

# 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)

#04-1075

## ***Dualism – Two Distinct Lines?***

July 28, 2010

I was starting to write on the three national feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles and how they signify the progression of God's plan, individually, corporately, and creationally, when I realized that it would help if I first wrote on three different schools of thought or camps or views on how God is unfolding His plan of the eons or ages, especially in relation to the Church and Israel. These schools deal with the question: Is there one line upon which God is working, or are there two?

In issues #02-08149, December 19, 2008, *The True Jew*, and #02-08150, December 23, 2008, *The True Israel of God*, I shared a personal word about how I had once held the dispensational teaching that God is working along two lines that will continue in the age to come: 1) the ecclesia of Christians [the Church] and 2) the present-day Jewish state of Israel comprised of Jews according to the flesh [bloodline].

However, one day, I became troubled in my spirit because it did not feel right to me. Something was amiss in such thinking. After all, the dividing wall has been broken down and there is now **one new man**. So, I began to inquire of the Lord and search for an answer to what was boiling inside me. As I searched for the answer, the Holy Spirit began to gradually open doors and my eyes to what I now believe is the truth of the Word of God. This quest led me to repent for what I once held as truth and even wrote about. For the last three years, I have endeavored to set the record straight, so to speak.

Considering how close we are to the end of our present age and the coming of the kingdom of our Lord and the growing possibility that the present Jerusalem may soon be destroyed, I feel the urge to briefly explain these three schools of thought. Previously, I shared on only two; I have added one.

The schools of thought are **dualism**, **reversionism**, and **graftage**. [These are real words; look them up in a dictionary.] I reject the first two and embrace the latter.

The first school of thought believes that God is working along two lines, one for the unbelieving Jews based on the flesh, that is, being born of a genealogical bloodline traced to the seed of Jacob, and another for the ecclesia of Christians based on the spirit, that is, being born from above with the seed of God. This school is called **dualism** and is most associated with **dispensationalism**.

**Dispensationalism** has several forms, but its foundation is dualism. The most prevalent form holds to a future pre-tribulation "rapture," followed by a 7-year tribulation, and then a 1000-year kingdom with Christ ruling from ancient Jerusalem with a rebuilt temple and the Jews (Israel) heading up the nations, with the Church in heaven, meeting at the pearly gates and eating fruit from the tree of life.

As with most schools of thought, there are variations around a common theme. For the most part, like dispensationalism, dualism holds that, in the age to come, Jews according to the flesh will rule over the nations from the earthly and ancient city of Jerusalem while the Church will be walking on streets of pure gold and living in mansions in a literal, heavenly city called the new Jerusalem.

In other words, there will be two groups of God's people who live in two distinct cities, one earthly and one heavenly, and who are blessed of God for two different reasons, one based on the physical seed of Jacob and the Old Covenant, and one based on the spiritual seed of God and the New Covenant.

I might add that, at the same time, there will continue to be billions of unbelievers, created to be in the image of Elohim, roasting and toasting in an eternal place of fire and worms that many call hell. Ugh! If you have read my material, you know that I reject such a notion, for it is straight out of paganism. Or, is it straight out of hell?

Some within this school of thought see the Church coming back to earth and residing in the earthly Jerusalem with believing Jews. Others in this school see the Jews rebuilding a physical temple where God will place His name and glory and reinstitute the Levitical priesthood and animal sacrifices. In other words, they replace Christianity with Judaism that rises to its former grandeur of Solomon's day with David (Jesus) seated on a throne in Jerusalem and ministering through a rebuilt temple.

Within this camp, some Christians believe that Jews do not have to believe Jesus is the Messiah because the Jews are given special privilege to rule the world based simply on their bloodline that is traced back to Jacob.

Unfortunately, dualism seems to ignore scripture on several levels. A few are offered.

First, it retains the Old Covenant or some hybrid of it that, according to God's Word, has been made obsolete and has been replaced with the New Covenant. **When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete** (Hebrews 8:13).

Second, Paul defines a true Jew, which makes the argument that every believing Christian is a Jew.

**(28) For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. (29) But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.** (Romans 2:28-29 NASB)

Third, in His letters to the ecclesias, Jesus exposed the synagogue of Satan and the lying Jew.

**(2:9) 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.' ... (3:9) 'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.'** (Revelation 2:9; 3:9 NASB)

Claiming one is a Jew based on ancestry and circumcision of the flesh and, on this basis alone, has access to God the Father (God of Abraham) while rejecting His Son, Jesus the Christ, makes one a liar. Jesus said that **no one comes to the Father but through Me** (John 14:6). If an "outward" Jew rejects Christ and thus has an uncircumcised heart, then his claim to be a true Jew is a lie.

Fourth, Paul made a clear distinction between the present Jerusalem and the Jerusalem above.

**(25) Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. (26) But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. ... (30) But what does the Scripture say? "CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN AND HER SON, FOR THE SON OF THE BONDWOMAN SHALL NOT BE AN HEIR WITH THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN."** (Galatians 4:25-26, 30 NASB)

The present or earthly Jerusalem must be cast out. Please see article #25, October 2009, *An Allegory of Two Covenants*.

There is only one Jerusalem on God's heart; it is the city that Abraham sought, **which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God** (Hebrews 11:10). It is called **New Jerusalem**. For this reason, the Hebrew believers were exhorted: **For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come** (Hebrews 13:14). Ancient Jerusalem was about to be destroyed by the Romans shortly after the letter to the Hebrews was written, but notice that the Hebrews were never encouraged to hold to the earthly city or, for that matter, a new and improved rebuilt one. It had to be destroyed so that they would be released from any and all attachments to the present Jerusalem, the temple, and Judaism. Instead, they were encouraged: **But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem** (Hebrews 12:22).

Fifth, Paul tells us that Christians are the temple of the living God, and this temple is being built into a dwelling of God *in* spirit, which is New Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:20-22).