

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)

#04-1055

All Shall Know Me

May 20, 2010

As stated in previous issues (#04-1050, May 12, 2010, *Kingdom Nation*; #04-1051, May 15, 2010, *America—A Christian Nation?*), there will be what I have called *kingdom nations* in the next age, the Kingdom Age or the Tabernacles Age. I believe very soon the seventh angel will sound the trumpet and great voices in heaven will declare: **The kingdoms of the world became our Lord's, even of His Christ; and He shall reign to the ages of the ages [eons of the eons]** (Revelation 11:15 LITV [CV]).

In other words, the Lord Jesus will possess all the kingdoms of the world in fulfillment of the promise of the Father to His Son: **You are My Son. ... Ask of Me, and I will give the nations as Your inheritance; and the uttermost parts of the earth as Your possession** (Psalm 2:7, 8 LITV).

But the Son will not possess the nations alone, for He will have a company of conquerors (overcomers) that will rule and reign with Him over the nations. These are the ones who endured to the end, so that they **shall also reign with Him** (Matthew 24:13; 2 Timothy 2:12). Just as His Father made Him a promise, so does He make a promise to His conquerors: **The one who is conquering, to him will I be granting to be seated with Me on My throne as I, also, conquer, and am seated with My Father on His throne** (Revelation 3:21 CV). He will make **them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth** (Revelation 5:10). This kingdom of priests is His body, **the complement of the One completing the all in all, so that God [the Father] may be all in all** as He makes **all things new** (Ephesians 1:23; 1 Corinthians 15:28; Revelation 21:5).

Let us be very clear that Christ is the King and His conquerors will be His kingdom in the Age to come, just as Christ is the Head and His complement is His body, and just as *the Christ* and *the Lambkin* are both Head and Body. See issues #03-0911, February 2, 2009, *Head Up All in the Christ*; #03-0922, February 13, 2009, *The Lambkin [Arnion]*; and #03-09189, December 25, 2009, *New Jerusalem #28. The Throne of God and the Lambkin.*

But why will the Lord raise up a company of immortal conquerors, which is also variously described as the first fruit anointed (1 Corinthians 15:23), the Joseph company, or the barley company? We could say that they are the cream of the crop, the first of the harvest, the fruit or the grain that ripens first. They are not the last of God's people to be harvested, or, for that matter, not the last of mankind. They are simply the first of many to follow, for God **will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth** (1 Timothy 2:4 KJV). He does not merely desire this, as the NASB states; He *wills* it, and it shall be done.

The conquerors are the first of the sons of God to enter into glory to receive immortal bodies in the likeness of the Son of God. They will see Him, and they will be like Him (1 John 3:2). See issues #03-09167 through #03-09169, September 2009, *Sons of God*; and issues #03-09144 through #03-09147, August 2009, *The 144,000 First Fruits to God.*

It is vital to understand that the Kingdom and the Age to come will not bring total change to mankind and this world in *one fell swoop* (as in suddenness and swiftness). The kingdom will unfold or, perhaps a better word, progress for the next 1,000 years. Sin, death, injustice, evil, and unrighteousness, to name a few, will not disappear overnight. In other words, the earth will not instantaneously turn into a utopia or a paradise; as if all mankind will know exactly what to do and how to live, and the nations will know how to govern according to God's law. Things will begin to get better as time goes on, but it will

take time. We could say that this is the meaning of Isaiah's prophecy: **There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace** (Isaiah 9:7 NASB).

The reason that the earth will not become a paradise overnight is because the earth will be mostly populated with mortals. In other words, most of the inhabitants of the earth will not be beyond death, and sin reigns in death. During this time, some will die, and most likely, some will live the entire 1,000 years of the Lord's Day. When the age is over, all will face the Great White Throne judgment.

As mortals, they will not know the perfect will of God, and they will need to be taught His ways and His righteousness. The nations that come under the reign of Christ as kingdom nations will have to be taught the divine law of God so that the governance over the people is righteous and just. Simply, the nations will have to be taught as if they are children, and, in a sense, many nations will have to start from scratch. Lawlessness will give way to God's righteous and just law.

The starting point for kingdom nations will be Genesis 1:1 (*In the beginning God created*), Exodus 19:5 (*All the earth is Mine*), and Exodus 20:3-4 (*You shall have no other gods before Me; you shall not make for yourself an idol*).

Now, this is where the conquerors come in, for they will be the rulers of the nations during the Kingdom Age. They alone will have the wisdom and knowledge from above and will know the perfect will and law of God. They are the ones that were trained while they occupied bodies of death, suffering so that they might be a joint heir with Christ and be glorified with Him as a son of God (Romans 8:17, 23). They will be the royal priesthood, the holy nation (1 Peter 2:9), according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5-7). They are the first fruit of the New Covenant that have the laws in their minds and written on their hearts.

“Because this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord, giving My Laws into their mind, and I will write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” (11) “And they shall no more teach each one their neighbor, and each one his brother, saying, Know the Lord; because all shall know Me, from the least of them to their great ones. (12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousnesses, and I will not at all remember their sins and their lawless deeds.” [LXX-Jer. 38:31-34; MT-Jer. 31:31-34] (Hebrews 8:10-12 LITV)

The purpose of the Kingdom Age is to bring all the people of the earth into the New Covenant so that eventually all will know the Lord and will no longer need to be led by the written laws of the nations or be taught them, for all will have the law written on their hearts. In other words, all will know the Lord and His perfect will and will be led by this will in all that they do. All will subject themselves to the rule of Christ over their hearts, not by force but by love. As they see the glory of knowing the Lord, they will willingly and joyously declare that Jesus Christ is Lord and King. This is the beginning of paradise.

The purpose of the Kingdom Age is to touch all mankind, from the least of them to the greatest of them. No one will be left out. This is the glory of the New Covenant and how the kingdom will progress during the 1,000-year Lord's Day. It will progress 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.)

Dear beloved in Christ, the purpose of God is that all will know Him. This is the meaning of **all in all**. When we know Him and love Him in heart, we enter into our rest, the rest of the Sabbath, which is signified by the seventh day, the Age to come. The Lord's rest is not about idly sitting around doing nothing and partaking of heavenly drink. It is about knowing the Lord and His will. When Jesus walked this earth, He repeatedly said that He only did and spoke as His Father did and spoke. He agreed with His Father in all things. Nothing in His life was outside the will of His Father. This is the meaning of knowing the Lord and entering into His rest. **So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God** (Hebrews 4:9), and this will start with the conquerors who will lead the rest of God's people into the Sabbath of God until all mankind enters in. What a gospel! **All shall know Me!**