

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)*

#04-1076

Reversionism – A Severing

July 29, 2010

In the last issue (#04-1075, July 28, 2010), I made the point that there are three schools of thought regarding the lines upon which God is unfolding His plan of the eons or ages: **dualism**, **reversionism**, and **graftage**. The last issue addressed the first school. I reject this school of thought and offered a few verses to explain why.

Before proceeding to the second camp, I must offer a sixth reason for rejecting dualism, especially the thought that the Levitical priesthood will be reinstated to minister in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem.

(5) So also the Christ has not glorified Himself to become a high priest, but He speaking to Him, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.” Psa. 2:7 (6) As He also says in another place, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek,” Psa. 110:4 (Hebrews 5:5-6 LITV)

(13) For the One of whom these things are said has partaken of another tribe, from which no one has given devotion at the altar. (14) For it is clear that our Lord has risen out of Judah, as to which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. (15) And it is still more abundantly clear that if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek, (16) who has not become so according to a law of a fleshly command, but according to the power of an indissoluble life. (17) For it is testified, “You are a priest to the age according to the order of Melchizedek.” Psa. 110:4 (Hebrews 7:13-17 LITV)

The Word of God makes it abundantly clear that there is a new priesthood, not based on a genealogical line traced to Aaron and Levi, whose priests died every generation, but one based on an indestructible life and the very oath of God to His Son. This priesthood traces back to Melchizedek, the king of righteousness and the king of peace, who was a type of God's Son, the true King of Righteousness and of Peace. The first king-priest according to the order of Melchizedek was Shem, who built the first Jerusalem, signifying the kingdom of God on earth. The last and preeminent King-Priest according to the order of Melchizedek is Jesus, who is the very cornerstone, foundation, and builder of the second and last Jerusalem, New Jerusalem, signifying the kingdom of God in heaven and on earth.

Consequently, the Levitical priesthood has been made obsolete, and it cannot and will not be revived as part of God's plan. Men might try to do it, even accomplish it, but it will not be in accord with God's plan. Just as the Old Covenant has been made obsolete, so has the old priesthood of men from the loins of Aaron and Levi been made obsolete! God is raising up a new priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek, born of the seed of God, indwelt with the spirit of God, and they will reign on the earth for 1,000 years (Revelation 5:10; 20:4-6).

See article #25, February 2010, *The Tenth – The Order of Melchizedek*.

Now, let us consider the second school of thought that I call **reversionism**. This view is similar to dualism, and the same scriptural argument against dualism applies to reversionism; however, it goes much further in its view of the Jew and Israel and what it sees as the economy of God for the ages. We could say that reversionism is more insidious than dualism, for it seeks to bring the New Covenant into the Old Covenant rather than spiritually interpret the new in light of the types and shadows of the old. The result is that the New Covenant is abandoned in whole or in part, or perverted through some hybrid theology.

Reversionism seeks to return to a former state that, in this case, is no longer in the economy of God. This is why the book of Hebrews was written; it was a warning to believing Hebrews (and now to all believers) of the danger of returning to Judaism and the Old Covenant, exhorting them to press on in the New Covenant that is based on better promises and a better resurrection.

Reversionist Christians hold that believers must become like practicing Jews and hold to a form of Judaism. They are **judaizers**. As they say, Christ is coming for a Jewish bride, so Christians must be like a physical Jew. Oh, they might hold to Jesus in some measure, but they add a righteousness of their own and do not hold to a righteousness from God on the basis of faith. This must be rejected.

We need to be abundantly clear that, because of Calvary, Christianity has done away with Judaism, but this camp seeks to bring Christianity into Judaism. Another way of stating this is that it seeks to bring Christ Jesus into Judaism, something that He made obsolete with His very own blood (Hebrews 9:12, 25; 13:12) and condemned and brought into death in 70 AD with the destruction of Jerusalem and Herod's temple (Luke 19:14, 27; 22:7). Ones who hold this view need to heed the Word of God.

(4) For it is impossible for those once having been enlightened, and having tasted of the heavenly gift, and becoming sharers of the Holy Spirit, (5) and tasting the good Word of God, and the works of power of a coming age, (6) and having fallen away, it is impossible for them again to renew to repentance, crucifying again for themselves the Son of God, and putting Him to open shame. (Hebrews 6:4-6 LITV)

(29) How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? (30) For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." (Hebrews 10:29-30 NASB)

This does not mean that such a one will lose his or her salvation and never reach immortality. Immortality is a promise to all who believe. However, the timing is not based on a promise but on being **called, chosen, and faithful** to the Lambkin (Revelation 17:14). Only conquerors will receive immortal bodies in the first (better) resurrection and transfiguration. The rest will have to wait for the second resurrection, when they **will be saved, yet so as through fire** (1 Corinthians 3:15), which speaks of the **Great White Throne and the fiery, righteous law of God** that will go forth like a **lake of fire** to judge the works or deeds of the flesh of men for the purpose of restitution and restoration at the consummation of the eons, not for eternal torture and punishment (Revelation 20:11-15). See issue #04-1039, April 10, 2010, *Lake of Fire*.

Those who seek to bring Christianity into Judaism, along with all its outward appearances and forms and works of righteousness under the Law by which no man is justified (Acts 13:39; Romans 3:20, 28; Galatians 2:16; 3:11; Philippians 3:9), are severing themselves from Christ and disqualifying themselves from being an heir with the son of the free woman. They are in bondage with the bondwoman, the present Jerusalem that needs to be cast out (Galatians 4:25-30).

(2) Behold, I, Paul, say to you that if you are circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. (3) And I testify again to every man being circumcised, that he is a debtor to do all the Law, (4) you whoever are justified by Law, you were severed from Christ; you fell from grace. (5) For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness out of faith. (6) For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any strength, but faith working through love. (7) You were running well; who held you back that you do not obey the truth? (Galatians 5:2-7 LITV)

As the Hebrews letter asks: **How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation** (Hebrews 2:3)? Paul did not mince words when it comes to any gospel that tries to revert Christians to Judaism.

But even if we, or an angel out of Heaven, should preach a gospel to you beside the gospel we preached to you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8 LITV)