

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)

#03-09107

New Jerusalem #17.

October 12, 2009

According to Jeremiah's Vision

I had planned to move on to John's Patmos vision recorded in Revelation 21-22, but I realized that the words of one more prophet, Jeremiah, need to be looked at before we do. Actually, Jeremiah had much to say about Jerusalem, especially the ancient and present Jerusalem that is destined for ruin. Suffice it to say; when the prophets spoke of the demise and gloom of Jerusalem, they spoke of the earthly Jerusalem that no longer has the name and glory of God upon it. When they spoke of the glory and joy of Jerusalem, they spoke of the celestial Jerusalem, New Jerusalem; this is where the name of God resides. The prophets did not refer directly to New Jerusalem, but they were given vision of her and felt the heartbeat of God to dwell in and among His people.

Of course, by now, I trust that those reading my material realize that His name is upon a people, and the people are New Jerusalem, the temple of the Lord made up of living stones.

Now, let us consider Jeremiah 31, starting with verse 27.

(27) "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and with the seed of beast. (28) As I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to overthrow, to destroy and to bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant," declares the LORD.

This is the Lord's promise to reunite Judah and Israel, which refers to reuniting the King with the Kingdom. Judah was given the scepter (Genesis 49:10), which, in type, refers to the reign of the King of Judah, Jesus, who is not only of the tribe of Judah but also the Leader of Judah. Jacob-Israel blessed the sons of Joseph with his name Israel and blessed Joseph as a fruitful bough [*ben* meaning son] (Genesis 48:8-20; 49:22). Israel speaks of sonship and the many sons that will come unto glory (Hebrews 2:10) to reign with Christ (King of Judah); they represent the kingdom that will be formed on earth. Thus, in that day, Judah (King) and Israel (Kingdom) will be united as one, and the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ will take root among the nations. Of His government there will be no end, only increase (Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 7:14; Luke 1:33; Hebrews 12:28), as it continually increases for 1,000 years until it bursts forth into God's Day when all is made new (2 Peter 3:8; Revelation 21:5).

The basis for this glorious promise is the new covenant.

(31) "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. (33) "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (34) They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

This prophetic word is repeated in the epistle to the Hebrews (8:7-12; 10:16-17). The old covenant of animal sacrifices and the Levitical priesthood has been made obsolete, and the new covenant has been inaugurated based on the Mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises (1 Timothy 2:3-6; Hebrews 8:6). A new priesthood of the order of Melchizedek has come forth according to the power of an indestructible life (Hebrews 7:15-17). God takes away the first in order to establish

the second (Hebrews 10:9), and Jeremiah was given the word that it would come to pass, and so it has, at least in part. We wait for God's Son from heaven (1 Thessalonians 1:10) to inaugurate His kingdom on earth.

Then, Jeremiah records one of the most profound promises of the Lord.

(35) Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the LORD of hosts is His name: (36) "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever." (37) Thus says the LORD, "If the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done," declares the LORD.

I must confess that, for years, I used these verses as proof that the Lord is going to restore the fortunes of the earthly Jerusalem and make the present-day state of Israel the head of the nations in the next eon. As I have written elsewhere, I had to repent of such thinking when my eyes were opened to see that this is a promise for the true spiritual Israel and New Jerusalem, which is based on the new covenant. The Lord's nation has not ceased from before Him and will not cease, for He has brought forth a nation producing the fruit of the kingdom of God (Matthew 21:43), and this nation is made up of all that believe on Jesus, the ones who have accepted Him as the King of Judah. The Judahites that stood before Jesus when He came to this earth 2,000 years ago and rejected Him, even demanding His crucifixion, disqualified themselves from entering the kingdom then and in the next eon. Jeremiah likened them to bad figs (Jeremiah 24). Jesus confirmed this when He spoke of the withered fig tree that bears no fruit, and the nation that would come forth with leaves but no fruit (Matthew 21:19; 24:32; Luke 13:6-9). The withered fig tree described the Judah nation that was destroyed in 70 AD when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman army raised up by God Himself (Matthew 22:7). The nation with leaves but no fruit describes the present-day state of Israel that has usurped the birthright name given to Joseph and his sons. It is not destined to bear fruit, only ruin.

(10) "Then you are to break the jar in the sight of the men who accompany you (11) and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Just so will I break this people and this city, even as one breaks a potter's vessel, which cannot again be repaired; and they will bury in Topheth because there is no other place for burial. (12) 'This is how I will treat this place and its inhabitants,' declares the LORD, 'so as to make this city like Topheth.'" (Jeremiah 19:10-12 NASB)

The Lord has declared that the city, Jerusalem, will be destroyed in such a way that it cannot be repaired. Jerusalem has been destroyed and rebuilt many times, and in our day, there is a rebuilt Jerusalem that is the capital of the modern-day Israel. But the Lord has declared that a day will come when whatever stands on the ancient ground of Jerusalem on earth will be broken in such a way that it will never be repaired again. Jerusalem must go the way of Topheth, which is what Jesus referred to as **the Gehenna of fire** [not hell] (Matthew 23:29-33, 37). A day is rapidly approaching when those in Jerusalem need to be told to flee for their lives (Matthew 24:16-19). A new city is coming to earth!

(38) "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the city will be rebuilt for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. (39) The measuring line will go out farther straight ahead to the hill Gareb; then it will turn to Goah. (40) And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the LORD; it will not be plucked up or overthrown anymore forever." (Jeremiah 31:38-40 NASB)

This description must be understood for its spiritual meaning. It describes the dwelling of God in spirit. It is **the holy city, New Jerusalem** (Revelation 21:2). The days actually began when Christ rose from the grave, ascended to heaven, and then sent forth the promise of the Holy Spirit. The foundation of the city was laid with Christ as the cornerstone and the apostles and the prophets as the foundation stones (Ephesians 2:20; Revelation 21:14), and since then, the city has been under construction, not as a dwelling on earth but as a **dwelling from heaven** (2 Corinthians 5:2).