

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)*

#04-1061

Fear God, and Give Him Glory!

June 17, 2010

In issues #03-09132, June 16, 2009, *Eonian Good News*; #04-1057, June 1, 2010, *A Message for the Nations*; and #04-1060, June 4, 2010, *Message of the Unknown God*, I presented the message the nations must hear as our present eon ends and the kingdom of our Lord begins to take root among the nations on earth.

Given the late hour on the clock of prophetic history, we need to be clear what the nations must hear. I realize that many Christians probably think that the only message the nations must hear is "believe in Jesus and be saved." It is true that all must eventually come to this point of belief. After all, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11). Praise God; none will be excluded from willingly making this confession at the name of Jesus.

However, as presented in the above-mentioned issues, there is a basic message that the nations need to hear before they even get to the message of Jesus, and this involves acknowledging that there is a Creator of all things, including the heavens and the earth, and all that dwells therein. Once the nations truly acknowledge that there is only one Creator God who is the Sovereign over all creation, then they can be led to know that all creation comes through God's Son, the same one who died for the sin of the world and was raised up from among the dead so that mankind could one day, but not all on the same day, be immortal as He is immortal. For some, immortality will come through the first resurrection and transfiguration; but, for most of mankind, it will come through the second resurrection.

Now, there is some good news that will go forth to the nations as our present evil age comes to a close and the age of the kingdom of our Lord commences. We hear of it in Revelation 14, which is a fascinating chapter, for it begins with the Lambkin's conquerors purchased from the earth, as symbolized by the 144,000, singing a new song before the throne. They are the first fruits to God and to the Lambkin or Christ's first fruits (Revelation 14:4; 1 Corinthians 15:23); the blameless ones without spot or wrinkle (Revelation 14:5; Ephesians 5:27). We could say that they are the first fruits of New Jerusalem.

With the manifestation of the conquerors, John saw two angels, the second of which proclaimed: **"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality"** (Revelation 14:8). In other words, the end of mystery Babylon comes in relation to the conquerors (overcomers) being before the throne of God. Nestled between the manifestation of the conquerors, who are the manifested sons of God or the sons of glory (Hebrews 2:10), and the pronounced fall of Babylon, John saw another angel flying in midheaven with some good news to preach.

Four translations of the same verse are offered to make the point that the message is not the *eternal* gospel or *everlasting* gospel but the gospel of the *ages* or *eons*, the *eonian* or *aonian* good news.

And I saw another messenger flying in mid-heaven, having glad tidings agelasting [aonian] to proclaim those sitting on the earth, even to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; (Revelation 14:6 BWD)

And I saw another messenger, flying in mid-heaven, having an age-abiding glad-message to announce unto them who are dwelling upon the earth, even unto every nation and tribe and tongue and people, (Revelation 14:6 REB)

And I perceived another messenger flying in mid-heaven, having an eonian evangel to bring to those situated on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and language and people, (Revelation 14:6 CV)

And I saw another angel flying across the sky, carrying the Good News of the Ages to tell to every nation, tribe, language and people, among those who live on the earth. (Revelation 14:6 WNT)

Many translations use the expression *eternal gospel*; however, as I have stated in many writings, the word *eternal* is not the proper translation. On the one hand, I offer these translations to prove that I am not out in left-field, so to speak, or alone in this understanding. On the other hand, I want to stress the point that the angel announces a message of the ages, not one of eternity. It is a message that sums up all the ages that will have preceded the coming Kingdom Age and will continue on in the new age. It is the message that has gone forth to mankind throughout history, and the nations that have known and heeded this message have experienced the blessing of God to some measure. One such nation is the United States of America. Unfortunately, in our day, this message has been drowned out by secular humanism and relativism that has placed man at the center of the universe as god.

So, what is the message?

Saying in a great voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him, because the hour of His judgment has come; also, Worship “Him who has made the heaven, and the earth, and the sea,” and the springs of waters. Ex. 20:11 (Revelation 14:7 LITV)

Fear God! Fear the One who created all things, including every single human being. Be in awe of your Creator. Give Him reverence, for He created you and all that surrounds you. The very water that you drink and keeps you alive comes from the Creator.

Of course, the springs of waters symbolize the springs of life itself. All life springs forth from God. **And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost** (Revelation 22:17 NASB). This is more good news, even glorious, that will go forth to the nations.

But there is more to this eonian good news, for God’s judgments will go forth to the nations **because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead”** (Acts 17:31 NASB). You see, it all comes back to Jesus, the Son of God, who was raised from among the dead, and He is the One who calls out to all the thirsty to come and receive His life.

The reason it is the good news or gospel of the ages is because the ages have been made through the Son, and God speaks to us and all the nations *in* Son (literal translation).

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

Just as all creation was brought into being through, by, and for the Son, so too were all the ages. The Son of God made the ages. Many translations use the word *worlds* rather than *ages*, but it should be *ages*. There has been a glorious purpose for the ages. It has been so that the nations would come to be in awe of their Creator and seek for His name and discover that He is Jesus, the Son of God.

Isn’t it time for the nations to hear this good news? Isn’t it time to give Him glory?