

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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THE STONE BECAME A GREAT MOUNTAIN #1

The world does not know it, but we are living in the days in which the Stone Kingdom, which is the Kingdom of God, is beginning to crush the kingdoms of this world until the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Revelation 11.15) is manifested on this earth. In that glorious day, the Lord's conquerors will receive glorified bodies and become His administrators (kings and lords) to lead the nations in the law of Zion and the ways of the Lord (Isaiah 2.3; Micah 4.2). **The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness** (Isaiah 26.9) and see that: **"The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He"** (Deuteronomy 32.4 NASB). They will experience mercy, justice, peace, and love in ways never imagined as the Kingdom of God begins to fill the whole earth until, finally, the glory of the Lord fills it (Numbers 14.21; Psalm 72.19; Isaiah 6.3; Habakkuk 2.14).

Today, as I write this issue, the stability of the world system is being shaken once again. In the last few months, it has been one crisis after another, which started with the financial system of the world, most notably that which emanates from the US. Now, inflation is raising its ugly head as the price of oil steadily increases due to speculation driven by greed, instability within some of the oil-producing countries, ever increasing demand from developing countries, and possibly dwindling supplies. On top of this, there is something brewing in the whole arena of world food supplies. The price of grains, in particular, is skyrocketing. It all seems so surreal. A few months ago, no one was talking about food shortages or panic buying, but now we hear of both. What is going on? The reasons offered include just plain fear, for there are no real shortages; the developing countries are eating more like the western countries, thus placing more demand on supply; the demand for bio-fuels has reduced the available supply of grains, especially corn; and, of course, speculation driven by greed; and, I might add, media hype as well. One cannot consider the news of the day without again questioning what is going on. Is it all contrived by the news media, or is the world system in which we live moving toward some cataclysmic climax?

For me, the answer is rather simple. The Stone Kingdom is beginning to crush the kingdom of this world. The sin of the Babylonian system that engulfs the world in which we live in this day has reached to the heavens, and the weight of this sin alone is crushing the kingdom of the world. It is man's failed attempt to rule without God, without His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and most of all, without His divine law. It cannot sustain itself much longer before it crumbles to dust and ashes. This is a good thing, for it means that the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ is near!

Now, Isaiah called the Kingdom of God *the chief of the mountains*. In Scripture, a *mountain* often refers to a *kingdom*. In the Tabernacles Age, there will be only one King and one kingdom that rule over the nations of this earth.

Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. (Isaiah 2.2 NASB; also Micah 4.1)

Daniel was given much revelation of the times of the end and the coming of the Kingdom of God to this earth. **The heavens do rule** (Daniel 4.26 ASV), and this rule will be manifested on this earth in

answer to the prayer, **“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”** (Matthew 6.10 NASB). **The reign of the heavens** will come to earth.

When Nebuchadnezzar was given a dream that disturbed him, but which he could not recall, the Lord raised up Daniel not only to reveal the dream but to interpret it.

Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; Daniel said, “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him.” (Daniel 2.19-22 NASB)

Please take note that it is the God of heaven who sets the times and epochs and that He alone removes and establishes kings. In other words, when God decides the time is up for the kingdom of this world, then it will be up and no one will have a say in the matter.

“You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” (Daniel 2.31-35 NASB)

Daniel saw a great statue of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and a mixture of iron and clay, and he saw a stone cut out without hands, which signifies something out of heaven, strike the statue, crushing it to dust that is carried away by the wind so that there is no trace of it. The stone signifies another kingdom so powerful that it is able to crush all the kingdoms of men that have ever existed on earth and establish itself as the kingdom of the earth that will stand to the age, which refers to the coming age that will sum up the 7,000-year history of our present earth. It is the Kingdom of God or, more explicitly, the Kingdom of His Christ that cannot be destroyed.

As to the toes of the feet, part of them iron, and part of them clay: some part of the kingdom is strong, and some part of it is brittle. Because thou hast seen iron mixed with miry clay, they are mixing themselves with the seed of men: and they are not adhering one with another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings raise up doth the God of the heavens a kingdom that is not destroyed—to the age, and its kingdom to another people is not left: it beateth small and endeth all these kingdoms, and it standeth to the age. (Daniel 2.42-44 YLT)

This is good news! It is great news! Though some of us, or perhaps all of us, might suffer in varying degrees in the days ahead we can be assured that glory awaits all who endure to the end. **If we endure, we will also reign with Him** (2 Timothy 2.12 NASB). The conquerors are the ones who keep their sights set on above where our Lord is and from whence He will come, and on what lies ahead. Conquerors are not ones who seek to escape this world but ones who endure and press on toward the goal for the prize of attaining to the age to come (Philippians 3.14; Luke 20.35).

The day is coming when **the holy ones of the Highest shall receive the kingdom, and shall possess the kingdom for the age, yea for the ages of the ages** (Daniel 7.18 REB). Hallelujah!