

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)

#04-1057

A Message for the Nations

June 1, 2010

Praise God; the glorious day of our Lord, the Kingdom of Righteousness, is on the horizon and soon will break forth like the light of dawn that shines brighter and brighter until the full day (Proverbs 4:18). The Lord's Day will continue to increase until the dawn of God's Day when New Jerusalem descends upon a new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:13). In that day, righteousness will no longer be taught and the people disciplined through it, for all will know it in their hearts and in their minds, for all shall know God. No one will have to be told about or taught righteousness, for they will live it, just as we naturally and automatically breathe air in and out of our lungs. Righteousness will be in the very fiber of creation. See issue #04-1055, May 20, 2010, *All Shall Know Me*.

Now, in my quest to understand as much as possible about the governance of the kingdom of Christ that will soon overtake the nations, I have been pondering the question: What foundational truths must the nations lay hold of in order to become part of the kingdom of Christ? If you were called before the leaders of the nations to present the kingdom to them, where would you start? What truths would you give them? There are many, but to begin, let us consider nine related truths.

First, God is the Creator. This is the most essential and fundamental truth.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1 NASB)

This is where it all starts. Simply, God is the Creator of all things. If we don't start here, then everything that follows has no firm foundation. All things have their beginning in God.

Second, God is a living and active God. He is not dead, and He is not found in idols of wood, stone, gold, or silver, or in idols of the heart, or in what men call gods. The nations must **turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and the all that is in them** (Acts 14:15 NASB).

Third, God is the Sovereign Landlord of His creation. He did not create and then walk away from His creation as if to have nothing to do with it. The earth belongs to Him and He maintains sovereignty over all the earth, a fact confirmed when He made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 13:14-15), which was confirmed when Abraham's descendants were called out of Egypt to begin their journey to the Promised Land.

'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine....' (Exodus 19:5 NASB)

God has the right of ownership and does not share this right with the governments of men that act as if they own the land and can take it at will.

Fourth, the Most High is Ruler in the kingdom of men, and He gives it to whomever He desires, for **Heaven rules** (Daniel 4:25, 26 LITV). **God is the King of all the earth** (Psalm 47:7 LITV). In this capacity, He alone sets the law of the land, and He alone judges according to His law. At one moment, He might build up or plant a nation or a kingdom that turns from its evil ways, and, at another moment, He might pull down or uproot a nation or a kingdom that disobeys His commands and follows its own plans, acting according to the stubbornness of its heart (Jeremiah 18:7-12).

Fifth, God the Father fixes the times or epochs by His own authority (Acts 1:7). **"It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding"** (Daniel 2:21 NASB). God gives wisdom and understanding of His appointed times, what they mean and what the nations are to do. See issue #04-1052, May 17, 2010, *Appointed Times*.

Sixth, God created through and for His Son, the one named Jesus, and all the nations must answer to Him. It is vital that the nations know that they are not dealing with some generic god that has been secularized by men who seek not to offend anyone through their political correctness. There is a name attached to creation, and it is the name of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus, whose name is **the Word of God** and **the King of kings and the Lord of lords** (Revelation 19:13, 16). He is the Creator of all things, and it is His kingdom that is coming to earth.

(13) For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (15) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (16) For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. (17) He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (18) He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. (Colossians 1:13-18 NASB)

Take note that all things are related to the kingdom of God's beloved Son and that there is need to be transferred into His kingdom. He is the firstborn of all creation and is before all things, and He is calling all things into His kingdom.

Seventh, this Jesus God raised up (Acts 2:32). He is the firstborn of the dead, and He alone must and will call forth all mankind from the grave, delivering them from the last enemy, death (1 Corinthians 15:26). **Immortality rests with the firstborn of the dead, for He is the Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25).

Eighth, God's Son is the heir of all things, through whom He made the ages or eons. He is not only the Creator of all things but the inheritor of the nations and the possessor of the earth from one end to the other, and the eons, which include the appointed times, belong to Him.

(7) "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. (8) 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.'" (Psalm 2:7-8 NASB)

In these last days He spoke to us in the Son, whom He appointed heir of all; through whom He indeed made the ages [eons].... (Hebrews 1:2 LITV [CV])

As stated in a previous issue, most versions erroneously translate the word *aion* into the word *worlds*, and others translate it into *universe* or *generations*. The Greek word *aion* should be translated as *age* or *eon*. See issue #03-09131, June 15, 2009, *Eon (Age), Not Eternal or World*. With the proper translation, we learn that the very ages or time itself was made through the Son of God, the Creator of all things in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible. It all starts with our Lord Jesus.

Today the name of Jesus is reviled by many, but in the Age to come, His name will be revered. We must be diligent to lift up the name of the very source of life and the One in whom God is summing up or heading up all things in the heavens and on earth (Ephesians 1:10). All nations must be brought onto this one foundation, which is Jesus *the Anointed [the Christ]* (1 Corinthians 3:11). He is **the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning (Origin or Source) of the creation of God** (Revelation 3:14), so **that in all things He might have the preeminence** (Colossians 1:18).

Let us be abundantly clear that **Yahweh** of the Old Covenant is **Yeshua** (Jesus) of the New Covenant. He was the spiritual rock, Christ, that followed the sons of Israel in the wilderness (1 Corinthians 10:4), and He is the incarnate God (*Immanuel*, "God with us") that appeared in the flesh and died for the sin of the world over 2,000 years ago, and He is the risen Lord and King that will appear again, first to the conquerors, then to the rest of the church, and then to the world.

Ninth, God declares: I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain (Psalm 2:6), which speaks of **New Jerusalem**, the living dwelling of God *in spirit* (Ephesians 2:22 CV) and the embodiment of **the kingdom of God in which righteousness dwells**.