

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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by – Stuart H. Pouliot

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War of Peace!

On **January 31, 2014**, I dreamed something that was a bit unusual. I believed it was from the Lord but was not sure if I should share it or not. However, this changed today when I read of the death of a brother in Christ named Bob Jones (not the founder of the university). What caught my attention was his last prophecy. I will get to this, but first a word about the dream.

I was in a war, but it was not a typical one with people being killed; it was called a WAR OF PEACE. At first, this seemed rather strange to me, for we normally do not think of war in this way. We might think of fighting a war *for* peace but not fighting a war *of* peace.

At one point, I was told that I have been raised up for this war and have a critical part in it, not as a typical soldier with guns blazing, but as a peacemaker who stands and withstands in Christ, the Conqueror of all – the Prince of Peace who has won peace for all mankind and all creation.

Then, I was taken back to the day when the Lord broke into my life around the spring of 1981 and revealed Himself as the Victor. As if to re-write that day, I saw the Son of God standing over the entire universe as the Prince of Peace. This scene reminded me of the word and vision I received on December 14, 2013: "All creation in the womb of God!"

The word came: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God." Then, it seemed as if for the rest of the night, I kept hearing: "More than conquerors through Him who loves us."

But, one more thing was revealed to me. I have believed for several years that, starting at the turn of the 21st century, the world entered into a 21-year period divided into three 7-year cycles. I was led back to a dream I was given on January 1, 2007 in which I saw people buying and selling Nikes (i.e., *nikao*, "to conquer or overcome") and heard the words *finis* and *it is finished*. Through this reminder, I was given confirmation that the cycles run like this: 2000-2007-2014-2021, meaning that we are completing the second cycle and moving into the third and last one.

I have stated in other writings that I plan to write an article on these cycles but have desired more clarity. This dream helps in this regard, so perhaps I am getting closer to writing it.

What is clear to me at this point is that we are entering a new period (cycle) called the ***War of Peace***. What it will look like, I was not told, but we can be assured that it will be something that we have never experienced. Perhaps, we will fully comprehend what it means to shod our feet with the good news of the Peace (Isaiah 52:7; Ephesians 6:15). One thing we do know is the peace of God that surpasses all understanding is not produced by carnal or fleshly means, whether by the world (nations) or the church-at-large, no matter how good the intentions. This peace is in Christ Jesus, and it comes through love, the Son of God's love.

Jesus said: "**Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful**" (John 14:27 NASB). Jonathans Mitchell's New Testament words the second part of the first sentence as: "**I, Myself, am not giving [it] to you the way (according as) the system (the world of religion, politics and culture) continually gives [it]"** (John 14:27 JM-NT). The peace and the means necessary to wage this war must and will come from the Prince of Peace and Him alone.

Dear brethren, we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. We overwhelmingly conquer by standing and withstanding in and by the faith of the Son of God as conquerors on the side of love and peace. Love never fails!

For too long, we have been misrepresenting and mischaracterizing our heavenly Father. ***God is love!*** In His love and through the Son of His love, it is **the Father's good pleasure ... to reconcile 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). He has made peace with all, for **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them** (2 Corinthians 5:19).

For many years now, based on being around others engaged in so-called spiritual warfare, I have sensed more carnality than spirituality. I will restrain from giving examples, for I do not want to malign the many who have seriously desired to wage spiritual warfare. However, the times are changing and what seemed right or acceptable in the past will not do. The carnal, religious façade that has been built around the name of Christ is going to crumble under the mighty hand of our loving God. It is time for the Body of Christ to grow up and to be truly **fitted together into a holy temple in the Lord, being built together into a dwelling of God in spirit** (Ephesians 2:21-22). Recently, the Lord gave me a vision of the word *together* that I will share in a subsequent writing.

Our warfare is not about beating up the enemy (devil, etc) by calling it names and pretending to stomp on its head or even praying against it; it is by standing and withstanding in the Victor, the Prince of Peace. In Christ, the war is won; our present stance must be from the position of peace, and we are to stand and withstand by faith in the peace of Christ. MORE THAN CONQUERORS! Yes; there are powers and principalities to struggle against, but it is not through carnal means (even carnal prayer) but through peace. Again, blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. If we are truly growing up to be placed as sons in God's Kingdom, then we need to be peacemakers. Sonship demands it!

Christ is of an entirely different order, unlike anything on earth today. He is the King-Priest of the order of Melchizedek, the King of Righteousness and the King of Peace (Hebrews 5:6; 7:1-2, 17). We are of this order and are now being called into His War of Peace. It may not be entirely clear how to wage this war at this point, but be assured that the love of God is the ground upon which it is fought.

Now, this leads to Bob Jones' last published prophecy: <http://www.bobjones.org/index.cfm>. Mind you; I did not know of this prophecy until today. As a general principle, I do not read many prophecies or follow so-called prophetic ministries. Like so many things in life, too much of one thing, especially when it comes to pulpit ministries and prophecies, can and generally does influence our thinking and actions; an ever-present danger in a day of confusion. Personally standing in the council of the Lord is the antidote for such danger (Jeremiah 23:22).

The prophecy is called *The Coming Promise* and contains five headings: *Vision of the Apple Tree, Peacemakers Bloom, Armory of God's LOVE, Vision of God's Armory, and Ministry of the Peacemakers*. I won't attempt to explain it other than to point out that the thread that runs through it is peace and love. A new type of warfare is going to be released by the Father based on His divine nature, love. Quoting: "The peacemakers' entire nature will be characterized by His love and love will be the fruit they bear." Although he did not use the term WAR OF PEACE, Bob was given a glimpse of it. Time will tell if things will work out precisely as presented in this prophecy, but one thing is for sure, it gives some clarity to the WAR OF PEACE. Interestingly, love and peace are the language of those who know in their hearts that the Father wills to save all mankind, not all at the same time, but all eventually, for the cross is an absolute, 100% success in the salvation of all. Jesus is the SAVIOR of the world, none excluded. Although it seems that Bob never publically declared this truth and those he most associated with publically reject it, his heart was not far from it. He passed on with the right heart.

There is one final thought on his passing. Bob died on Valentine's Day; a heart day. LOVE! On the same day a huge winter storm named PAX hit the east coast and had just completed its path through Bob's hometown. The word PAX means PEACE. When Bob fell asleep in the Lord, PAX the storm also had passed on; the temperature rose above freezing, the sky was a beautiful Carolina blue, and all the snow and ice began melting. PEACE!