

# 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)*

#04-1064

## ***The Mother of Harlots***

June 28, 2010

**(3a) And he carries me away, in spirit, into a wilderness.** [Revelation 17:3a CV] **(3b) And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. (4) The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, (5) and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”** (Revelation 17:3b-5 NASB)

In the last issue, I offered some thoughts on the beasts of John's Revelation in light of some financial federations that have been formed among the nations, in particular, **the G7, G8, and G10**. A meeting of the G20 was just concluded in Toronto that was met by violence and riots from anarchists and anti-capitalists and that revealed disunity among the G20, in spite of the spin to the contrary. Babylon is anything but a kingdom of unity; rather, it is a kingdom that stands on feet with toes of iron and clay, which signify a divided kingdom that is both strong and brittle (Daniel 2:33, 41-42). The good news is that this kingdom of men is destined to fall, for **God's Stone** is going to strike the feet and toes of this kingdom and crush it, and all vestiges of the kingdoms of men since the beginning of mankind will become **like chaff from the threshing floors, and the wind will carry them away so that not a trace of them will ever be found** (Daniel 2:35) so that **the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ** (Revelation 11:15). Hallelujah!

Regardless of how one interprets Revelation, there is one indisputable fact: Jesus is the Victor and Conqueror, and He is coming again to establish His **Stone Kingdom** on earth and to rule the nations with a rod of iron. Jesus declares: **“I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades”** (Revelation 1:17-18 NASB); **“Yes, I am coming quickly”** (Revelation 22:20 NASB).

Loose sight of the One who makes these declarations and you will never gain sight of the message of John's Patmos vision.

Now, I must admit that I find the beasts of Revelation a fascinating subject to study, especially in light of the day in which we live; but frankly, I also find such a study frustrating and a big distraction to the much bigger picture that we need to see as the present wicked eon comes to its rightful conclusion, all to the glory of God. The world and all mankind have been and continue to be in a mighty battle of two forces. We know who has won and who will win, but the victory has not yet been manifested among the nations, at least as of today. However, it won't be long, so we need to be ready.

The battle is between God and His Son and the adversary of God that John saw and described as **a great fiery-red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads seven diadems; the ancient serpent called Adversary [devil] and Satan, who is deceiving the whole inhabited earth** (Revelation 12:3, 9 CV [NASB]).

According to E.W. Bullinger (*Number in Scripture*), the number ten signifies the “completeness of order, marking the entire round of anything” and “implies that nothing is wanting; that the number and order are perfect; that the whole cycle is complete.” The number 7 signifies spiritual perfection. Putting these two numbers together in respect to the red dragon makes it clear that the seven heads and the ten horns signify the dragon's complete, perfected kingdom. The devil is a spirit; therefore, it is appropriate to view its kingdom as coming into spiritual perfection. Of course, the perfection is an evil perfection in total opposition and rejection of God and His Son. In other words, John saw the kingdom of the world headed up by the ruler of the world (John 14:30) in its complete, perfect evil order.

So, John's vision of a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and another beast coming up out of the earth, having two horns like a lamb but speaks as a dragon, and a final beast coming up out of the abyss, having seven heads and ten horns, is a spiritual picture of the final progression of the fiery-red dragon's kingdom that it has built among the nations. In some respects, it does not matter if we know the specific identity of the ten horns, or the seven heads, or even of the eighth head, which is the final beast. What matters is that we see what it all signifies. It signifies the completion of Satan's kingdom, or the kingdom of the world, or, if you prefer, the kingdom of men that will be crushed by the Stone Kingdom, the great mountain that will grow until it fills the whole earth (Daniel 2:35), **for the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea** (Habakkuk 2:14).

But there is more to the vision, for the ten horns or ten kings and the eighth head or king that comes out of the seven will be used by God to bring about His purpose, not Satan's purpose.

**(16) "And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. (17) For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. (18) The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."** (Revelation 17:16-18 NASB)

Many might get caught up in all the intrigue of the eighth head or beast that is generally seen as the antichrist, but this misses the point that God uses the horns and the eighth head to bring down the harlot. We could say that this is their sole purpose in life. God is the Sovereign of His creation and the heavens do rule and, we might add, overrule.

This leads us to Babylon the great, the mother of all harlots and of the abominations of the earth, which is described as sitting on many waters and reigns over the kings of the earth. Further, this harlot is described as sitting on the beast of ten horns and seven heads. In other words, the harlot is over all mankind (the waters) and over all nations (horns and heads) on earth. She sits like a covering over all as she rules over all. She is not a beast per se, although she most certainly looks and acts like one. She is greater than the horns and heads, for she rules over them all.

Revelation 18 describes the harlot and how she rules over the kings and merchants of the earth. I won't take the space to go over this description other than to underline verse 24, for this reveals that this is not simply an end-time phenomenon but a description of something that has been over mankind since the beginning: **"And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."** It is not just the blood of God's people but of all slain mankind, which means that the blood of every single person that has been killed in the history of man is credited to the harlot all the way back to the first murder, the killing of Abel by his brother Cain.

Now, the harlot is called the great city, but John saw another great city, **which mystically [spiritually] is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified** (Revelation 11:8). In other words, the ancient city of Jerusalem is also called the great city, the former city of God that Jesus judged guilty of shedding righteous blood: **"Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify ... so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah** (Matthew 23:34-35 NASB).

Dear brethren, whereas Babylon the great city is held guilty of the blood of all the slain from among mankind, Jerusalem the great city is held guilty for the blood of the righteous. She is very much a part of Babylon and will fall just as all the cities of the nations will fall, for **the great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath** (Revelation 16:19 NASB).

Regarding the world, the issue is not so much about a beast called antichrist, which rules for a short while, as it is about the mother of all harlots, which has held all mankind in bondage since man fell and has given birth to many harlots, most notably, the earthly Jerusalem, which was and is in the character of both Sodom (unrighteous, immoral) and Egypt (worldly bondage). **Come out of her, My people!**