

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)

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Simultaneous Time, Turning Points, Chaos

Over the years, I have come across a few believers who wanted nothing to do with what comes from the secular world, especially from science, as if they might be steered away from some biblical truth or that it might challenge their doctrine. The reason for this type of thinking runs the gamut from fear and superstition to arrogance and pride. I believe we all need our beliefs and biblical understanding to be challenged and exercised, for this is one of the ways we learn and we grow in Christ. At times, the challenge might be so great that it shakes to the core something we have held for years. This is good if it leads us into greater depths of God's truth; even if we have to discard things we thought were truth but are not. I have had to do this several times in my walk with the Lord, and this has involved major doctrinal issues that I was taught from the pulpit or through books of well-known expositors that were recommended reading. Actually, the more I seek the Lord, the more questions and, at times, doubts I have. These doubts don't change the framework of my basic beliefs, but they do challenge my thinking on many other levels.

In these last days before the coming of our Lord, I believe we need to tune our ears and our hearts to the voice of God. We need to stand in His counsel to hear and perceive His word on our own, not the word of men, even ones that claim to speak for God, for there are many false teachers and prophets in our day. God speaks through any and all sources He so chooses. For our part, we need to be open and alert to His voice and not pick and choose, that is, not restrict Him through our biases.

Well, what follows does not actually fall into the category of doctrinal challenge. It is more like listening to what science has to say about time, cycles, and chaos and showing how these things might match scripture, that is, how they complement each other, not contradict.

To begin, let us start with Albert Einstein. Did you know that, based on his mathematical equations, he saw time as a single existence? He saw time existing simultaneously as the past, present, and future, and the separation of these is *only an illusion, although a convincing one*. Given this, one might ask: What is the purpose of time? Einstein's answer is: *The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once*.

To humanity stuck in time and fixed on one tiny planet called *earth*, time existing simultaneously makes little sense. After all, we don't experience time that way, and from our perspective, it is true that everything does not happen at once. We cannot go back or go ahead in time to see what we are doing. We cannot see time, but we surely see the results of it as we age and as the world goes through its many cycles of death to life; nations that go from war to peace, falling into ruin and rebuilding into greatness, and economies that go from poverty to prosperity, deflation to expansive growth, and depression to inflation, to name a few. This is life on planet earth that is in the care of a fallen race. Is it all an illusion? Is God really in charge of this planet? Is everything being worked out according to His purpose? Don't be afraid to ask such questions. God knows your heart.

Over the years, I have heard it said many times that God is outside of time; after all, He is eternal. Maybe I am overreacting, but I stay clear of the word *eternal* as much as possible. This stems from the fact that the Greek word that is often translated as *eternal* is from the Greek root word *aion*, meaning *age*, a period of time, generally of long duration. I have made this point frequently over the years, so I won't repeat the argument here. Frankly, I don't see God as eternal (as in forever, everlasting, without end, etc.). Surely, He is all of these, but these are inadequate descriptors of God. I see Him simply as I AM, that is GOD IS. He can be in time and outside of time in what many call

eternity because He IS. His very existence or identity does not depend on either concept. God said to Moses, *I AM WHO I AM* (Exodus 3:14). Jesus said, *Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.* (John 8:58). In other words, *I exist who I exist!* This is the framework or sum total of God. Given this, God exists in the realm of Einstein's simultaneous time, and this is supported by scripture.

Remember ye the things named in advance from age-past times,—For, I, am, The Mighty One, and there is none else, The Adorable and there is none like me! Declaring from the beginning, the latter end, and from olden time, that which had never been done,—Saying My purpose shall stand, and All my pleasure, will I perform.... (Isaiah 46:9-10 Rotherham)

According as it has been written, "I have appointed you [i.e., Abraham] a father of many nations;" before God, whom he believed, the One making the dead live, and calling the things that are not as if they were. *Gen. 17:5* (Romans 4:17 LITV)

The expression *God calls it as He sees it* came to me one day, and this is exactly what both Isaiah and Paul state. God calls it as He sees it because He exists in simultaneous time. He sees the end from the beginning and tells us of things that to us are currently not as if they are. Obviously, Paul knew this as well, for he tells us that He made us alive together with Christ, and raised us up together and seated us together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, that He might demonstrate the exceeding great riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6-7). This is an objective truth that will be manifested in the ages to come. In a spiritual sense, which I suppose we could call a *simultaneous time sense*, we are already there. But, let's face it; in a practical sense, we have a way to go. After all, death seems to surround us. Praise God, He makes the dead live.

Now, in the space that remains, I want to bring time back down into our realm. Armstrong Economics has constructed the largest database in the world of how money (as well as many other things) has performed throughout the world for thousands of years, and, based on this huge pile of data, they are able to *forecast turning points in TIME days, weeks, months, quarters, years, and decades in advance*. In a recent blog titled *How to Utilize the Fourth Dimension Time*, Martin Armstrong wrote: *It is here that we must explore to understand how the economy unfolds not by the will of politicians, but by the order that appears to be chaos*. In describing what he calls the *Chaos Modeling for the Dow Jones*, he wrote that *there is a hidden order within what appears to be chaos*.

I don't know much about Mr. Armstrong other than he is well-known and controversial. I definitely do not understand much of what he sees in the matter of global capital flow for thousands of years. In one of his recent blogs, he denies religion or any belief system, but instead holds to doing unto others as you would want them to do unto you. He is driven only by facts and data and not opinion. Given this background, one might wonder why I would even listen to one like this, or perhaps even Einstein. My answer is a question: Why not? Do Christians have a lock on wisdom and truth? After all, I have found that I have to carefully pick through Christian doctrine, theology, eschatology, exegesis, or whatever lofty word one might have to describe the so-called *tenets of faith* to find the meat and to throw out the bones, so to speak. I trust you have to (should) do likewise with my material.

Three things caught my attention in the above quotes. *First*, there are turning points in time, and these points bring about change in their respective realm. Mr. Armstrong's computer models have been quite accurate in forecasting these turning points. I am not sure if he uses these words, but I would call these points *cycles, eras*, or perhaps, on a much larger scale, *ages*. Another way to state this is by the common expression *history repeats itself*. Clearly, this matches up to God's "doings" in the history of mankind. As I note periodically, there are many prophetic cycles that have been (are currently being) repeated down through the centuries. I believe we are in a 21-year cycle leading up to 2021-2022, which will be a major turning point. *Second*, these turning points do not come by the will of men (politicians). This reminds me of Romans 9:16: *It does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy* (Romans 9:16). *Third*, there is a hidden order within what appears to be chaos. In other words, what we think is chaos is actually God's order being worked out. There are immutable and higher orders of divine law at work as God's plan marches on toward His ultimate purpose. We see man's chaos, but it is God at work in His *kosmos* to bring about His ultimate divine order. God calls it as He sees it!