

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)

#05-1102

Number 11. Disorder, Disintegration

January 2, 2011

As I have shared in several issues, God speaks to us through numbers, and scripture is filled with examples. A study of numbers in scripture reveals that numbers signify spiritual truths that are repeated over and over again in God's word. For example, we know that the numbers 7, 10, and 12 are numbers of completion and perfection. However, God not only speaks to us through numbers in scripture but also through numbers associated with history and time. It seems even the world-at-large has a sense of numbers signifying certain things, especially catastrophic events. This is why people got excited as dates like 6-6-6, 7-7-7, 8-8-8, 9-9-9, and 10-10-10 approached. I am sure there will be some looking toward 11-11-11 as some sort of prophetic sign as well.

Whether there is any significance to the fact that we have just entered the 11th year of the 21st century remains to be seen. I have something to share on this front, but before doing so, let us consider the meaning of the numbers 10, 11, and 12. There is much that could be said about these three numbers, but I will only touch upon them enough to make my point about the potential for the year 2011.

The number 10 signifies the completion of order or of a cycle, meaning it is the number of divine order. We see divine order in the human body that has ten toes and ten fingers. Further, it signifies the law and responsibility under the law, that is, the works of the law. Thus, there are Ten Commandments. However, as an ordinal number of completion (completing a cycle of things), the number 10 can and does signify the completion of things both good and bad. For example, the Ten Commandments are good for those who follow them, for the law is good (Romans 7:12, 16). On the other hand, 10 devastating plagues of judgment were brought upon Egypt. When one keeps the law of God, there is order and reward. However, when one does not keep the law of God, there is disorder and judgment, which leads to the number 11.

The number 11 signifies disorder, disintegration, and judgment. In the Hebrew language, the number 11 is written with the Hebrew letters *yod*, meaning *hand*, and *aleph*, meaning *strength*. Putting the two meanings together signifies that man working his own way apart from God's way (law) leads to disorder and ultimately disintegration of all that man builds according to his own strength. Is this not the history of man? The history of man is strewn with his failures that have led to innumerable conflicts and breakdowns of societies and nations. No nation, kingdom, or empire has lasted indefinitely. All have failed in time, and generally in relatively short periods of time, due to man shunning God's law and ways for man's law and ways.

In scripture, there are many examples of the number 11. Jacob had twelve sons, but when Joseph was sold to the Midianites by his brothers and presumed dead by his father Jacob, the house of Jacob was left with 11 brothers and it fell into disorder. Look at their history. The climax came when Jacob and his family found themselves at the mercy of a famine in the land. Only when they were reunited with their brother Joseph was order restored in Jacob's household, and they were saved from the famine.

Also, when the sons of Israel were called out of Egypt and they left Horeb for Canaan, it was an 11-day journey. But prior to this, God brought judgment upon Egypt through 10 plagues for their refusal to let God's people go. As if this were not enough, as the sons of Israel passed through the parted Red Sea, Pharaoh decided to bring them back into slavery. This was the Egyptians' 11th offense. They were out of order, and judgment fell upon the Egyptian army.

Further, on their journey to the Promised Land, the Israelites rebelled against God 10 times. Unfortunately for them, they believed the 10 spies about Canaan, not God, and they were banished back to the wilderness for another 38 years. But what happened when this judgment fell upon them? They rebelled an 11th time with their attempt to take Canaan by their own strength. Disorder came in and they utterly failed in their attempt (Numbers 14:39-45).

The number 12 signifies governmental perfection. There were 12 sons of Israel and 12 apostles who will judge the 12 tribes of Israel. There are 12 foundation stones, 12 gates, and 12 pearls associated with New Jerusalem, to name a few examples.

We could say that when man repents of his rebellion against God and His law and returns to God, God's divine government is established and order is restored. Men and their governments of manmade laws, which are nothing but lawlessness, can strive all they want, but ultimately, God alone will prevail; judgment will come upon the governments of men causing disorder and disintegration, leading the way for the kingdom of God to be established among the nations with God's Son as King.

So, I trust that you can see a progression from the number 10 to 11 to 12. When man rebels against God's order, disorder comes in; but when he repents and turns to God's way, God's perfect government is established, ushering in divine order.

Now, the world has just completed its first decade of the new millennium, the 21st century. How would we characterize this decade? Would we call it a decade in which the world embraced God's law and His divine order? If you keep up with world news or you have read much of what I have written, you know that my answer is that we have come through a time of lawlessness resulting in the structures of man teetering as if ready to fall. The world has completed a 10-year cycle of failure and lawlessness. As I have stated previously, Babylonian leaders are smart and they have been doing all they can to keep their lawless Babylonian system from falling. So far they have managed to keep it going, but this is only because God's appointed time for it to fall has not come yet. But be assured, it will come and sooner than most realize. When they say peace and security [safety], then sudden destruction will come (1 Thessalonians 5:3). It will be swift and complete (see Revelation 18).

Thank God; we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken, a kingdom that will have no end to its increase and no bounds (Hebrews 12:28; Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:33). It is **the eonian kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** (2 Peter 1:11 CV).

This leads to the thought I have for 2011. Mind you, I am not stating that the year 2011 will definitely be a year of disorder and judgment, but on the other hand, I would not be surprised if it were. At any rate, it behooves each of us to prepare ourselves spiritually for the days ahead. We must be conquerors through Him who loves us.

Well, this is what I have to share. On 1-1-11, I was awakened by a very strong pain in my back, which was most likely the result of overdoing some physical exercises the day before. When the pain struck, I instantly looked at the clock to see how long I had been asleep. The time was 1.11 am.

What are the odds of so many 1's or, if you will, 11's appearing together? The odds of awakening at 1.11 am, given a 7 or 8-hour sleep cycle, are 1 in 420 or 1 in 480. But what are the odds of this happening on 1-1-11? I don't know, but it caught my attention.

Was this the Lord's way of speaking to me about the coming year? I might add that the pain in my back (upper shoulder area) was not only strong but quite severe, and pain is an indication of disorder or disintegration in the body. The back signifies structure and the shoulder strength. Could this indicate that 2011 is going to be a year of disorder in the very structures and strengths of Mystery Babylon? I don't know, so I am not stating so emphatically. What I am stating is watch and be ready, for we do not know the hour in which our Lord comes. Judgment must and will come upon Babylon one day soon. Let us be dressed in the righteousness of Christ, keeping our lamps lit with the Spirit of God!