

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)

#02-0874

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WHO CAN COUNT THE CLOUDS BY WISDOM? #2

Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, or fix their rule over the earth? Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that an abundance of water will cover you? Can you send forth lightnings that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'? Who has put wisdom in the innermost being or given understanding to the mind? Who can count the clouds by wisdom, or tip the water jars of the heavens, when the dust hardens into a mass and the clods stick together?" (Job 38.33-38 NASB)

In a previous issue (#02-0873 April 22, 2008), I again discussed the controversy of global warming that has become a mantra of many environmentalists, many politicians, and most of the media. With this issue, I will put this matter aside for fear some might think I am obsessed over the matter. I actually find it a fascinating subject; but more than that, I am more interested in warning the Lord's people not to join sides with an **ism** of the world that is driven by the spirit of the world and man's desire for power and wealth. However, I do readily admit that there are perhaps many people who are caught up in this movement, not so much because of science but because of some level of responsibility for or commitment to our planet. Yet, we also need to recognize that some within this group are most likely responding to guilt that has been pushed upon them by some environmentalists who say that climate change is man's fault and that we must take radical steps in our lives to reverse it, even if it dramatically lowers our standard of living. Personally, I think the forced conversion from incandescent bulbs to fluorescent bulbs is a flawed plan.

As a reminder, my heart on this matter is simple: **But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ** (2 Corinthians 11.3 NASB). We must guard ourselves from being led off into areas that will lead us away from the One to whom we are betrothed. **But I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil** (Romans 16.19 NASB).

I have three additional points to make, but first another reminder that there are natural cycles that affect the earth. As quoted from the book titled *Unstoppable Global Warming — Every 1,500 Years*, by S. Fred Singer and Dennis T. Avery (Rowan and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2008), there are several cycles that affect our climate. There are 135 million-year global warming and cooling cycles, 100,000-year ice age cycles, and now there is evidence of moderate 1,500-year sun-driven cycles that have within them seventeen 87-year solar cycles and seven 210-year solar cycles. We are most likely in the early stages of this warming cycle, which is called our Modern Warming Cycle.

By the way, these conclusions came from physical evidence found within and on the earth itself, such as from tree rings, ice cores, stalagmites, dust plumes, midges and plankton, abandoned prehistoric villages, collapsed cultures, fossilized pollen, algae skeletons, titanium profiles, and niobium ions (page 99). If you need an explanation of these things, read the book. The earth contains its own historical record, just as the Bible and secular writings contain the history of mankind. The record indicates that the climate of the earth is affected by cycles.

First, to add balance to what was quoted in the previous issue, there is also growing evidence that the earth's temperature has not increased over the last decade. In other words, some are saying that there is no such thing as global warming. However, this may not be the final say in the matter since

cycles have their own up and down swings within them that are not detected until we are on the far side of the cycle. It is very much like prophecy or words that the Lord impresses on our hearts. Often, we do not understand or have a clear picture until we have come through whatever it is the Lord has led us through.

Second, I realize that there are many Christians who take exception to the fact that our earth may be millions of years old and not merely 6,000 years. I have no problem with the millions of years, for we are not told what happened between Genesis 1.1, when Elohim created the heavens and the earth, and Genesis 1.2, when the earth was in a state of waste and emptiness. The time that passed before Elohim restored the wasted planet could have been quite a long time. What we do know is that Elohim restored the planet in six days and rested on the seventh day, and He has allotted 6,000 years (six 1,000-year days) for the day of man and 1,000 years (seventh 1,000-year day of rest) for the day of the Lord.

Now, here is the *third* and main point; just as the earth's climate has cycles, so does the history of mankind, especially as it relates to God's purpose and plan for mankind. The Lord has been working and continues to work to bring all mankind into His ultimate purpose (the restoration and reconciliation of all) through a series of time-cycles. I must add that whether a cycle deals with the universe, the earth, or mankind, it is God's doing, for He is the Sovereign of His creation.

Without doubt, one of the most helpful books on unfolding the Lord's time cycles is *Secrets of Time* by Dr. Stephen E. Jones (God's Kingdom Ministries, 1996). In the preface to his book, he states that his overall purpose is "to portray the Sovereignty of God in history." He achieved his purpose by taking the historical account as recorded in the Bible and supplementing it with other historical and verifiable records. In doing so, he has developed an historical timeline portraying God's Sovereignty. Of particular note is that within this timeline, he has shown that God works according to specific periods of time that are repeated throughout history and which are being played out in our day as well. These periods are cycles of time, just as we have seen cycles of time affecting the earth's climate; only these cycles affect the history of mankind and the nations.

There are many cycles, and it is not my intent to discuss them. If interested, you need to read his book. However, just for reference, there are 21-year cycles, 76-year cycles, 210-year cycles, 385-year cycles, 414-year cycles, 434-year cycles, 490-year cycles, and 2520-year cycles, to name a few. It is interesting that one of the solar cycles is also a 210-year cycle. Also, he makes the point that history is measured in jubilees of 49-year periods, and that Scripture reveals that all creation is headed toward God's grand jubilee. He has written a book titled *Creation's Jubilee* (1991), which I recommend along with *Secrets of Time*.

My point is that our Lord God is in all of this. He is in the history of our earth and the many cycles that it cycles through, and He is in the history of mankind and its many trials and conquests that it cycles through. He is Sovereign! He is the Creator of all cycles and the Master Historian. Why not? It is His creation, and He has written the entire history book for His creation and is working it all out through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, wherever we are on God's timeline or whatever cycle we are passing through at the moment, we can be assured that we are exactly at the place and time that God has ordained and that He is working out His purpose and plan; all to His glory. If the global temperature rises, then rejoice for the glorious age of the Tabernacles may be manifested soon. If mystery Babylon, which is most likely the current global system of finance and commerce, crumbles to dust, then rejoice for the glorious age of the Kingdom of Christ may be manifested soon.

If all of what is transpiring is leading us to the appearing of the love of our life, our Lord Jesus, then bring it on!