud to return to His Father. When He was glorified, the spirit of glory descended and rested upon the 120 in the upper room, the embryo of the body of Christ (John 7:39). In type, Ezekiel saw the glory return to the temple, but John saw the antitype (the reality) of Ezekiel's vision; the glory will fill a new temple of living stones, the temple of the Lord, the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God.

Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the house; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD, and I fell on my face. (Ezekiel 44:4 NASB)

(10) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, (11) having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. (Revelation 21:10-11 NASB)

The new creation of God will be a living manifestation of His glory. In our present eon, this glory is hidden in the new man, **Christ in you, the expectation of glory** (Colossians 1:27). In the next eon, it will be manifested in the sons placed in the Father's kingdom as the many sons of glory (Romans 8:23; Hebrews 2:10), and the glory of the Lord will begin to fill the whole earth as the waters cover the sea. A glorious sea change is coming to this earth soon! Praise God!