

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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Comet Q2 Lovejoy

On January 8, 2015, I was intrigued by a news article titled "**A Rare Green Comet Now the Closest to Earth It Will Be For 8,000 Years**" (*Business Insider*, by Jessica Orwig).

I know that there are some out there that will think what follows is wacky, but need I remind you that the Lord told us to look for the signs in the heavens.

And immediately after the affliction of those days the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give her light, and the stars will fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (Matthew 24:29 LITV)

I know; these verses are associated with all the doom and gloom that will come upon the earth as the Day of the Lord approaches. But, hey, let's look on the bright side of things. Frankly, I like what the Lord said to Abram.

And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." (Genesis 15:5 NASB)

This was a glorious promise from God to the father of faith and of the nations. Of course, this isn't the topic at hand but take note of the Lord's words: **Now look toward the heavens**. If we look toward the heavens during the month of January, do you know what we might see? Depending on your location, you might see a green comet called *Lovejoy* that only passes this way every 8,000 years, at least so it can be observed with the naked eye. Could this be a prophetic sign from the Lord? Perhaps!

According to the article, this particular comet was discovered by an Australian amateur astronomer, Terry Lovejoy, thus, the name of the comet. Its best nights for observation in the northern hemisphere will start on January 7 and run through January 21.

So, what is the big deal about this comet? Well, I think there are some teachable moments attached to this comet, as in attached like a tail of a comet.

Let's start with the numbers. The comet's brightest day is the 7th. The number **7** signifies **spiritual perfection**. Its last day is the 21st. The number **21** signifies two things: **exceeding sinfulness of sin** and **divine perfection** (7 x 3). Personally, I like the latter meaning, but let's face it, both apply in our day.

There is another way to look at these numbers, and it is from the perspective of the Hebrew fall feasts that occur in the seventh month of Tishri. The Feast of Tabernacles or Booths, which speaks of the glorious day when the conquerors, the sons of God, will receive their glorified, spiritual, celestial, immortal bodies in the image of *the* Son of God, runs from the 15th to the 21st of the 7th month. The 7th day of the appointed week of Tabernacles falls on the 21st and is followed by the last great day or 8th day on the 22nd. Technically, the feast runs from the 15th-22nd. At any rate, we have the numbers 7 and 21, both of which signify good things to come. There is no doom and gloom in these numbers in relation to the fall feasts.

This leads to the number 8. This article appeared on the 8th, but of greater significance is the fact that the comet won't be this close to earth for another 8,000 years. The number **8** signifies **new birth, new beginning, and new creation**. I like to think of 8 as the resurrection number, for the resurrection and transfiguration, especially the

first resurrection, speaks of going from mortality to immortality. This truly is a new birth into an entirely new creation that will never ever see sin and death anymore. Can you think of anything more grand than this?

Of course, Paul tells us believers that we are a new creation today. **So that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!** (2 Corinthians 5:17 LITV).

God calls it like He sees it and Paul often did likewise. He saw things as completed even though they have not been manifested for all to see and experience. It is best to think of the new creation as in the process of gestation. We are growing up to be sons of the New Creation, but we are not there yet. The good news is that the baby or man child is about to be born as a son of God, to be pushed out into creation as the New Creation in Christ. Are you feeling the squeeze, the pressure of the birth canal? Do you feel the pain? Do you see some light beginning to shine through the birth canal? Look intently, you might see it!

But there is more associated with the number 8, for it appears in the intensified form of 8,000. The number **1,000** signifies the ***Glory of God and Completeness***. Consider this; the New Creation is the Glory of God; it is the fullness of Christ, the completeness of all that God is doing and will do in the ages of ages. Creation is being birthed into the Glory of God. The Lord has promised: **Indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD** (Numbers 14:21). The age is coming when **the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea** (Habakkuk 2:14). Now, this is exciting!

Next, consider the color of the comet. Green is the color of life in all its glory. Everywhere we look, unless we are in a desert, at the heart of most vegetation is the color *green*. The first mention of the word *green* in scripture is in the account of new beginnings as Elohim tells us that to **"every living thing moving on the face of the earth I have given every green plant for food"** (Genesis 1:30). Later, the color *green* metaphorically spoke of men who flourish in the Lord. David wrote: **And I, as a green [flourishing] olive in the house of God, I have trusted in the kindness of God, to the age and for ever [beyond]** (Psalms 52:8 YLT [Rotherham]). For me, Jeremiah wrote a most encouraging word regarding trust: **"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust is the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit"** (Jeremiah 17:7-8 NASB). These words need to be written upon our heart for the days to come.

Now, the best has been saved for last. The name of the comet is ***Lovejoy***.

God is love (1 John 4:8, 16)

Who [God] drags us out of danger (or: rescued us) **forth from out of the midst of the authority of the Darkness** (Darkness's jurisdiction and right), **and changes [our] position** (transports or: transferred [us]; gave [us] a change of standing) **into the kingdom of the Son of His love** (of the Son Who has the characteristics and qualities of His love; the Son Whose origin is His love).... (Colossians 1:13 JM-NT)

The kingdom of God is ... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17 NASB)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.... (Galatians 5:22-23 NASB)

These verses need no explanation, for they speak clearly of the very essence of God and His Son and the character of their Kingdom. It is a spiritual kingdom based on love, for God is love—His highest and most glorious essence or being. When we are transfigured into the glorious image of the Son of God's love, fully in Spirit, we will be full of love and joy, filled to overflowing, to the fullest measure. So, let us now look toward the heavens and see *Lovejoy*, knowing this is our destiny. As this comet is soaring through the heavens so will we be in that Day. Until then, let the Spirit of God fill us with His love and joy to the fullest measure possible as we wait for our new beginning as God's New Creation in Christ, as we wait for the manifestation of the *adopted* (placed) sons of God and the redemption of our body (Romans 8:18-25). Glory to God!