

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)

#05-1105

Nothing is as it seems.

January 5, 2011

I feel like I am catching up a bit after having hit the pause button on writing back in September. Given this, I have a few thoughts that are carryovers from last year.

In the early morning of November 29, 2010, this thought came to me: "You are waking to a whole new world. It will never be the same. Woes have come." Then, on December 12, 2010, I heard: "The world is in shambles. Nothing is as it seems." This last thought of "nothing is as it seems" is what really caught my attention.

Interestingly, it was on November 29, 2010 that Wikileaks founder Assange released the secret US government documents revealing how much our government lies to us and how diplomacy is truly a bag of lies.

I think it was on this same day that I was listening to some news coverage and commentary on the news. Among a panel of commentators, a columnist, whom I admire for having one of the most brilliant minds among the media pundits was offering his views on Wikileaks. I did not record his exact words, so I can only paraphrase them. They went something like this: "We have always suspected that the government lies to us; this now proves it. But the important thing is...", and he went on to offer a more technical answer.

What caught my attention was how quickly he moved on to another aspect of the leaks after acknowledging that the government lies to us. It was as if he were saying: "So what else is new?" By the way, the rest of the panelists did not make much of the lies either. It was as if lying is an accepted norm and the nature of diplomacy and the business of governing. Why not? We know that the political process itself operates in the realm of lies and twisting of the truth for political advantage, and our government is run by politicians who attempt to drag us around by their lies. It is **the cords of falsehood** (Isaiah 5:18). See issues #02-08125 and #02-08132, September-October 2008.

This is the nature of the failed governments of men that ultimately will fail as the kingdom of God takes root among the nations with God's King, His Son, our Lord Jesus, seated upon the throne.

"But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain." (Psalm 2:6 NASB)

In the day when Jesus comes to establish His kingdom on earth, the lawlessness of men will give way to the law of God. The knowledge of God and His ways will be established on earth.

They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9 NASB)

But there is a warning, for no one who lies, that is, makes a practice or vocation of lying, will come to **Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the celestial Jerusalem** (Hebrews 12:22). Speaking of New Jerusalem, the Revelation tells us that all liars will be excluded from the holy city.

"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8 NASB)

And nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:27 NASB)

This is beyond the scope of this issue, but I must stress that the second death and exclusion from the city are not for eternity nor are they related to being cast into an oven of literal fire, worms, and brimstone (i.e., hell) to be tortured forever and ever. As I have stressed elsewhere, such ones will be judged through the fiery law of God with the purpose of restoration. The second death is a death of their works, not of their physical bodies which will have been raised in the second resurrection.

God wills all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:4)

He does not desire it, as some translations state; *He wills it*, meaning it shall be done. By the consummation of the eons, all mankind will have been restored to God, so that the Father may be **all in all new** (1 Corinthians 15:28; Revelation 21:5). This is **the eonian purpose of God** (Ephesians 3:11 CV).

How do we think **the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea** and **the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea** (Habakkuk 2:14) if God does not ultimately save all men, not all at the same time, but all eventually? He must and He will because the death and resurrection of His Son was and is and will be an absolute success in **reconciling all things to the Father, things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross** (Colossians 1:20).

Back to my point: we need to wake up and realize that nothing is as it seems. The people of the world are being played like strings on a fiddle. The governments of the world lie to one another and they lie to their citizens. This is the nature of the world system in which we live today. It is called Mystery Babylon, a seductive harlot that deceives every chance it gets, which is often these days.

We are living in the days of lawlessness. Even Jesus warned that one sign of the end of the age will be an increase of lawlessness that will lead to most people's love growing cold, presumably toward one another and toward God Himself (Matthew 24:12).

Do you realize that throughout the US during 2010, over 31,000 new laws were enacted? At first blush, one might think this means we are becoming more lawful. Quite the contrary; it means that we are more lawless.

I want to leave you with one example of "nothing is as it seems." Recently, I was reading an article about the Federal Reserve and all that it has been doing to "save the economy." By their own admission, they are pumping money into the economy, that is, fiat money [money made from thin air], in order to drive down interest rates, to get Americans to consume more, and to drive up the price of stocks. I call this manipulation of Americans to make things appear that they are better or improving when they are not.

But what is achieved by printing money that is not backed by true wealth, or getting Americans to return to their days of self-indulgent spending called **consumerism**, or artificially driving up stock prices whether there is value in the stock or not? Where is the true wealth-building in all this? It is a house of cards that has no solid foundation. It is built on sand. AND, it will fall when Mystery Babylon falls.

Dear brethren, as Christians, we must not be plucked like strings on a fiddle; besides, the fiddle is out of tune. We must guard ourselves from believing everything we hear or read or see, especially from those in power, whether they are in the political, financial, or economic realm. We need to hear what the Spirit of God is saying. We need to discern *in spirit*, not according to the flesh. We need to draw near to the God who calls things that are not as if they were. This is reality; not as it seems but as it is!