

## UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God*

**IN KING JESUS.**

(Philippians 3:13-14)

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### ***Spirit of Stupor***

Considering all the news reports of late, the word that seemed to come to me is that there is a spirit of stupor over our nation, especially over our political leaders in Washington, D.C.

It is amazing to watch and hear all that is being said in this day. It is as if all rational reasoning has been thrown to the wind. At times, our political leaders act like drunkards that have no sense of direction. At other times, they act like they are on some drug, some opiate, for their words defy logic of a sound mind. Case in point is the latest comment from a leading political figure regarding her party's position on the debt ceiling, spending, and taxes: "We're trying to save life on the planet as we know it."

The question is: What is going on? Don't these politicians see the pit that we all are going to fall into because of their actions or inactions?

Some might argue that they know what they are doing, for they are driven by an ideology that they must pursue at all cost. Along this line, some might argue that they hunger for power, control, and money for their own self-interest, and care little for what it will do to the nation. Others might argue that they are purposely trying to destroy our nation. And yet, others might merely yawn and describe all of this as business as usual that will work out eventually, and life will go on as it has always gone on.

This sort of reminds me of Peter's exhortation against the mockers of the last days who will say (are saying): *Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation* (2 Peter 3:4). I have news for the mockers; one day soon, the sand is going to run out of the hourglass, and the kingdom of our Lord will come to rule over the nations.

To be sure, from the standpoint of man's self-centeredness, there are many plausible explanations for what we are witnessing in our day. But I have another view. What we are witnessing is God's doing, for He has given our nation, especially our leaders, a spirit of stupor, a word that Paul used in reference to the sons of Israel that he quoted from Isaiah. This spirit is the judgment of God.

What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; just as it is written, "GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY." (Romans 11:7-8 NASB)

For the LORD has poured over you a spirit of deep sleep, He has shut your eyes, the prophets; and He has covered your heads, the seers. (Isaiah 29:10 NASB)

In English, the word *stupor* means "a state in which the mind and senses are dulled; partial or complete loss of sensibility, as from the use of a narcotic."

A stupor is more than just simply being blind or deaf; it is much deeper than that. As Isaiah states, it is like a spirit of deep sleep. Have you ever observed someone waking from a deep sleep? He might seem disoriented and even stagger a bit as he begins to walk. It is as if he is drugged or his senses and mind are dull and lethargic. This is the picture we are to have in our minds as we contemplate a spirit of stupor. Frankly, I am tempted to call it a "spirit of stupid," especially in light of our day.

As I have stated in other issues, the US and, for that matter, the world is under the judgment of God; a judgment that will only increase in its intensity as we get closer to the end of our age.

Why is there judgment? There is judgment for the very same reason that judgment fell upon ancient Israel. As a nation, the US no longer looks to the God of heaven for answers. Instead, our politicians and, sadly, probably much of the so-called *church* look for answers from the institutions (including government) and laws of man, not the spirit and law of God. The nation whose motto is *In God We Trust* and that invokes *God Bless America* during every crisis trusts more in man (self and nation) than in God.

Through Isaiah, the Lord explained why He gives a spirit of stupor or deep sleep.

Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote..." (Isaiah 29:13 NASB)

The Israelites were no longer following the law of God, for they had formed their own traditions (man's law) and treated these as if they were of God, but they were no such thing in the eyes of God.

In like manner, America as a nation offers lip service to God, for we ignore His law in favor of man's law as we live off a tradition that takes pride in the thought that it was by *divine providence* that we were birthed as a nation. If you don't believe we have ignored God's law, then consider His law against usury, which is lending money to fellow countrymen and charging interest.

"You may charge interest [usury] to a foreigner, but to your countrymen you shall not charge interest [usury], so that the LORD your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land which you are about to enter to possess." (Deuteronomy 23:20 NASB [added])

Consider this: as a nation, if we had followed this one law of God, we would not find ourselves in such dire financial straits as we are in today. If our Congress had followed the US Constitution that gave it the right to print money and even the option to lend it out without interest, we would not be facing the looming crisis of the debt ceiling, for there would be no debt, and we would not be a debtor to foreign nations, which also goes against God's law. As Solomon wrote: *The borrower becomes the lender's slave* (Proverbs 22:7). In 1913-1914, our nation was enslaved to the international financial beast; an evil system that has enslaved us to debt and usury, and most (but not all) of our political leaders are blind to this wicked enslavement.

The purpose of the spirit of stupor is to push this financial beast system, into the pit, metaphorically speaking. Make no mistake about it; we are headed for the pit, for the spirit of stupor has blinded our leaders to the truth of God's law. Even if they were told that the answer is God's law, especially in regard to usury, they would ignore it, for they are the blind leading the blind, and we know what will happen. If a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit (Matthew 15:14).

This is God's doing, but it is not for our ultimate destruction; rather, it is for our deliverance. It is so that America and the world will be set free from the kingdom of the world that has a beast-like (animal-like) nature and come into the joy of the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. God so loves the world, and He fully intends to manifest His love in the age to come through His Son and the many sons of glory.

To me, it is fascinating that America was rooted from the lost sheep of the house of Israel (ten tribes), but she has been made to forget these roots, just as the name *Manasseh* means "making me to forget." God has blinded us to our real heritage, but the good news is that the day is coming soon when our national eyes and ears will be opened to know our divine destiny as a nation, a destiny that is in Christ Jesus our Lord, the Son of God, and the King of kings. This is truly good news!