

# 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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## ***Kingdom Tower***

Recently, an article caught my eye about the number of megatall buildings that are either under construction or in the pipeline for construction. For many years the term *supertall* was used to describe buildings that rise into the sky over 300 meters. Today, *megatall* is the latest and newest term to describe buildings reaching 600 meters. In other words, the *megatalls* are double the height of the *supertalls*. The engineering feats of man can be truly astounding!

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat issued a report on "The Predicted World's 20 Tallest in the Year of 2020 as of December 2011." According to the report, "in a mere two decades (2000-2020) the height of the 'World's Tallest Building' will have more than doubled." It is significant that this is occurring during this period.

Interestingly, as of 2011, the trend for these mammoth structures has shifted to the east. Asia accounts for 70% of the structures and the Middle East for about 25%, with the remaining in the west. Of the 20 tallest slated to be completed by 2020, 19 out of the 20 projects are in Asia and the Middle East.

<http://www.skyscrapercenter.com/jeddah/kingdom-tower/2>

<http://www.ctbuh.org/TallBuildings/FeaturedTallBuildings/ArchiveJournal/KingdomTowerJeddah/tabid/4415/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

Now, here is what really caught my attention. See if you catch the significance of this, especially considering where we are on God's clock of appointed times.

The tallest of the *megatalls* is under construction in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Its street address is **Kingdom City** and the structure is called **Kingdom Tower**. It is located near the **Red Sea**, and it is expected "to add prominence to Jeddah's status as **the gateway** to the holy city of Mecca." It has a triangular footprint and is intended to capture the designer's vision that represents "the **new spirit** in Saudi Arabia." According to one article, the primary purpose of the tower is symbolic in order to raise the property values in the area. But, in describing the intention of the tower, the architect, Adrian Smith, is quoted as saying that the tower "*evokes a bundle of leaves shooting up from the ground – a burst of new life that heralds more growth around it.*" What a fascinating quote!

The exact figures on the tower when it is finished, perhaps around 2018-2019, are not known, but it is planned to be at least 1000+ meters high (about 5/8 of a mile) and sit on about 120 acres. A building of such height has never been attempted before. The next highest one is located in Dubai at 828 meters.

My first reaction when reading of these monolithic buildings was to be reminded of the Tower of Babel that was built for man's glory, not God's.

**"Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."** (Genesis 11:4)

Surely, this same spirit is in the heart of modern man as he builds great edifices to his fame and glory. This was my first reaction, but on further contemplation, I saw this particular *megatall* building and the intent of its designer in a positive light, actually, in a prophetic light. I believe the Kingdom Tower is a prophetic symbol of the soon coming **Kingdom of Christ** or, to use Matthew's term, the **Kingdom of the Heavens**.

Some might respond that these eastern builders are not Christian, so how could a building of this sort be a prophetic sign from the Lord? But first, remember that God is love, God loves the world, and in the proper time, all will see and know this love manifested in and through His Son, the Lord Jesus. Well, the answer is simple. The Lord can and does speak through any and all things as He so chooses. Of course, the most common example many use to make the point is Balaam's donkey. I have learned that if we throw off the shackle that says God can only work or speak through Christians and remain open, we discover that God is speaking to us far more frequently than we ever imagined.

Let us consider some of the numbers associated with this tower.

Biblically, the number **1000** signifies *completeness* and *the Glory of God*. 1000 meters is roughly 5/8 mile. The numbers **5** and **8** signify *grace* and *new birth* or *new beginning*, respectively. We could say that grace over new birth speaks of the Kingdom of God or a new beginning for mankind by the grace of God. The number **120** signifies *awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit*, just as the 120 waited for 10 days in the upper room until the Spirit of God came upon them. The Kingdom of Christ will usher in a 1000-year era in which the Spirit of God will permeate the earth and its inhabitants, **for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh,—as, the waters, cover the sea** (Habakkuk 2:14 Rotherham). Even the thought that the tower might be taller than 1000 meters speaks of the ever expanding nature of the Kingdom of Christ.

**For, A Child, hath been born to us, A Son, hath been given to us, And the dominion is upon his shoulder,—And his Name hath been called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty GOD, Father of Futurity, Prince of Prosperity [peace]. Of the increase of dominion, and of prosperity [peace], There shall be no end—Upon the throne of David and Upon his kingdom, By establishing it and By sustaining it, With justice and With righteousness,—From henceforth, Even unto times age-abiding: The jealousy of Yahweh of hosts, will perform this!** (Isaiah 9:6-7 Rotherham [NASB])

Another aspect of this tower that should catch our attention is the quoted purpose of the tower's design as seen by the designer. The tower *"evokes a bundle of leaves shooting up from the ground – a burst of new life that heralds more growth around it."*

Is this not a picture of the Kingdom of God coming to the nations of this earth and expanding for the next 1,000 years under the reign of God's Son and His conquerors? The Kingdom speaks of life for all, even a new burst of life, not a rehash or cleaned-up version of the old Adamic life, but a New Creation life, a life based on the last Adam's life, the life of the One who is a life-giving Spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45). Not all will be of this New Creation life at first, for this is reserved for the conquerors or overcomers, the first fruits of what is to come for all. However, the good news is that all of mankind, and even creation, will begin to experience and enjoy this new life, this new Kingdom life, a life of truth, righteousness, justice, and peace until all are fully released into it.

There is more, for as the tower rises into the clouds as if reaching into heaven itself, it speaks of what is not only coming forth from out of the ground but also of what is dripping down from the heavens.

**"Drip down, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds pour down righteousness; let the earth open up and salvation bear fruit, and righteousness spring up with it. I, the LORD, have created it.** (Isaiah 45:8 NASB)

**Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth springs from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.** (Psalms 85:10-11 NASB)

This is what is coming to this earth in God's appointed time. The heavens do rule, and this rule will be poured forth from the heavens and spring forth from the earth until the entire earth is full of the glory of God in which righteousness and justice prevail. **He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD** (Psalms 33:5). One final point: The Kingdom of God was first manifested in a nation and a people at the Red Sea. The sea of the nations is about to be parted as the gateway for the arrival and ushering in of **the King and His Kingdom!** Be encouraged; it won't be long!