

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)

#04-1058

News of the Day

June 2, 2010

There are so many things happening in the world today that it is hard to decide which ones to report on. Some events might seem to be quite small in the grand scheme of world events, but I am reminded of the Lord's word to me to be alert to what is occurring, including the little disturbances, for much of what we see is connected, even if we don't see it at this point. The final days of our present age have begun as the Stone strikes the Babylonian system that has enslaved the world. See issues #04-1044, April 29, 2010, *News: The Stone is Striking* and #04-1045, May 4, 2010, *The End of the Age*.

End of the world: The world is approaching the glorious day of our Lord. However, many people, including Christians, do not have much understanding, let alone expectation, of this day. Recently, I was listening to a panel of so-called religious experts discuss their views on whether *the end of the world* is coming in the year 2012. What struck me was that no one questioned the phrase *the end of the world*. If I were on the panel, the first thing I would have done would have been to explain that what is coming is the end of the age and not the end of the world. Surely, the world is going to change, but it is going to change for the better as the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ takes root among the nations. Praise God; our present wicked eon [age] is at its end and **the age to come** is at hand (Hebrews 6:5). A verse came to me as I listened to these enlightened religious leaders.

“Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation” (2 Peter 3:4 NASB).

I did not sense lust in the words spoken by these men, but, in some of them, I did sense an air of superiority over those who take the prophetic word very seriously and are looking for the coming of the Lord in our day.

Apocalyptic oil spill: A news article on the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico quoted a Christian as saying the impact of the spill will be apocalyptic on the Gulf states, especially on those who make their living from the sea, such as the fishermen. The usual political blame game and tough talk has come forth from the government, which is saying that this is the worst environmental disaster the US has ever experienced. Before anyone knew the full extent of the disaster, Congress was holding their typical grandstanding and self-righteous hearings to grill the evil oil companies, as if this was going to resolve the problem. The government is painting BP as the bad guys because they are “a financial institution,” meaning that all they care about is money. Of course, the government paints itself as the good guys as they work for the will of the people. They brag that they have gathered the greatest “brain trust” in the world to resolve the matter. Some scientists are saying that there is much more oil under the surface than reported that will kill the marine life. Others dispute it. No one seems to know exactly how much oil has spilled into the Gulf. Is it 20 million gallons or 43 million gallons? Many fear that an active hurricane season could make matters worse if one hits the area and drives the oil inland. The Gulf states have been pleading for action from the Obama administration that says it has been fully and intimately engaged in the matter since the beginning. The government says that there is no bureaucracy involved in their reaction to requests (Can you say “oxymoron”?). Last week, President Obama held a press conference and took full ownership of the whole affair. This came right before it was announced that the latest attempt to stop the oil from spewing out of the bowels of the earth had failed. Now, they are saying it might not be stopped until August, and even this is iffy.

There are at least five lessons in this.

First, don't rush to take responsibility for things you did not create, have no control over, and have no expertise to fix. Reminds me: **Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger** (James 1:19). **Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling** (Proverbs 16:18).

Second, don't be so quick to place blame and assign evil intent to every action by others. Reminds me: **Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy** (Matthew 5:7).

Third, it is not a good thing for politicians to try to divide and conquer over every major issue that comes along, as if each event is an opportunity to flex their muscles, so to speak, to show how powerful and smart they are. Reminds me: **Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand** (Matthew 12:25).

Fourth, it is time for people to stop looking to the Federal government for answers to every single problem in life and trusting one's life to a bloated bureaucracy and to a man and his office. Reminds me: **Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord** (Jeremiah 17:7).

Fifth, it is time to accept the fact that man makes mistakes, sometimes through ignorance and sometimes through neglect, and yes, sometimes through criminal behavior, but let us allow the courts to decide and let us not be so quick to indict one another. Reminds me: **God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit therefore to God** (James 4:6-7). **Blessed are the humble, for they shall inherit the earth** (Matthew 5:5). Or, better yet, consider what Jesus said to the religious leaders regarding their attitude toward an adulterous woman: **"He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her"** (John 8:7).

Disaster in Guatemala: Tropical Storm Agatha formed in the East Pacific early on Saturday, May 29, 2010 and proceeded to make landfall near the border of Guatemala and Mexico. It was not a strong storm (45 mph), but it dumped a lot of rain with an expectation of 10-20 inches. The last count had 150 killed and many homes destroyed and a 3-story building falling into a sinkhole. However, this is not all that Guatemala has faced recently. They have been dealing with heavy eruptions from its Pacaya volcano that has already destroyed 800 homes.

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." (Hebrews 12:26 NASB)

We should take special note of how many major natural and manmade disasters have been occurring south of the United States. If I have heard correctly, this is a sign of further shaking that will come to America. Please see issues #04-1007, January 19, 2010, *Do Not Fear, But Take Courage*; #04-1020, March 1, 2010, *Shaking Has Purpose*; and #04-1022, March 5, 2010, *When the Structures Crumble, Testify of My Kingdom* [note the word I heard on January 17, 2010].

Sinkhole in Saint Jude: The sinkhole in the above disaster caught my attention, for this is the third or fourth such event that I have read about in the world this year. There were a series of them in China, but the one that caught my attention occurred on May 11, 2010 in Saint Jude, Montreal, Canada. Jude is what caught my attention, for the book of Jude references an ancient sinkhole.

Woe to them! For they have ... perished in the rebellion of Korah. (Jude 1:11 NASB)

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, along with 250 leaders of the congregation, stood up against Moses and Aaron and said: **"You have gone far enough, for all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is in their midst; so why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"** (Numbers 16:3 NASB). It was true that they were all holy unto the Lord, but they failed to see that each had their place in the congregation as given by the Lord and they had no right to usurp another's place. The Lord sent Moses to do certain deeds; it was His doing, and Moses was carrying out his orders from the Lord. Moses stressed: **"This is not my doing"** (Numbers 16:28).

(31) As he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them split open; (32) and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, and their households, and all the men who belonged to Korah with their possessions. (33) So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. (Numbers 16:31-33 NASB)

This should serve notice to all leaders in the governments of the world, as well as leaders in the religions of the world, many of whom have usurped the place of God's Son; the time has come to honor the King of kings and Lord of lords. There is only one King seated on God's holy mountain. His name is Jesus!