

# 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)

#04-1086

## ***Two Jerusalems***

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I imagine that if people were asked how many Jerusalems there are, most would answer that there is one, the eternal capital of the Jewish state of Israel. Some Christians might answer that there are two, the old and the new Jerusalem.

In a sense, this is true because, in Hebrew, the name of the city Jerusalem is *Yerushalayim*, which is always in the plural form. This tells us that there is more than one Jerusalem. Throughout the Old Testament, we only read of Jerusalem as if it were one and the same city; however, we err if we think that every time we read the word *Jerusalem*, it always refers to the ancient city or even the modern-day city in the current state of Israel. As a general rule, all the judgments are for the old, earthly Jerusalem, and most of the blessings, especially those related to the next eon [age], are for New Jerusalem.

I wonder how these same Christians would answer this question: Is the present Jerusalem in the Middle East destined to be the capital of the world as God's city, even the apple of His eye, for the oncoming eon? I have little doubt that the vast majority of Christians, especially with the label of evangelical, would answer in the affirmative, for they have been taught that the modern Jewish state called *Israel* is destined to be the head of all the nations in the next age or the Kingdom Age. After all, as the thinking goes, the Jews are God's people on the basis of their blood that traces to Jacob to Isaac to Abraham. I do not think most people relate the Jew directly to Judah, for they erroneously see the house of Judah and the house of Israel as one and the same.

The fact of the matter is that the prophets clearly made a distinction between the two houses. Besides, Jesus came to seek the lost house of Israel. Why? Because the house of Judah had returned to Judea/Jerusalem as a remnant, and He was in their midst; whereas, the house of Israel that was dispersed among the nations had not returned and cannot return until the second coming of Christ when He repairs the breach between the two houses.

Jesus spoke a parable about **a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from the joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys the field** (Matthew 13:44). The treasure was the house of Israel that had lost its national identity when it was taken captive by the Assyrians; it never returned to Jerusalem as a nation. Undoubtedly, individuals returned, but not all ten tribes as a nation. Christ came to earth and found His lost sheep, but He kept them hidden. The field is the world, and He purchased the whole world and kept His treasure hidden in it until He comes again to establish the kingdom of the heavens on earth. Then, their national identity will be made manifested as the spiritual Israel of God comprised of the conquering sons of God who are the dwelling of God in spirit, New Jerusalem.

Consequently, the Jewish state of Israel should never have been called *Israel*. The Judahites have no right to this name, only the house of Israel does, especially the sons of Joseph who were adopted by Joseph's father Israel (not Jacob). With the name *Israel* went the birthright, for Reuben's birthright **was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel** (Genesis 48:5, 16, 20; 1 Chronicles 5:1).

So, there are Jews calling themselves Israelites, contrary to the teaching of the prophets, and there are Jews calling themselves Jews who are liars, for they reject God's Son while claiming His Father as their God. These are *apparent* Jews or Judahites of the bad fig tree of Judah. Judaism is the religion of the apparent Jews, which, by Jesus' own words, is **the synagogue of Satan** (Revelation 2:9; 3:9).

Consequently, all associated with the apparent Jew and Judaism are **antichrist**. Further, Judaism and the Old Covenant and all associated with it were made obsolete by the blood of the Lamb of God and the New Covenant that is made with all who believe on Jesus (Hebrews 8:13) This includes the present Jerusalem in modern Israel that, down through history, has been rebuilt many times. Following the

lead of Jeremiah the prophet, Paul declared the present Jerusalem that is in bondage must be cast out, for the **Jerusalem above is free** (Galatians 4:21-31). **We have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the celestial Jerusalem**, which Jesus and John called **New Jerusalem** (Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 3:12; 21:2).

Now, contrast this with the prophecy of the Lord spoken through Jeremiah. First, the Lord spoke of the house of Israel. Keep in mind that at this point in time, the two houses had been divided following Solomon's death.

**(1) The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD saying, (2) "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will announce My words to you." (3) Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. (4) But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make. (5) Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, (6) "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel."** (Jeremiah 18:1-6 NASB)

Notice that the potter remolded the clay pot with the same clay; He did not destroy the clay or throw it away. In other words, the clay was still pliable; it had not hardened. The Lord was telling the house of Israel that a day would come when He would remake them into another vessel, which, by the way, is New Jerusalem. But when it came to the house of Judah, it was a different story.

**"So now then, speak to the men of Judah and against the inhabitants of Jerusalem saying, "Thus says the LORD, "Behold, I am fashioning calamity against you and devising a plan against you. Oh turn back, each of you from his evil way, and reform your ways and your deeds.""** (Jeremiah 18:11 NASB)

He told Jeremiah to buy a potter's earthenware jar. In other words, it was no longer on the potter's wheel; it had already hardened into a jar. He spoke against the bad figs of Judah (Jeremiah 24).

**(10) "Then you are to break the jar in the sight of the men who accompany you (11) and say to them, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Just so will I break this people and this city, even as one breaks a potter's vessel, which cannot again be repaired; and they will bury in Topheth because there is no other place for burial.""** (Jeremiah 19:10-11 NASB)

A jar that is broken, which cannot be repaired again, is much different than clay that is still on the potter's wheel. According to the Lord, the city Jerusalem was to be destroyed in such a way that it would never be repaired again. Now, the question is: Has this ever happened? Yes, but partially. The city was destroyed in Jeremiah's day and later repaired/rebuilt by a Judahite remnant. This was necessary for Jesus to come as the Lion of the tribe of Judah and take the scepter as the King of Judah. But Jesus also prophesied that the city would be destroyed, which it was by the Roman army in 70 AD (Matthew 22:7). However, Jerusalem has been rebuilt again. In other words, Jeremiah's prophecy declaring it must be broken so that it cannot again be repaired is yet to be fulfilled. A day must come when the present Jerusalem is completely destroyed. Why? To make way for New Jerusalem, the temple of the Lord made up of living stones that will fill the earth. New Jerusalem is not a physical city located someplace on earth; it is the Body of immortal, glorified sons of God in the image of the Son of God that will fill the earth with the glory of God. Wherever they go and wherever they are is New Jerusalem.

Dear people of God, lately, I have been writing much about the Jew and modern Israel, and there is more to come. I have wondered why this has become a burden to me, until I realized the same thing happened to me in the months leading up to and especially on September 11, 2001. I was burdened that it was time to watch. I am burdened once again; only this time, I am burdened that the time for our present wicked eon is about up. Our Lord is coming, and one of the events to occur at the end is the total destruction of Jerusalem. Their **gehenna of fire** (Topheth) is coming.

Those in Israel need to be encouraged to get out, and we need to be ready. **Let us go out to Him (Christ) outside the camp. For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.** (Hebrews 13:13-14). **New Jerusalem!**