

## 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)

#08-1415

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### ***Glory & Deep Darkness***

Elsewhere, I reported that I heard deep darkness had descended on the nations. I am here to report that this is truly good news, even though in its manifestation it might not appear to be so good. As the Lord's people, we desperately need heaven's vision of the events transpiring on earth. We need to see that all is being worked out by God according to His plan of the ages created in His Son and everything is on schedule according to His appointed times.

It might seem like evil and the unrighteous are winning, but Jesus declares: *In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world* (John 16:33). Soon, the tide will turn and the victorious body of Christ will be in the ascendancy—manifesting love, peace, and righteousness to the world—for the time is coming for the saints of the Most High to manifest the kingdom for all the ages to come (Daniel 7:18, 22, 27). We are about to embark on a **war of peace** that will surpass any and all wars that mankind has ever fought, only this war is not fought by carnal means; it is fought with the heart, the heart of love that truly knows the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, and with the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.

O, Lord, *Your word is truth* (John 17:17)! Jesus, You are the truth! Make us Your living word in the earth; make us Your truth. Lord Jesus, You are the Word of God. You are our life; we have no other. Conform us to the word; give us a new language, the language of heaven, the language that fully expresses God is love, full of grace, peace, and truth. Your word is Your will. Make us Your living will & testament in the earth. Make us the heartbeat of God in the earth so that the peace of God will overtake the world.

I didn't plan to record this prayer in this issue; it came upon me as I was writing, so it seems the spirit of God wanted it included. Elsewhere, I reported on a dream of a war of peace that coincided with a word Bob Jones gave right before his passing. We won't be battling a war that leads to peace; **we will be warring with peace**, which is a totally foreign concept to most of us who have been brought up in a generation of wars being fought with physical swords (weapons) in order to win peace, which has been elusive regardless of how many wars we fight. **We don't have to win it; we are being called to express it, to express peace that is already ours and in abundant supply in Christ.** Hallelujah!

Now, this is not how I planned to start this issue, but it seems the spirit wants it this way, lest our hearts become heavy with fear and anxiety. Be of good courage!

Let us start by considering some scripture dealing with deep darkness. As with most things in scripture, there are different levels of understanding.

He who made the Pleiades and Orion and changes deep darkness into morning, Who also darkens day into night, Who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is His name. (Amos 5:8 NASB)

Amos establishes that deep darkness is simply night and that it is all by God's doing. God brings deep darkness and then the morning, and He darkens the day to bring forth the night. God is responsible for darkness and for day, and this establishes His right as creator and the sovereign of His creation. God separated the light from darkness, and the light was good (Genesis 1:4).

Next, we discover two references to deep darkness in Job's book. First, in response to his accusers, Job reminds them: *He reveals mysteries from the darkness and brings the deep darkness into light. He makes the nations great,*

*then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away* (Job 12:22-23). As with Amos, Job establishes the creator's right over His creation, in particular, the nations. He can build them up and He can destroy them, a theme not lost on Jeremiah.

At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it. (Jeremiah 18:7-10 NASB)

But there is an important word from Job. Out from deep darkness God reveals mysteries, and in this, He shines His light upon the deep darkness to bring forth His light. In other words, within deep darkness are hidden mysteries of God, and it is through these that He brings forth light or, could we not say, truth.

In the next reference, God answers Job with a question: *Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?* (Job 38:17). Here deep darkness seems to be likened to death. On one level, we could take this to mean physical death. It seems that God was asking Job if he understood death, how dark it truly is, how desperate it is to mankind. On a much higher level, this could be a reference to God's Son overcoming death. *I have the keys of death and Hades* (Revelation 1:18).

Next, we come back to Jeremiah where the Lord reminded Jerusalem that their ancient fathers did not question Him when He led them through a land of deep darkness.

"They did not say, 'Where is the LORD Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought and of deep darkness, through a land that no one crossed and where no man dwelt?' (Jeremiah 2:6 NASB)

Deep darkness is a reference to difficult times as they traversed terrain that could have been called *no man's land*. As rough as it was, the Lord never left them but instead guided them every step of the way even as they, at times, kicked and screamed. This leads to the last and primary verse that offers us great encouragement.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:1-3 NASB)

Here, the subject is New Jerusalem arising in the glory of the Lord. We know it is not the old or even the present-day Jerusalem because later Isaiah declares: *The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the LORD will designate. You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.* (Isaiah 62:2-3). Through John, Jesus declared that *the name of the city of My God is the new Jerusalem* (Revelation 3:12). John confirmed this as he saw the great city coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Without the definite article (*the*), John simply called it **New Jerusalem** (Revelation 21:2, 10, 11). This is the new name!

Dear beloved people of God, do you realize we are called to be *New Jerusalem*? It is not about a literal city of gold streets. It is a people conformed to the image of God's Son—a people filled with the glory of God. Herein lies the good news: As we see deep darkness descend more and more on the nations, rejoice, for the Lord is getting ready to rise upon His people called *New Jerusalem*, filling them to overflowing with His glory. The mystery of deep darkness is that hidden in darkness is the glory of God, and this glory is now hidden even in the darkness of His people. But *we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves* (2 Corinthians 4:7). We are soon to know in experience the power of His resurrection, and when we do, we will know the glory of the Lord has risen upon us. But why? So that the nations will see His glory and be attracted to it until the whole earth is filled with the glory of the Lord. Praise God!