

# 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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## ***Violent Men Take It By Force***

**(2) "Son of man, speak to the sons of your people and say to them, 'If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman, (3) and he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows on the trumpet and warns the people, (4) then he who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head. (Ezekiel 33:2-4 NASB)**

When most hear the word **Jew**, they think of a purebred race of people who practice the religion called **Judaism** (based on the Torah and the Talmud) and who have special privileges because they all trace their lineage back to Abraham through Jacob. This is far from the truth due to whole kingdoms and tribes being converted to Judaism, as well as much intermarriage between the Jews (according to flesh) and the nations. Most who call themselves Jews today, whether by blood (flesh) or by conversion to Judaism, reject **Jesus** as the **Son of God**, the **Messiah**, and the rightful **King of Judah**. These are **apparent Jews**. Of course, if an apparent Jew believes on Jesus and turns from Judaism to embrace a living relationship with the Lord in what is called **Christianity** (a relationship, not a religion), then he or she becomes a **new creation in Christ** and a **true Jew** as God defines one.

A day of reckoning is coming for the apparent Jew, which Jesus calls a **synagogue of Satan**, when He will make them bow down to the true Jew (Revelation 2:9; 3:9). As long as it is today, there is opportunity for those who reject Jesus Christ to believe on Him, but the hour is late and time is running out. They too can be like the Ethiopian eunuch after Philip opened Scripture and preached Jesus to him: **"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God"** (Acts 8:37), or the Roman jailer who was watching over Paul and Silas: **"What must I do to be saved? Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved"** (Acts 16:30-31). May the Spirit of God open the eyes of many Jews to the truth!

To prophetically and historically understand end-time events, it is of utmost importance that we know the character and identity of the key Biblical figures and their descendants that are in play in our day, especially in relation to the Middle East. In this regard, there are four major players to consider.

### **Evil Figs-Judahites.**

Undoubtedly, many have been trained to think that the Jews that have returned to the land of Israel are from the house of Judah and the house of Israel, as if the two houses that were split apart after Solomon's death are now united as one. This is not true. The house of Israel continues to be lost (no national identity) among the nations. Now, it is probably true that some individuals who have returned have some DNA from Judah or Joseph, but this does not mean that the two houses have been reunited into the **United Kingdom of Israel** that existed under David and Solomon. Also, there are many so-called Jews who have no traceable DNA to either Judah or Joseph.

When Jesus walked the streets of Jerusalem, the nation of Judah had returned to the land. The Lord had removed their iron yoke of captivity and placed them under a wooden yoke of Roman rule on their own land. The religious elite of Judaism did well under this yoke; however, when the King of Judah arrived on the scene, they feared loss of their place (power) and nation (John 11:48). They sought to bring about the Kingdom of God with them seated on the throne, and they were willing to bring it about by violence, to the point of killing the King of Judah and the Way that followed Him. This is the reasoning behind Jesus' statement: **"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force"** (Matthew 11:12).

The religious elite formed the core of the evil or bad figs of Judah (not Israel) that Jeremiah prophesied were rotten and could not be eaten due to rottenness (Jeremiah 24:8). They were hypocrites because they were shutting off the **Kingdom of the Heavens** for most of the Jewish (Judahite) people (Matthew 23:13). The bad figs were hostile toward the Lord and rejected Him, and, symbolically, these same bad figs of Judah are now living on the same land and occupying the same Jerusalem, all of which must be judged as Jeremiah prophesied (Jeremiah 19:10-11).

### **Esau-Edom-Sephardim.**

Esau is in Edom, and Edom is in modern Jewry. Esau's descendants were conquered and absorbed into Jewry in 126 BC. They became Jews who practiced the outward form of Judaism and ceased to be Edomites or Idumeans. When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, they were scattered among the nations, along with all the other Jews. Edom rejected God's Son as the evil figs had done, but keep in mind that they were absorbed into Jewry, so they were grafted into the evil fig tree of Judah. Later, this combination of Jews became known as the **Sephardim**, who formed the heart of modern Zionism. In 1948, the land of Israel was under the control of Britain, who ceded the land to the Zionists. Britain's flag is the **Union Jack**, and Jack is a nickname for *Jacob*. Symbolically, in 1948, Britain-Jacob ceded the land to Esau-Edom. Jacob was blinded to the true identity of his brother Esau, just as Isaac was blinded to Jacob's identity over 3700 years earlier. Esau was given dominion by his brother Jacob, and then Esau completed the deception by taking the birthright name *Israel* that was given to Joseph and his sons (Genesis 48:16; 1 Chronicles 5:1). Since then, it has been dominion by the sword; no peace.

### **Togarmah-Ashkenazim.**

The Ashkenazim Jews are ones by conversion, for they were of the line of Japheth, not of Shem. In sort of a negative sense, they fulfilled a very old prophecy on the natural level. When they became Jews, they entered the tent of Shem.

**(26) He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. (27) May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant."** (Genesis 9:26-27 NASB)

Of course, in the highest spiritual level, this is manifested in the one new man that is in Christ. In Christ, the dividing wall that separated the nation of Israel from all the other nations has been broken down, creating a **one new man in Christ, a new creation**. Shem and Japheth dwell in the same house as brothers. Canaan represents the carnal flesh of man that strives against God. For the time being, Canaan is simply a servant, but eventually, at the consummation of the eons, he too will join his brothers, but only after his flesh has been dealt with in the lake of fire in which God's fiery law will judge man's works or deeds and teach him righteousness and justice. Shem and Japheth will judge their brother and teach him righteousness.

However, on a purely natural level, the Ashkenazim (Japheth-Togarmah) have united with the Sephardim (Shem), but not for a good purpose. They united under the Old Covenant that has been made obsolete. The Ashkenazim, which make up 80% of white Jewry, invaded the land of Israel, along with the evil figs of Judah. All of them are **apparent Jews** waiting for the judgment of God; however, they do not know it, for they believe they are the chosen of God and the apple of His eye, apart from Christ.

### **Ishmaelites.**

Finally, those who align themselves with the present Jerusalem and Judaism (Old Covenant) are sons of Hagar the bondwoman. The Old Covenant was given at Mount Sinai in Arabia, which is Ishmael's territory. They are allegorical Ishmaelites that must be cast out (Galatians 4:21-31).

Thus, all four groups have rejected and continue to reject Christ, and God will bring them into judgment at the end of the age. This is why the cursed, barren fig tree is on the land with leaves but no fruit. All will be judged: **Evil figs of Judah** (Luke 19:14, 27); **Esau-Edom** (Obadiah 8-9); **Togarmah-Ashkenazim** (Ezekiel 39:4); **Ishmaelites** (Galatians 4:22-31). May their eyes be opened to the truth of Jesus Christ before it is too late!