

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)

#04-1062

Fireproof Statue & Small People

June 18, 2010

There is so much news to report on that some days my head spins with all that I see and hear. Truly, we are living in days of shaking, confusion (Babel), lawlessness, and evil, to name a few descriptors.

Six-Story Jesus Statue Struck By Lightning.

On June 14, 2010, lightning struck and burned to the ground a 62-foot tall statue of Jesus located on the property of Solid Rock Church in Monroe, Ohio. It was called the “King of kings” statue and nicknamed “Touchdown” because it depicted Jesus from the torso up with His arms raised in the air as if signaling a touchdown. It was reported that the co-pastors and founders of this church wanted the statue to be a beacon of hope and salvation. They intend to rebuild the Jesus statue, but their next attempt will be to build “something fireproof.” I had to chuckle over this statement.

Now, I don’t question the sincerity of their hearts to do something good, but what struck me was how this is an example of how off the track the church is in our day. Do we have to resort to a six-story statue of our Lord Jesus, whom we have not seen face to face, in order to bring hope and salvation to people?

One Scripture in particular came to my mind when I read of this statue.

(14) “The LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might perform them in the land where you are going over to possess it. (15) So watch yourselves carefully, since you did not see any form on the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire, (16) so that you do not act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female.... (Deuteronomy 4:14-16 NASB)

The Lord purposely did not reveal His face or form to the sons of Israel as He spoke to them from the midst of the fire at Horeb. Why? Because He knew that if they saw Him, they would have created images or statues of Him and would have worshipped them instead of Him. Based on their history, this was not only probable but inevitable. Of course, the second commandment specifically forbade the making of any idol or likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath (Exodus 20:4), and this applied to making any idol or likeness of God Himself as well.

Has this changed in our day? Perhaps we do not literally bow down to statues, although I can think of one icon-filled Christian denomination that does; however, when we build statues of the Lord, are we not doing exactly what the Lord forbade the Israelites to do? We are to worship the Father in spirit and truth (John 4:23). What need do we have of statues? I realize that some might respond that it is to reach others with the gospel. But when we try to reach others with statues, what message are we sending them? Does the intended end justify the means to get there? Ones who do such things are no different than the ancient Israelites and are living according to an Old Covenant Christianity. I wonder if anyone in this church is inquiring of the Lord why the statue was literally melted by lightning. Why did fire come upon it? I am reminded of another Scripture.

(16) The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. (17) And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. (Exodus 24:16-17 NASB)

Rather than seeing the Lord face to face like Moses did, the sons of Israel saw the appearance of the glory of the Lord as if He were a consuming fire. Nothing is fireproof in the presence of God, **for our God is a consuming fire** (Hebrews 12:29). All carnal flesh and carnal means to reach an end are consumed by His presence. Perhaps, this is the real message of the melting of the Touchdown statue.

Small people.

After 60 days, oil continues to spew out of the bowels of the earth into the Gulf of Mexico, creating great hardship for many people, as well as marine life. The latest estimate of the amount of oil spewing out each day is upwards of 2 million gallons; however, one report puts it at 4-5 million gallons. Much could be said about this disaster that is relevant to our day of lawlessness, especially the lawlessness of our own Federal government, but in this issue, I want to comment on a statement by the chairman of BP.

After meeting with the president and his staff, the chairman spoke briefly to tell Americans that he cared for the “small people.” As to be expected, this caused a furor among some, which led to an apology from the BP chairman. My theory is that he heard something similar from the Obama administration, and he translated it by his own way of thinking as “small people,” so he felt it was an okay thing to say to Americans. After all, if the American leadership can refer to Americans as small, then it must be okay. No doubt, there are many elitists in the Obama administration, as well as in the oil industry, and they look down on the small people. However, their unwritten rule is not to articulate it in public.

More and more, I am hearing prophetic words coming from the mouth of our Babylonian leaders. It is as if the Lord is speaking through them, and they don't know it, and Christians don't get it. When I heard “small people,” my prophetic antenna, so to speak, went up as I was reminded that Scripture uses the word *small* in a similar way in the expression “the small and the great.” Though the elitists, who think of themselves as the great, might think they are superior to the small, God makes no such distinction when it comes to His judgments of the righteous and the unrighteous.

In the days of Lot and the judgment of Sodom, the Lord struck those outside the doorway of Lot's house with blindness, **both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway** (Genesis 19:11 NASB). The Lord was not partial in blinding the unrighteous; whether they were small or great did not matter to the Lord. He treats all the unrighteous the same way. If we liken the doorway to the truth, knowing that Jesus is the Door and the Truth, we could say that He blinds the small and the great to Himself, for they take pleasure in wickedness (2 Thessalonians 2:12).

Moses instructed the judges of the sons of Israel: **‘You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not fear man, for the judgment is God's’** (Deuteronomy 1:17 NASB). Man is partial in his judgments, and the great often see to it that they profit at the expense of the small. However, God judges the small and the great impartially.

The great of the elitists might think that they are different from the small, but they are in bondage to the their carnal flesh that has birthed a financial beast, a golden calf, that **causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead** (Revelation 13:16 NASB). See article #31, April 2010, *The Mark of the Beast as Signified By 666*.

The small and the great need to fear God, not man and not his beast, for God is about to consume the carnal flesh of all mankind. **“Come, assemble for the great supper of God, (18) so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great”** (Revelation 19:17-18 NASB). Spiritually speaking, the flesh to be consumed is the carnal nature of mankind, both of the small and the great, who will be judged at the Great White Throne: **And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened ... and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds** (Revelation 20:12 NASB).

However, a time will come when God will reward His people from among the small and the great, the ones who have feared His name. **And a voice came from the throne, saying, “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great”** (Revelation 19:5 NASB), for it is time **to reward Your bondservants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great** (Revelation 11:18).

The lesson: It matters not if you are among the small or the great, for all will be judged impartially. What matters most is this: Do you fear God and will you receive His reward?