

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)*

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Red Oil & the Number 301

July 4, 2010

With the spewing forth of millions of gallons of red oil from the bowels of the earth into the Gulf of Mexico since April 20, 2010, many have been making a prophetic connection to the Lord turning the water of the Nile into blood (Exodus 7:14-25) and the third bowl of wrath that turns the rivers and the springs of waters into blood (Revelation 16:4).

In both cases, water turning into blood is a prophetic sign of the judgment of God upon the kingdoms of men that hold God's people in bondage. The command went forth to Pharaoh: **"Let My people go,"** and the command will go forth to Babylon, the mother of harlots: **"Come out of her, My people"** (Revelation 18:4).

Along with many others, I too have wondered if this massive oil spill has some prophetic meaning in our day as we approach the end of this present evil age and the coming of the Age of Righteousness with God's King, our Lord Jesus, seated upon His throne ruling over the nations of this earth with His conquering bride and wife for 1,000 years.

As I meditated on this matter, I felt led to look at my journal to see if the Lord had given me any prior indication of this spill. I was led to my entry of June 23, 2009. At 11:11 pm that day, I heard a word that I felt was from the Lord: **"Disaster! Real Disaster!"**

I was immediately caught by the number 11 appearing twice, which is a double witness. The number **11** signifies **disorder** and **disintegration**.

Truly, this describes the nature of this spill as it has harmed the lives of many people who live along and make a living from the Gulf. It seems that since the beginning of the spill, the containment and cleanup effort has been wrought with disorder, and the spill itself is a source of disintegration. Personally, I believe this catastrophic event was a turning point for President Obama as it became apparent that he lacked the ability and leadership to manage it. This is a good thing, for it moved him from his often-touted messianic image, as if he can and will solve all the nation's woes, to one of simply a man with limitations and weaknesses just like everyone else. It also proved once again that the Federal government is not messianic in its mission either.

As an aside, it is my opinion that a fundamental shift occurred in the spirit realm over our nation and its government during the week of June 6-12, but, Lord willing, I will have to leave an explanation of this opinion to another time.

The weakness and inability of the government to deal with catastrophic events was highlighted in the response to Hurricane Katrina, and once again it has been highlighted in the response to the Gulf Oil Spill. I don't think this should be viewed as a criticism. Rather, it should be viewed as a realistic appraisal of men and the kingdoms of men. Man and his kingdoms are destined to fail. There is only one kingdom that will not fail; it is **the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ** (Revelation 11:15). There is only one Man who does not fail; He is Jesus, the King of kings, and the true Messiah.

As I considered this word about "a real disaster," I wondered if the Lord had given me some indication that this word actually referred to the oil spill. After all, the world has seen many real disasters since June 23, 2009. With this in mind, I felt led to check how many days passed from June 23, 2009 to April 20, 2010. Not counting the 20th, it was exactly 301 days. This caught my attention.

The gematria for each of the words **Calvary**, **moon**, and **lambs** is 301, which links this number to the death or crucifixion of the Son of God, the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world.

It could be said that the number 301 signifies the Lord's death on the cross or the shedding of the blood of the Lamb (301) of God who took away the sin of the world at a place called Calvary (301). But there is more, for Jesus gave up His spirit about the ninth hour or 3:00 in the afternoon on April 3, 33 AD.

(45) And from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. (46) And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani; that is, "My God, My God, why did You forsake Me?" Psa. 22:1 (Matthew 27:45-46 LITV)

Since this was Passover, the priests were preparing to kill the Passover lambs when the sun was obscured around noon on that day. Passover was always on a full moon, so there was no way that this was a solar eclipse. Consequently, most agree that this was not the result of a naturally occurring event; it was the result of the hand of God.

According to the law, the priests were to kill the lambs sometime after noon but before sunset. The Sanhedrin had a rule that it could not start until a half hour after noon; however, according to Josephus, it usually took place from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. At any rate, it had to be accomplished before sunset since all the people had to be indoors by then and remain there until sunrise the next day. The sun being obscured at noon must have caused some angst amongst the priests because they could not kill the lambs in the dark. Nevertheless, when the sun returned around 3 pm (perhaps 3:01), they began to kill the lambs just as the Lamb of God gave up His spirit.

Interestingly, there was a naturally occurring event that was taking place on this very same day. A lunar eclipse was moving across the Roman Empire, which was visible in the western region around 3 pm, some say 3:01, and in Jerusalem around 5:10 pm.

Thus, the moon (301) was eclipsing as Jesus was on the cross shedding His blood for the sin of the world, and it was obscured over Jerusalem about the time the priests finished slaying the lambs (301) and the Lamb was placed in a tomb.

Now, what does this have to do with the Gulf oil spill? Perhaps this is a stretch, but is it possible that the red oil spewing from the earth signifies the shedding of the blood of the Lamb of God for the sin of the world? In spite of the hardship this spill is causing, could there be a positive message in it? Could the red oil spilling from the earth and flowing into the sea signify the blood of God that flows out or reaches out to all the nations, as typified by the sea, or in a more inclusive way, to all peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues, as typified by the many waters upon which the harlot, Mystery Babylon, sits (Revelation 17:15)? Is it not a message to all mankind that the whole world is in captivity to Mystery Babylon and that there is only one antidote? Is it not a message to all the nations that God is reconciling all things to Himself through His Son who is coming soon to rule and reign over the nations? Is it not a message that it is time to repent and make peace with God since He has made peace through the blood of His cross? Is it not time to be reconciled to God?

(19) For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, (20) and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. (Colossians 1:19-20 NASB)

Perhaps God is revealing His purpose through this spill. The world, and especially America, has been in a modern-day version of Babylonian captivity since 1910-1914. It is time to repent and confess our sin as nations to the One who is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. How is this possible? Because the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7, 9).

As the church of God, let us be the first to repent and stand for our nations.