

# 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 Countdown***

I was going to delay posting this until later in September, but I just learned of a prophecy that was given by someone on **August 30, 2009**. I do not know this individual, whose name is Bill Nelson, but what he was given appears to be a witness to the word that came to me on the same day but eight years later. It seems apparent that he was given a dream of the Houston devastation caused by **Hurricane Harvey**. He was told: "***When you see this, it has begun.***" Bill interpreted this to mean judgment was coming with this particular event. Rather than recount his dream, here is the link: <http://seerofgod.com/houston-ship-channel-disaster-judgment-on-america/>

Now, I did not have a dream of a disaster, although I have had many in the past; I was simply given a word. On **August 30, 2017 at 12.01 am**, I was woken from a deep sleep with the following word: "***The countdown to the beginning of the end has begun.***"

The challenge with words, dreams, and the like comes with the interpretation. Generally, I am given interpretation, at least in part, to these things. In this case, Bill Nelson's dream and timing helps quite a bit, especially with the two occurring on the same date exactly eight years apart and with both given the expression *has begun*. Bill's dream was about Houston and, although I had no reference to Harvey, my word came in the midst of it literally happening.

Now, let us consider each component of the *countdown* word.

It took me a moment to process this word and then look at the clock, so it might have been exactly 12 am or midnight. In scripture, *midnight* generally means what it implies, *the middle of the night*, but an exact time such as 12 am may or may not always be implied. It was about midnight when the Lord struck and killed all the firstborn of the Egyptians during Passover (Exodus 11.4; 12.29). Jesus spoke a parable in which at midnight there was a shout that the bridegroom had come (Matthew 25.6). Jesus also warned about alertness to the coming of the master of the house in one of four watches, one of which was midnight (Mark 13.35). I am not entirely sure whether time is a factor in this word, but I suspect that it is, given the subject of these four citations. We will see.

The first thing that really caught my attention as I processed this was the word ***countdown***. It seemed strange to me until the morning when I got out of bed and began writing this word in my journal. To me, a countdown means one counts backwards from the number 10 – 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, blastoff (Happy New Year, or whatever). Applying this type of countdown to August 30<sup>th</sup> brings us to **September 8** (inclusive of the final date). If you have followed my writings for a while, you know that *September 8<sup>th</sup>* has special meaning to me, since on **June 26, 2003**, I was given a dream in which this date scrolled across my vision along with the day of the week, *Wednesday*. For more on this see: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/prophetic/p09.pdf>

The Lord knew that this would catch my attention, and it did. If He had simply given me the date of **September 8, 2017** as the beginning of the end, I would have wondered if I made it up. Frankly, this, along with the double witness, took the doubt away, which is why I am sharing this at this time.

I suppose that one could start a countdown at any number; however, scripturally speaking, I see the number ten as the most likely for two reasons. The first one is the one just cited, the date of September 8<sup>th</sup>. The second one is that **the number ten** is one of the perfect numbers that signifies ***the perfection of Divine order***. According to E.W. Bullinger, it signifies the "completeness of order, marking the entire round of anything, the whole cycle is complete." So, in ten days, the countdown will be complete and the beginning will commence.

The phrase *the beginning of the end* is another curiosity. Notice that I was told that the end was not at the immediate completion of the countdown; it was the beginning of something that will lead to the end. In other words, it is the commencement of a period of time that is not specified but will culminate with what is called *the end*. This leads to what is in view with this word. It is the end that is in view. But, the end of what? Is it the end of the world as we know it? Is it the end of time? Is it the end of an age? Then, of course, what comes after this end?

It seems that in many circles, the end is often seen as the end of the world and time together. It is the ultimate doomsday scenario that so many movies depict and Christians expect as they get caught away to heaven. Yet, there are those who say that there is no such thing as an end because there is no end to His Kingdom. As Isaiah prophesied: **There will be no end to the increase of His government** (Isaiah 9.7). Some in this crowd even believe that the earth will go on indefinitely, living through its continuing cycles of good and evil as believers are caught away to heaven when they die. Innumerable permutations of these schools of thought abound, so we will leave this discussion.

However, one possibility that seems overlooked or not considered sufficiently is that the end is the end of an age. Paul, who was no lightweight on the gospel of the Lord Jesus, makes it clear that there are ages to come: **But God, ... made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus** (Ephesians 2.4-7). Paul also wrote to the Galatians about being rescued from **this present evil age** (Galatians 1.4).

Many probably believe that a new age began with the death and resurrection of Christ around 33 AD. However, there are some who argue that a new age did not begin until 70 AD when Titus led the Roman army (i.e., God's army [Matthew 22.7]) into Judea and laid siege against Jerusalem and the Jews that led to the total destruction of the ancient city and the Jewish Temple. Thus, according to this argument, a new age, based on the New Covenant, commenced in 70 AD. By the way, some report that **September 8, 70 AD** was the end of Titus' siege against the ancient city. Personally, I find these debates irrelevant and a waste of time in our day. Nevertheless, if Paul's *evil age* ended in 70 AD (not an age to come), and we have been in roughly a 2,000-year age since then (an age that did come), according to Paul, there is going to be at least one or perhaps more ages to come. At any rate, it is most likely that *the end* refers to the end of our current age.

But what age are we in now? Some say it is the Kingdom Age with none to follow. It is true that God's Son is seated at the right hand of the throne of glory and that He rules with an iron scepter; however, this has been primarily a spiritual matter over the last 2,000 years. We must admit that this rule has not been manifested among the nations of the world in a visible and acknowledged (by the nations) fashion. I believe we are in what some translations call **Man's Day** or **a Human Day**, based on 1 Corinthians 4.3. I know of nine translations that use this designation (CLV, DNT, Diaglott, DRB, JM-NT, LITV, MKJV, Rotherham, YLT). It is the day in which man has continually tried over and over again to rule apart from God, the Sovereign of the nations, only to fail cycle after cycle. It is the day of *man's authority, man's judgment, or man's court* (other renderings), where man rules over man. Paul was being judged by men, but he counted it as nothing. Instead, he exhorted: **Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God** (1 Corinthians 4.5 NASB).

This leads to the last point. What is this period or season leading up to the end all about? Why countdown to something if there is not some change or event coming? What could it be? Based on all that I have heard and seen over the years, which is also corroborated by many others, including Bill Nelson's dream, the countdown is toward the judgment of God. It is the time when He brings the structures of man down into the dust of the earth that will lead to the glory of His Son in His people. **When you see the structures crumble, testify of My Kingdom** is the word I have held since 1995. Judgment is coming upon America and the world. But, as I wrote in the last issue on *The Eclipse*, the Christian religion (as opposed to the Christ-life) is included in this judgment that will lead to repentance as **the world learns righteousness** (Isaiah 26.9).

Finally, on **September 3, 2017**, as I was meditating, I heard: "**Five more days**" (i.e., September 8<sup>th</sup>) and then "**Isaiah 25.2**," which reads: **For You have made a city into a heap**. Surely, this is Houston today. This is only a forerunner of what is coming. It is time to turn to the Lord, for He will judge as He brings Man's Day to an end.