

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)

#05-1137

In Crisis, Remember Engedi

July 11, 2011

(15) "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude [staged at Engedi], for the battle is not yours but God's. ... (17) 'You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf....' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you." (2 Chronicles 20:15, 17 NASB)

In the last three issues, I have shared some thoughts about the word *Engedi*. For Jehoshaphat and Judah, *Engedi* meant a great multitude of enemies gathered against them that were set on destroying them as a people and a nation. Purely from a physical standpoint, the odds were not in Judah's favor, unless the Lord intervened on their behalf.

As previously shared, Jehoshaphat was not alone, for his father King Asa also had a similar experience that led him to cry out to the Lord. However, we can go back even further to their forefather King David who wrote: **In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry for help before Him came into His ears** (Psalm 18:6 NASB). The fact of the matter is that there are numerous examples throughout scripture of men that had a heart for the Lord who found themselves in desperate situations that led them to cry out to the Lord for help.

What lesson can we learn from these men, especially from Jehoshaphat and the enemy encamped at Engedi? The answer is discovered in two "d" words: **desperation** and **dependence**. A study of the men of old reveals they were often led into great crises that were so beyond their ability to overcome that they became desperate for God's help. In their desperation, they cried out to the Lord who heard their pleas and acted on their behalf, often in miraculous ways. Through their cry of desperation and the Lord's mighty response to their cry, they learned the essential lesson of dependence on the Lord. Later, Jesus' disciples learned the same lesson from Him: **"For apart from Me you can do nothing"** (John 15:5).

Thus, desperation is a good thing if it leads us to dependency on the Lord and a knowing deep within our soul, as if set in concrete, that we can do nothing apart from Him. Another way to state this is that God-ordained crises are designed to bring us to the end of our old Adamic life of self-dependence and drive us to a new Christ life of God-dependence.

I must confess that I know why the Lord spoke to me the word *Engedi*, a word that, frankly, had no special meaning to me when I first heard it. I just realized that, in the days leading up to hearing this word, I had been crying out to the Lord *exactly* as Jehoshaphat had cried out: **"Lord, I do not know what to do, but my eyes are on You."** This had to come from the Holy Spirit who **helps our weakness** and **intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words** (Romans 8:26).

Like Jehoshaphat, my cry was of desperation that came forth as I considered all that has been going on in the world and where the world is heading. Frankly, at first, all I could see was the multitude of enemies at our gate, and I became desperate to know what to do. How are we to prepare? What steps are we to take? After all, the enemies are many, even a great multitude, and they will crush us unless we get some help. I was feeling like a speck of dirt being swept away. The more I cried out for answers, the more desperate I became. It was in this hour of desperation that I heard ***Engedi***, as if the Spirit of the Lord were saying: **"Remember Engedi. Remember the battle is Mine. Stand and see."**

I realize that some reading this might be wondering: Where is his faith? Where is his joy? Where is his victory? I realize that we are to walk and live by faith, that we have Christ in us, that we are to have joy, which is a fruit of the Spirit, and that we have the kingdom within us, at least to the degree we **sanctify**

Christ as Lord in your [our] hearts (1 Peter 3:15). But let us be real; life is seldom like a leisurely stroll through the park, and the Christian life is no exception. Joy comes in the morning (Psalm 30:5)!

I don't know about you, but, as each day passes, I get a greater sense of how Lot felt prior to the fiery destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Peter reminds us: **He [God] rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds)** (2 Peter 2:7-8 NASB).

Frankly, I would prefer to be like Abraham who was residing on the high ground and looking down upon the plain on which Lot lived. The high ground or mountain signifies the kingdom of God, while the plain signifies the kingdom of man or, if you will, **Mystery Babylon** and what many call the **New World Order** (NWO). But the truth of the matter is that the kingdom of Christ has not manifested itself among the nations, and we are stuck, in a practical sense, on the plain. We **wait for His Son from heaven** (1 Thessalonians 1:10). Are you desperate for His arrival? Are you dependent on His life until He comes?

The world is in the grips of an anti-Christ, even anti-God, spirit, and if the elite globalists, the superrich, the power brokers of the world get their way, life is about to change dramatically—and not for the better for most of the citizens of the world who are being led, manipulated, and enslaved by Mystery Babylon. It seems as if the odds are stacked against the common man of our day. It could be likened to Engedi's great multitude.

Babylon is nothing new, for it has been with us in one form or another since the fall of mankind. It is a mystery because most people in the world today do not recognize that we are living in the midst of it and that we are being manipulated and enticed by it. Unfortunately, many Christians are looking for it to come and fail to recognize that it is already here. We have been yoked to it, whether we know it or not, or whether we like it or not. The unseen forces of Mystery Babylon and the emerging NWO are so powerful that it would seem that most people of the world have no choice but to go along with it in order to survive. Consequently, many have, and many will, in fact, not only go along with it but will embrace it.

Dear brethren, as the present wicked age comes to a close, there are two things we need to do.

First, we need to heed the exhortation of the mighty voice of the angel: **"Come out of her [Babylon the great], my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues"** (Revelation 18:4 NASB). Trust the Lord to lead you out!

Second, we need to do what Jehoshaphat was told to do: **"Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf. Do not fear or be dismayed; go out to face them, for the LORD is with you."**

Paul the beloved apostle has given us the same word, only he reminds us of the true nature of the battle. It is a spiritual battle against wickedness in high places (among the celestials or heavenlies).

(10) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore.... (Ephesians 6:10-14 KJV)

As the darkness tries to envelope us, we need to depend totally on the Lord, face the enemies with the whole armor of God, which is Jesus Himself, and having done all, stand and see the salvation of the Lord. The good news is that it is the Lord's war. He will overcome them. We need not fight in it by taking up the ways of man or his physical sword. Our command is to stand and withstand. John has given us assurance of the outcome of the war and an encouragement for all who stand as conquerors.

"These will wage war against the Lamb, and THE LAMB WILL OVERCOME THEM, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful [i.e., the conquerors or overcomers]." (Revelation 17:14 NASB)