

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)

#04-1066

The Fall Feasts & The Conquerors

July 8, 2010

It is safe to state that many, if not most, evangelicals are looking for the “rapture” so that they can escape this earth before the wrath of God is poured out on the nations. These same ones have held that the Lord’s return for His people could have occurred anytime in the last 2,000 years because there are no prophetic events associated with what they call His “imminent” return. As I have written elsewhere, I once believed this but no longer do, for I do not see this in scripture.

First, we need to realize that the coming of the Lord to meet His people in air is an appointed time. In other words, God has set the time and no one can change it or even hasten it. When the time is up, it is up. See issue #04-1052, May 17, 2010, *Appointed Times*.

Second, the next great event is the first resurrection and transfiguration of the Lord’s conquerors or overcomers. They are the first fruits that will be manifested as the sons of God, the sons of glory. See issue #02-08140, November 11, 2008, *The Next Great Event*.

Third, the first resurrection and transfiguration are prophetic events that, in type, are revealed in the fall feasts, as given to the sons of Israel through the great prophet Moses.

Just as the spring feasts, beginning with Passover and ending with Pentecost, were a fulfillment of Jesus’ first coming in relation to His Body, so will the fall feasts (September–October) be a fulfillment of His second coming in relation to His Body. It is strange that most Christians see the greatness of the spring feasts but then fail to see any relevance to the fall feasts.

The Feast of Trumpets.

Down through the centuries, the Lord has been building His Body, a corporate vessel of individual temples of the spirit of God, **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, being built together into a dwelling of God in spirit** (Ephesians 2:20-22). Obviously, many of these individual vessels or members of His Body are dead and awaiting the resurrection *from* the dead (Mark 9:10). The conquerors of old sought to obtain a *better* resurrection, but they could not attain this resurrection apart from all the conquerors born after them (Hebrews 11:35, 39-40), all the way to the end of our present evil age. Paul called the *better* resurrection the *out*-resurrection (Philippians 3:11 WAET), which is what John called the *first* resurrection. See issue #03-09148, August 10, 2009, *Exanastasis, The Out-Resurrection*.

The first resurrection (Revelation 20:4-6) is reserved for the conquerors. The brethren in Thessalonica were waiting for the Son to come from heaven, but they began to fear for the fate of their brethren that were asleep (dead) in Jesus. Paul encouraged their hearts that the dead in Christ must rise before those who are alive and remain to the end of the age are transfigured. Then all will be transfigured (changed into the immortal image of Christ) and snatched away to meet the Lord in air (1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). See article #17, January 2009, *Snatched Away [The Rapture]*.

This event coincides with the Feast of Trumpets, which occurs on the first day of the Hebrew New Year. One day, all the conquerors from the past will rise up from among the dead and walk the streets of the earth. What a shock this will be for many Christians who expect to be raptured off the earth.

Ten Days of Awe.

According to Jewish tradition, the ten days between Rosh Hashanah (Trumpets) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) are called the Days of Awe or Repentance. It is a time for serious introspection to consider one’s sins of the previous year and to repent of these sins. It seems to me that when the first

resurrection occurs and events do not match what many evangelicals have believed, it will truly be ten days of awe (and “shock”), and many will repent of their end-time belief systems. In other words, they will realize that they had fallen into the trap of every wind of doctrine, the very thing Paul warned about that he called *the systematizing of the deception* (Ephesians 4:14 CV). According to this deception, all believers are conquerors simply on the basis that they belong to the Lord. As such, there is no preparation needed to be a conqueror. To the contrary, they will be like the five foolish virgins who were not ready to meet the Bridegroom when the shout went forth at midnight (Matthew 25:1-13), which is a type of the first resurrection. All ten virgins are believers who are alive and remain when the Lord comes. Once the resurrected conquerors appear on earth, it will be too late to be readied to meet the Lord. The “alive and remain” conquerors are like the five wise virgins who made all the preparations needed to meet the Bridegroom. They will be ready when the midnight shout of the first resurrection goes forth; no more preparation will be needed, for they overcame.

The Day of Atonement.

Ten days after the Feast of Trumpets is the Day of Atonement, which could be likened to a national day of prayer. It is a formal day of repentance. This day commemorates the day the 12 spies went into Canaan to check it out. Due to the report of ten of them, the sons of Israel refused to enter the land (Numbers 13-14), which is tantamount to saying they refused to enter the Kingdom of God. The entire generation, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, died in the wilderness, for they were disqualified from entering the kingdom due to their unbelief. They lost the inheritance of the kingdom.

In like fashion, the church of God in the last days will repent for not believing the gospel of the kingdom and for not **walking in a manner worthy of the God who invites (calls) you into His own kingdom and glory** (1 Thessalonians 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:5). The eyes of their hearts will be enlightened by the resurrected saints, and they will repent.

One expositor has made the point that the day the Israelites refused to enter into Canaan corresponded to the 50th Jubilee from Adam, which should have been a time to blow the trumpet of Jubilee, but they failed. Likewise, this day will mark the Jubilee for the conquerors as God officially declares them to be conquerors and gives them a new name (Revelation 3:12-13), just like Jacob was named Israel.

The Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast of Tabernacles occurs fifteen days after the first resurrection and runs for eight days (Leviticus 23:39-44). There are three laws that come to bear with this feast. 1) The law of the unclean states that anyone touching a corpse (mortal body) is unclean for seven days (Numbers 19:11). Haggai spiritually applied this law to the whole nation (Haggai 2:13-14) that was in a moral condition of death. 2) The law of ordination of the Levitical priests required that they remain in the tent of meeting for seven days (Leviticus 8:33). It wasn't until the eighth day that they were fully sanctified as priests. 3) The law of the eighth day required that the first born be given to the Lord on the eighth day (Exodus 22:29-30).

In like fashion, all mankind is unclean because we live in mortal bodies. The conquerors are made immortal on the first day of Tabernacles, but they must wait for seven days before being pronounced clean on the eighth day, at which time they will be presented to the Father as first-born sons of God and priests according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5, 7). From their innermost beings will flow rivers of living water because they will have been transfigured into immortal, spiritual bodies, clothed with a dwelling from heaven, filled with the spirit of God (John 7:38, 39; 1 Corinthians 15:42-49; 2 Corinthians 5:2).

Thus, on the first day of Tabernacles, the “alive and remain” conquerors will be united with the resurrected conquerors as one immortal Body; however, they also need to be united with their Head. The only record of Jesus attending a feast was when He appeared in the Temple in the middle of the week of Booths (Tabernacles) to teach (John 7:2, 14). This is a picture of the Head appearing in the midst of His Body (New Jerusalem, the corporate dwelling of God in spirit) to unite with them as Head and to write His laws on their hearts—His called, and chosen, and faithful conquerors that will sit with Him on His throne (Revelation 3:21; 17:14) to rule and reign over the nations. Just for the record, this year the fall feasts begin on the evening of September 8th, with the eighth day occurring on the 30th.