

# 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)

#03-09175

## ***Joy to the World***

October 3, 2009

Without telling my wife, I have been praying, asking the Lord to encourage her in some way, either through a word or, quite frankly, a visitation of some kind. I share with her all that the Lord reveals to me, but it has been my desire that she have a personal word from the Lord as well.

Well, praise the Lord; today, on October 3, she had a dream that she wanted to sing, actually shout, the song *Joy to the World* for the entire world to hear. In case you do not know the words to this wonderful song, here they are.

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

Take a moment and meditate on the wonder spoken of in this song.

*Joy to the World* was written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) and is generally sung during the December holiday season as a Christmas carol, as if it is best applied to the birth of our Lord Jesus. However, we see this wonderful song as a glorious declaration of His coming to reign over the earth in the next age in what is called the Kingdom or Tabernacles Age.

When my wife shared this with me, I knew immediately that this was from the Lord. You see, October 3 is the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, and this speaks of the glorious week in which the Lord Jesus will appear to His conquerors. At the time appointed by the Father, during the fall feasts of a future year, the sons of God will be manifested to the world as the world enters a new and glorious age in which the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness (Isaiah 26:9), the very righteousness of God.

We are given a glimpse of this week as recorded by John in his account of Jesus going to the Feast of Booths [Tabernacles] (John 7:1-39). Jesus' brothers did not believe in their brother and exhorted Him to go to Judea and reveal Himself to the world, for, by their way of thinking, no one does anything in secret. However, his brothers departed for Judea without Him.

**But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as if, in secret.** (John 7:10 NASB)

**But when it was now the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and began to teach.** (John 7:14 NASB)

I believe that this is also a prophetic word pointing to the day in which the Lord will appear to His temple to teach His conquerors the ways of the kingdom that will be established on the earth through them over the next 1,000 years. As I have written about in my series on **New Jerusalem**, the temple of God is no longer one of dead stones arranged on earth, but is a temple of the Lord made up of living stones arranged in spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-10). During the feast of Tabernacles, the risen, glorified, and reigning Lord Jesus will appear, visibly and literally, to His temple, the dwelling of God in spirit, to teach them for the task set before them. They will know how to judge the world and the messengers with righteous judgment (John 7:24; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3).

The Feast of Tabernacles concludes on the eighth day with the last day, the great day of the feast.

**(37) Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (38) He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" (39) But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.** (John 7:37-39 NASB)

This was partially fulfilled on the day of Pentecost and is partially fulfilled when one believes on Jesus, for we all receive an earnest of the spirit as a down payment of a future filling. However, in the first resurrection and transfiguration, the sons of God will receive immortal, glorified, and celestial bodies in the image of the Son of God. They will be filled up to all the fullness of God, the fullness of the spirit, as the complement of the One who will fill the all in all, so that at the consummation of the eons, God the Father may all in all new (Ephesians 1:23; 3:19; 1 Corinthians 15:28; Revelation 21:5). I believe this occurs in concert with the fall feasts starting with the Feast of Trumpets and ending with **the eighth day**, the last great day. It is at this point that the sons of God will be manifested to the world and the very life of Christ, the rivers of living water, will flow forth from His conquerors until **the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea** (Habakkuk 2:14 NASB). Much could be written on the eighth day, but I will reserve this for other writings.

The good news is that after the eighth day, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month, the people will go forth rejoicing and happy of heart (2 Chronicles 7:9-10) and the trees will clap their hands, for the Lord has come. This is what Joy to the World is all about.

**"For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.** (Isaiah 55:12 NASB)

Heaven and nature will sing for joy as the sons of God are manifested (Romans 8:19-23). It is the sign that the Lord has come and the Savior reigns, no longer in secret in the hearts of a few, but then for the world to see and experience the very reign of the Son of God who is full of truth and grace. The nations will begin to learn the glories of His righteousness and will marvel in His love, for **God is love**.

**And wonders, wonders of His love! Joy to the World, the Lord is come! It won't be long!**