

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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Hope During Tumultuous Times

"When you see the structures crumble, testify of My Kingdom."

An observation I have made over the years is that it seems God raises up certain ones with a specific calling or message written in their hearts that they are responsible for communicating and they do this faithfully for many years, even their entire life. I believe that this opening line given to me by the Lord over 20 years ago is one such calling. In the last issue, I touched upon the structures crumbling as a sign of the coming of the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. In this issue, I want to expand a bit on this subject.

First, it is hardly necessary to identify all the structures that are crumbling. Anyone with any level of discernment can see or sense what is happening. I think it is a waste of time to bemoan the fall of these structures or to attempt to hold on to them or fix them. Why hold on to things that can be and will be shaken and ultimately crushed to dust and blown away like chaff from the threshing floor (Daniel 2:35; Hebrews 12:27)? Why try to infiltrate such things in order to make them better? Come out of them and let them go! We need to seek and long for that which cannot be shaken and that which will remain and still be standing when the dust settles.

Second, on the American political front, the noisy presidential race for the White House has begun. It is worth noting that not a single candidate is declaring that it is time for a new way. They all are quick to point out what they think is not working, as far as they are concerned, but no one is proposing a major shedding of all the failed institutional structures that are crumbling. Placing one's hope in a broken and judged political system will only lead to major disappointment, if not regret. It is time to seek first His Kingdom and continually pray: **"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."** It is time to turn from man's will. We desperately need the will of God on earth, for the foundation of His Kingdom is righteousness and justice.

Third, some of the things that seem to be crumbling at the hand of fallen man will rise up in glory in the Day of Christ. One such thing is the institution of a man and a woman cleaving together.

And God created the man in His own image; in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female. And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it, and rule over the fish of the seas, and over birds of the heavens, and over all beasts creeping on the earth. ... Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:24 LITV)

It seems that God's idea of marriage or union is almost lost in our day. This is man shaking the structure in an attempt to destroy it. The trend may get worse in the days ahead, but be assured, it is one of those things that cannot be shaken and that will remain.

As an aside, do you realize that man's attempt to redefine marriage based on the LGBT movement can never fulfill this blessing (or command, mandate) given by God? No male-male or female-female relationship can ever fulfill this command. Yes, they can create a loving and caring family through adoption or other artificial or surrogate means but not through a procreative union. It simply cannot happen because God did not create us this way. A man and a woman are required in union (cleaving) in order to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. God set this law in motion at the very beginning.

Fourth, when the dust settles, **One New Man** will be standing in the midst of all the rubble, a Man in glory with outstretched arms saying, "**Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest**" (Matthew 11:28). However, in that day, it will not be just a single man standing but a corporate man, the **Body of Christ**, both Head and Body, calling unto the nations to bring them righteousness, justice, peace, joy, impartially, and most of all, love. This Body will be immortal and in glory in the very image of God's Son.

Fifth, the question arises as to what lies ahead for America and the world and when will it occur. It is quite interesting to read what people are saying, both secularly and spiritually (prophetically). Those who have had some measure of success in predicting events are lining up with their predictions so that, if they happen, they will head to the front of the class as the best prognosticator or perhaps the best or most accurate prophet. Undoubtedly, some see this as an opportunity for their next best-selling book or a way to expand their ministry. What is coming on the face of the earth will change all this, as people look for hope, not fearful predictions.

Over the years, I have seen and heard many things in visions of the night and dreams but have chosen not to publish most of them. The specific events and details are of interest only as signs. For me, they have become a sign of where we are on God's clock. So, my encouragement is not to become too focused on the details but to keep our eyes on the hope set before us, and to **press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus** (Philippians 3:14). The upward call refers to rising up out of mortality in the **out-resurrection and transfiguration** at the end of this age, to be a **son of the resurrection, an immortal son of God in glory**. In certain schools of Christian thought, there are those who are talking and acting as if they have arrived or as if they are so close they are about to change apart from the resurrection for which Paul sought (Philippians 3:11). Among these ones, it is not unusual to hear them state that they have new revelation (secrets) never before known that goes beyond scripture, although they state it lines up with scripture. I believe this is a deception to be avoided. Immortality will bring us revelation beyond anything we can comprehend today while we occupy bodies of death and humility. On our part, we must **eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself** (Philippians 3:20-21).

Sixth, there is, however, a growing consensus among many people in the secular and Christian worlds that something big is on the horizon and most likely will begin to manifest either gradually or with a big bang that sets the stage for tumultuous times to come. I have shared many times on the word I have heard about tumult is coming. It does seem that more, not less, of the commentators are leaning toward a big bang event that will come this fall during September-October. Some line this up with the last of the Blood Moon tetrads and the Hebrew fall feasts. The most curious thing in all this is that many sense that something is coming, but no one seems to know exactly what. Is it war? I have seen two wars and twelve conflicts across the Middle East. Is it earthquakes? I have seen a grand 8.9-9.0 one split America apart at the Mississippi. Is it tyranny? I have seen the Statue of Liberty inundated with a gigantic white frothy wave. Is it judgment? I have seen a gigantic wave of fire move down a valley mowing over everything in its sight. Is it a tsunami? I have observed from a high mountain a huge tsunami strike land. Is it the collapse of the global financial system? I have seen the Titanic sinking, the month of May, and the year 1917. Are all these things natural or spiritual events or both? Is the Lord coming very soon? Yes, I have no doubt. I was given a vivid dream about the Lord's return, and it was related to September 8th falling on a Wednesday. Will this day be a key or a sign to His arrival or perhaps....? By the way, I find there are very few Christians who are willing to embrace the hope that Jesus is coming in our lifetime, as if they are anesthetized by **"no one knows the day and the hour."** I don't see where God said He would never reveal it, especially after 2,000 years. Am I a fool for believing such a thing? It doesn't matter what others might think; someone must have vision and an expectation in order to encourage the many that will lose hope in the days to come.

Finally, with the advent of the 21st century, I began seeing a 21-year cycle divided into three 7-year cycles. The last cycle commenced during September 2014 and will bring us to 2021-2022. I have held that the significant years would be the fall of 2015, followed by 2017-2018, and then 2021, which is going to be the worst year for the world. September 7th, 2021 is Tishri 1 of the fall feasts; September 8th, 2021 falls on a Wednesday and is Tishri 2. **He takes away the first to establish the second** (Hebrews 10:9). By then, the world will be crying out for something to cling to; they will be looking for hope. Hope is confident expectation, not wishful thinking. **Christ in you, the expectation of glory!** May we be counted worthy to be that hope to the world in the age to come.