

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)

#03-0980

The Kingdom of Our Lord #20.

November 26, 2009

The Economy and Taxes

As a reminder, this series is about trying to understand how the kingdom of our Lord will operate in the next age, which is called the Kingdom or Tabernacles Age, as well as the day of the Lord. As the day draws near, I hunger to know as much as possible about how the kingdom of our Lord most probably will operate. However, as I have been searching for this truth, I have come to the conclusion that we only can go so far in our understanding. We need to be transfigured into the image of the immortal Son of God to truly have the wisdom and knowledge of how things will work in the oncoming eon. We need the feast of the Tabernacles to come. This should not stop us from seeking answers, but we are limited in how far we can go in our search.

I state this for those Christians who are trying to take the nations for Christ and establish His kingdom on earth, apart from Tabernacles. Babylon is a mighty force in our day that cannot be changed; it must fall, and it will in God's time. But once it begins to crumble to dust, the nations of the earth will become bewildered and not know what to do to right the world, especially its economy. The world will be looking for answers, but the wisdom of the leaders of the world will be seen for what it is in the sight of God, foolishness.

As long as we, including believers, occupy bodies of death none of us have the full capacity to lead the nations into all righteousness. The best we could ever do in our present state is, perhaps, to make things a little better, but eventually, even our best attempts would fall apart as the flesh of men once again would take hold of even what is good and right. This is the history of mankind.

We need our Lord Jesus to come and resurrect and transfigure His conquerors according to the fall feasts of Trumpets (resurrection) and Tabernacles (glorification). Without this, His kingdom will not and cannot begin to be established among the nations. I realize that some might bristle at such a thought, but there is no other way. This is our expectation and for what we are to endure.

Now, in this issue, I offer a few thoughts on the kingdom economy and taxes. For further explanation of taxes, especially in light of the tithe, please see article #26 (November 2009), *The Kingdom Tax—The Tenth (Tithe)*.

It is safe to state that the system by which today's world economy operates is a corrupt system manipulated by men of power and wealth. It is a creditor and debtor system based on usury, that is, the charging of interest on borrowed money. The economy of the world is controlled by Mystery Babylon. I believe that, through Habakkuk, we are given a prophetic picture of our day. Habakkuk was a prophet of God who saw the overthrow of the Judah nation by the invasion of the fierce Babylonians.

(6) 'Woe to him who increases what is not his—for how long—and makes himself rich with loans?' (7) "Will not your creditors rise up suddenly, and those who collect from you awaken? ... (8) Because you have looted many nations, all the remainder of the peoples will loot you...." (Habakkuk 2:6, 7, 8 NASB)

Notice how the Babylonians increased what was not theirs and became rich with loans. They looted the nations. This speaks directly to what the minds behind Mystery Babylon have been doing and continue to do to the nations of our day.

The economy of the world is bankrupt as it runs on debt; the money supply of many of the western nations has been created, in large part, out of debt, not wealth. The US and UK are printing money to keep up with the debt and excessive spending in hopes of preventing a total collapse of their monetary systems. Unfortunately, we are reaching the point of no return, if we have not surpassed it already, in

which the only way out of this mess is total collapse of the system, which will occur when Mystery Babylon falls completely. Of course, the best solution is a jubilee in which all debt is canceled.

If it does not collapse soon, we will be faced with rising inflation and taxes as the nations seek more funds to prop up their house of cards. The unrighteous governments of Mystery Babylon have placed their citizens in bondage to taxes necessary to feed the hungry financial beast. In turn, the beast provides a level of social order through public services that, in some measure, resemble public services provided by the Levites as seen in the kingdom-priest nation of ancient Israel. However, today, the priests are not the heads of local churches but the bureaucrats that run a myriad of governmental agencies. The bureaucrats have become like Levites, only they are secular Levites of their own order. It is a sure thing that a good portion of the taxes collected today throughout the world goes to support bloated, wasteful, and inefficient bureaucracies that are wide-open doors for corruption.

The good news is that the economy of the world will change in the Kingdom Age as the wealth of a kingdom-nation becomes the basis for whatever commodity is used for buying and selling. Most likely, the economy of the kingdom of God will operate as a **free market entrepreneurship** backed by all the wealth of a nation from all sources. Men will be free to create wealth through their labor.

I do not believe that **capitalism** as we know it will be the norm in the kingdom. The reason is that the foundation of it is based on lending money and charging interest for its use. This is **usury**, which God forbids to be practiced within a kingdom-nation. In other words, money is not to be lent with interest to citizens of and aliens within a kingdom-nation. See issues #03-0966 (#6, February 10, 2009) and #03-0967 (#7, February 17, 2009) of this series

As for taxes, kingdom-nations will need to provide for basic services that benefit the whole nation, not a select few. Some thoughts along these lines are offered in article #26, but they could include the building and maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water systems, airports, railways, to name a few. With peace as the norm, there will be no more major wars, at least for a thousand years (Revelation 20:7-9); thus, there will be no need to provide for national defense through a military-industrial complex. This alone will dramatically reduce the amount that will need to be generated through taxes. Further, healing of sickness and disease, and wellness among the mortal population will be more the norm, so that there will be less of a need for healthcare as we know it today. Health insurance and government-supported health coverage will be a thing of the past.

The big difference between taxes today and in the kingdom will be the percent of tax and what is taxed. Today, taxes range upwards of 90% in some countries, especially the social welfare states, and everything is taxed that the governments think they can get away with without a citizens' revolt.

Most probably, the kingdom tax levied by the future rulers of God's kingdom on earth will be based on productivity associated with the land, to include crops but also all that is taken or generated through the natural resources harvested from the earth (e.g., oil, gas, precious metals, electricity). This would mean that the kingdom tax would be levied only at the source of harvesting God's resources and not on what man does with the resource to enhance its value. This is based on God's right as Creator. **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth** (Genesis 1:1) and later the Lord reminded the Israelites: **All the earth is Mine** (Exodus 19:5), and **the land is Mine** (Leviticus 25:23).

If we consider the kingdom tax of ancient Israel, the law of the tenth required that the Israelites give to God (i.e., the kingdom-nation) a tenth of what was harvested from His creation. However, if we account for all the taxes (tithes) and average it over the seven-year sabbatical period, with the seventh year a period of rest, we see that the tax that went for the Levitical public service averaged about 11.5% per year; 10% in four of the years and 20% in two of the years. We should also keep in mind that Joseph levied a 20% tax from the Egyptians in order to provide for times of hardship.

If the possibility exists for such things as famines to occur during the Kingdom Age, then the argument could be made that the rulers of the kingdom could levy a 20% tax during those times. But keep in mind that this is far less than the 40-90% extracted from the citizens of many nations today.

We could conclude that the kingdom tax will be at least a tenth and possibly two-tenths, but no more, and it will be a tax on what is harvested from God's creation, not what man does with it after harvesting.