

# 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)

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## ***All Creation in the Womb of God***

Early in the morning of December 14, 2013, I was in and out of sleep when I had what was not so much a dream as it was a vision. I saw a large sphere-shaped object that contained a large mass that appeared to be curled up. I had no time to think about or to analyze what I saw, for almost within the same moment of seeing this, I heard: "**All creation in the womb of God.**"

Obviously, this caught my attention and I immediately woke up. My first thought was that the word did not contain a verb, so I believed it meant that all creation had been in the womb of God, as in the beginning of creation. However, it seems as if the Spirit of God immediately corrected me, and I realized that it was an emphatic statement of a present reality and the curled-up mass in the sphere was likened to a fetus in a womb. The vision is a glimpse of the whole of creation (i.e., all things) in the womb of God.

My understanding of this vision did not stop here, for as I meditated on it, I kept getting a picture that **the universe itself is the womb of God**. Let me repeat this in the reverse: **The womb of God is the universe**, which, by the way, is the sum-total of all things, both visible and invisible, as far as we know it, that is, as far as God has revealed it to us. Think about it!

I don't know about your reaction but mine is – Wow!

Before proceeding further, let us consider some definitions, for they provide more clarity. The word *womb* is defined as: "1. the place [e.g., female uterus] where life is conceived and nourished until birth; 2. the place where anything is produced." The period of time that a new life is in the womb and developing is called *gestation*. The word *gestation* means "1. the act or period of carrying young in the uterus from conception to birth; pregnancy; 2. the development of a plan in the mind."

Everything in existence is contained in God's womb (universe), and all that is within His womb is in the state of gestation. Applying the definitions, the universe, both visible and invisible, seen and unseen, is likened to the uterus of a woman. God conceived all things in Himself, and He is pregnant with His entire creation as He carries all things within Himself. All of creation continues in gestation, for God has not brought to full birth His new creation in Christ. It is still in the works or in the oven, so to speak. Yes, His Son has finished the work, but it must be worked out in all creation until **God's Grand Jubilee**. Even the second part of the definition of the word *gestation* has meaning, for within God is His very plan to achieve His ultimate purpose. His plan for His creation is in development within His womb or His entire universe. Scientists attempt to unravel the meaning and the inner working of the universe. However, this one vision tells us that the womb of God is the place where all life is conceived and nourished and from which life is birthed. This is the meaning and the working of the universe.

We know God as Father, but He also has traits of a mother. One of His names is *El-Shaddai*, translated as *Almighty God*. The word *shaddai* comes from the Hebrew word *shad*, meaning "the breast" or, more exactly, a "woman's breast." As a breast pours forth to a child, *El-Shaddai* means "*The Pourer or Shedder Forth of Blessing*." God gives forth His life to His children as a mother gives forth her life to her child through the feeding of her breast. When the child cries, the breast gives comfort, so that she has great power over the child. This is one of the meanings of *Almighty God*.

This might all sound good and right, but the question is whether it can be substantiated by scripture.

I believe the answer to the question is discovered in four sets of scripture. We will consider several translations in order to paint the picture.

**By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.** (Hebrews 11:3 ESV)

This doesn't mean that God created out of nothing; it means that God created out of Himself. Physicists are even searching for what some call the **God-particle**, the primal particle of the universe from which all things are made, that is, exist. However, scripture indicates that creation is the substance of the invisible God that is made visible through His Son, the Word of God. Nothing that we see or even cannot see came out of nothing; it all came forth from God. Given this, can we not state that the whole of the universe, all things, are of the substance of God? So, all things in the womb of God are of His substance. He has conceived all things within Himself.

**But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things....** (1 Corinthians 8:6 KJV)

**... yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from [out of whom] whom are all things....** (1 Corinthians 8:6 NASB [WED])

**... to us** (or: for us; with us) **[there is] one God, the Father, from out of the midst of Whom [is] the whole** (or: [are] all things).... (1 Corinthians 8:6 JMNT)

These translations use four different prepositional expressions: *of whom are all things*; *from whom are all things*; *out of whom are all things*; and *from out of the midst of Whom the whole*. Through these, we are given the sense that all things come out of God. By the way, the expression *all things* is all-inclusive; it is the whole.

**(27) that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; (28) for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' (29) "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.** (Acts 17:27-29 NASB)

Paul's sermon on Mars Hill, Greece, is one of the clearest messages of the good news in all scripture, for it speaks to the ultimate purpose of God to save all mankind. The key to the vision I was given is found in the phrase ***in Him we live and move and exist***. In Him, we exist. Could we not say that in God's womb, all things exist? Do any of us believe that we are complete yet, that is, our gestation is completed? Hardly! Has the universe itself completed its gestation? Is it done expanding and changing? Hardly! Notice how Paul agrees with the Greek poets that all of mankind are the children of God. Paul rejoiced in this fact: **For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name** (Ephesians 3:14-15).

**Because, forth from out of the midst of Him, then through the midst of Him** (or: through means of Him), **and [finally] into the midst of Him, [is] the whole** (everything; [are] all things; or: = Because He is the source, means and goal/destiny of all things – everything leads into Him)! (Romans 11:36 JMNT)

**For [out] from Him and through Him and to [for] Him are all things.** (Romans 11:36 NASB [WAET])

These translations indicate the glory of God's purpose and plan to be all in all. All things come out of Him; all things are through Him; all things are for Him; and all things are to Him, meaning, ultimately, all things return to Him. God is the source and the destiny of the whole. But, here is the good news. God is not done yet. He has not brought to birth the fullness of His glory in all creation. Yes, it is all finished in His Son, but all things are still in gestation; it has been this way throughout eonian history and will continue until the last chapter is completed. In His womb, the Almighty God has conceived His creation and is nourishing it until one day all things will be matured and birthed into the full and blessed glory of God. **God is pregnant with glory!** This vision of His womb provides great hope for all, especially as we are in the midst of tumultuous times. All things are in God. The universe of all things is safe and secure in the Almighty God. **God is love and love never fails!**