

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)

TUC #07-1301

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Wait for It!

As a new year approaches, I seek a word from the Lord for the year. Last year I was impressed with a word from Jeremiah 23:18. See TUC #06-1201 (January 1, 2012). Actually, it was a question: ***Who has stood in the council of the Lord?*** Based on all that transpired during 2012 and continues into 2013, this is an essential question, especially for the Lord's people who seem to be more content with the things of God and doing these things than with the one thing, Christ Jesus our Lord. Of course, in the political realm, it seems quite difficult to find anyone who is truly standing in the council of the Lord as confusion, delusion, and obfuscation are more the norm.

As the year progressed, it seemed to me that many of the at-large "church" thought they could change the outcome of the presidential race simply by putting enough energy and mass into fasting and praying according to 2 Chronicles 7:14. Over and over during this period, I kept hearing: ***"But who has stood in the council of the LORD, that he should see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened?"***

Well, a fuller discussion of this is reserved for a subsequent issue. By the way, generally the word for each year does not end with the year but continues on. As I have come to learn, we must ***transcend time***, especially in relation to the prophetic. I shared a personal testimony on this in TUC #03-0989 (August 8, 2009).

At 1:08 am on December 5, 2012, I was awakened with the word: ***"Wait for it!"***

Lately, when the Lord has spoken or given a dream, He also has given an interpretation, either immediately or soon thereafter. In this case, I pretty much knew what He was saying and I knew this was the word for 2013.

There are two facets to this word, one not so good and one glorious. The not so good comes from Habakkuk the prophet who appeared on the scene of world history at a time when Judah was about to be judged by the Chaldeans (Babylonians). He saw the condition of his nation and cried out to the Lord who answered him.

Habakkuk: ***(2) Our LORD, how long must I beg for your help before you listen? How long before you save us from all this violence? (3) Why do you make me watch such terrible injustice? Why do you allow violence, lawlessness, crime, and cruelty to spread everywhere?*** (Habakkuk 1:2-3 CEV)

Lord: ***(5) Look and be amazed at what's happening among the nations! Even if you were told, you would never believe what's taking place now. (6) I am sending the Babylonians. They are fierce and cruel—marching across the land, conquering cities and towns.*** (Habakkuk 1:5-6 CEV)

The Lord's plan for Judah was judgment meted out by the hand of the fierce and cruel Babylonians. Distress was coming upon the nation and the Lord told Habakkuk to wait for it; it was set for the appointed time.

For the vision is still for the appointed time, but it breathes to the end, and it does not lie. Though it delays, wait for it, because coming it will come; it will not tarry. (Habakkuk 2:3 LITV)

Dear people of God, do you not feel the same cry in your heart as Habakkuk? Is our day much different? Do you not see and groan over the terrible injustice, lawlessness, and cruelty in our day?

Much could be shared on what the Lord has been revealing to me on this matter, but this will come later. What is important in understanding this word to wait is that we, as a nation and the church, are in the midst of judgment that will only continue to grow in intensity. If I have heard the Lord correctly, America will not turn on its own. Only God can turn back the tide of injustice, violence, and moral declension; in His love, He is going to do it. But to get the heart of His people and the nation to turn and cry out to Him, He is going to bring America into a death the likes of which it has never seen. It will seem as if all hope is lost, but in this hopelessness, the nation will become desperate for help and will finally turn back to God as the Spirit of God convicts hearts and brings true repentance throughout this land. We will realize that we have broken our own national motto, *In God We Trust*. We made a covenant with God but have failed on every level to honor it. ***Wait for it!***

Some people, perhaps many, do not like a word like this, for they see it as too negative. But, as an encouragement, Habakkuk saw beyond the coming distress to see glory, **"for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea"** (Habakkuk 2:14 NASB).

As shared in many other writings, I take great comfort in a word like this, for I know that God's actions are always infused with His glory and love. His ***love never fails***. He is and will be ***all in all new*** as His entire creation is brought into a full expression of ***God is love*** through reconciliation. The cross was and is an absolute 100% success in the reconciliation of all, for He ***reconciles all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven*** (Colossians 1:20 NASB). In case you miss the point, this means the salvation of all, not all at the same time but all eventually, each in their respective order (troop) through Christ, for ***all shall be made alive in Christ*** (1 Corinthians 15:22) and ***at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*** (Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:10-11).

Well, this leads to the second facet of this word to wait; it is the glorious word given to us through Paul the beloved apostle that speaks of the hope of the children of God who are growing up, maturing to be sons of God.

(23) And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (24) For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? (25) But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8:23-25 ESV)

Paul tells us the creation, which has been subjected to futility, waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God, so that it too will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Not only does creation groan but ones growing up to be sons groan as well as they wait eagerly for their adoption or placement as sons. But notice to what Paul links this adoption. He links it to the redemption of our bodies. In other words, true sonship comes when we receive spiritual bodies in the image of our Lord Jesus.

John wrote: ***Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*** (1 John 3:2 KJV). Paul wrote: ***It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body*** (1 Corinthians 15:44 NASB). ***For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself*** (Philippians 3:20-21 NASB).

The spiritual body is an immortal, glorified, celestial body that has been fully conformed, that is, transfigured and transformed (changed from within, born of the seed of God [1 John 3:9]) into the body of His glory, a body that can and will traverse the spirit realm as well as the physical realm, for it is a melding of both realms.

Can you think of anything more glorious? Now, this is something to wait for eagerly even as we wait for the final judgment that is coming upon not only our nation but the nations of the world. Be patient; it won't be long! Though it seems to tarry, it will not delay, for the Father has set an appointed time. Be encouraged!