

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 Pounding

Eight years ago, I posted a word that came to me on February 10, 2009. I heard: "**Thus says the Lord, 'I have lifted up a hammer over the United States, and I am about to strike at the very heart of the nation.'**" Scripturally, I was led to Jeremiah 23.29: "**Is not My word like fire?" declares the Lord, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"**"

As I started my day this morning, I was directed back to this posting and, when I read it, I realized I unknowingly wrote something that clearly pertains to the presidency of Donald Trump and the insanity against this man that is continuing on so many fronts. Rather than refer you to the link, here is the original posting.

The heart of a nation generally refers to the seat of government. We see scriptural examples of this with the two capitals of ancient Israel and Judah, Shiloh and Jerusalem, the two places where the Lord placed His name, only to remove it when His people turned from Him to other gods. He spoke His word of judgment over these two capitals and then proceeded to literally destroy them by raising up foreign nations to conquer them.

We don't have to guess the meaning of the hammer, for the word of God defines it for us.

"Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?" (Jeremiah 23.29 NASB)

The hammer of the Lord is His word, which is also likened to fire, which, in turn, is likened to His law, **the fiery law of God** (Deuteronomy 33.2; Psalm 29.7; Isaiah 4.4; Romans 7.14). His word is also **the sharp two-edged sword that divides soul and spirit** and **judges** (Hebrews 4.12). And, **He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth** (i.e., His Word) (Isaiah 11.4).

The Hebrew word *pattiysh* is translated as the word *hammer*, which means "**to pound**," and refers to a hammer that is used to smooth metal, which could be likened to **something precious** (Isaiah 41.7).

The Hebrew word *puts* is translated as the word *shatters* or *breaks*, which means "**to dash** in pieces, literally or figuratively, especially to *disperse* – break, dash, **shake into pieces**, cast abroad."

The Hebrew word *sela* is translated as the word *rock* or *stone*, which means "**to be lofty**; a craggy *rock*, literally or figuratively a **fortress**."

From these definitions, we could say that the word of the Lord goes forth and pounds the fortresses of man until they are shattered and reworked until something precious is produced.

So, as a hammer, the word of the Lord serves two purposes—to destroy that which stands against Him (i.e., fortresses) and to build up or create something of value for Him or, we could say, something that reflects His Son.

Thus, as His word of judgment goes forth to strike the heart of the US, it goes forth to destroy fortresses, which in this case is every system and law of man that is in opposition to God and every spirit that drives these systems. Paul makes it very clear.

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete. (2 Corinthians 10.4-6 NASB)

We could say that the US political system is in for a pounding. The good news is that when God's judgment is completed, we will once again sing *America the Beautiful*, for she will be precious in God's sight.

It is this last paragraph that caught my attention today. The Lord's hammer has been striking at the heart of our nation. It is not something off in the future. It is a present reality.

What we see happening today with Donald Trump in office is the pounding of the Lord. The political system of our day is not only corrupt to its core, but it is a mighty fortress that defies the will of the people and defiles the land, much like in the ancient days of fallen Israel.

For some years now, the Lord has been pounding this fortress into pieces that will be swept away in the dust of history. This political system is a tare in the Kingdom of God that will not prevail; it will fail.

Donald Trump was raised up (i.e., put in authority by God) to expose the evil heart of the political system, not only of America but of the world led by the globalists. Whether one agrees with Trump, likes him or dislikes him, the one thing he is doing is driving the political elite crazy as they fear he is going to upset the humanistic, world order they have built up or expanded upon in our generation. It reminds me of the Pharisees in Jesus' day who knew who He was but were so fearful of losing their political power over the people that they cried, "Crucify Him!"

So far, Trump has been unpredictable and often contrary to the US political order, as well as the globalist order. He won't play by their rules and they don't like it. Then, there are others not directly part of the political system that are enraged because Trump is tearing at the fabric of the so-called transformational legacy of Barack Obama. Some in this crowd, particularly among the entertainers, are on the verge of insanity, if not already there.

By the way, just as Trump has been raised up, I believe Barack Obama was raised up as well, but each for a different reason. To my fellow believers, you cannot have one raised up by God and the other not. Either God puts all in authority or He doesn't. Obama was necessary to open the door for a populist like Trump.

Trump could be likened to God's hammer that is being used to pound away at the political/globalist system until it begins to break into pieces and its evil is fully exposed, much as those with discernment see today. Perhaps, it is like a rotten coconut, if there is such a thing. Through Trump, God is hammering the coconut until its hard shell is completely broken and light shines into its core to reveal its rottenness. We are seeing the evil in the way Trump's opponents are attacking his every move and every word, as if these things are deranged, evil or illegal.

Having said this, I want to be clear. I try to remain neutral on what is happening. There is only one kingdom and one King that matters, and that is the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. Every fortress of man that is not of the Kingdom of God will be exposed for its evil and it will fail as it is pounded and ground to dust. To those who believe they must get engaged in the system of the world to change it, all I can say is, you are in for a disappointment. It is not time to engage; it is time to come out. The word of the Lord has gone forth; it is time for pounding fortresses.

The kingdom of this world will fall; we can count on it. The political/globalist system as we know it today will fall; we can count on it. However, the verdict is still out on how this will play out with President Trump. Many things could happen. Trump could change or be forced to change, become even more of a thorn in the side of the elite, or perhaps be ousted from office. Regardless, he will fail politically. We can be assured of one thing; all will be done according to the plan of God, and He will not fail to fulfill His plan through His Son. The good news is that this pounding will ultimately produce something of great value, all to the glory of God the Father and His Son, our Lord Jesus the Anointed. The Kingdom of the Son of God's love is coming because the King is coming. Pound away!