

## 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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### ***Man's Day***

Scripture speaks of ages to come. Jesus spoke of *the age to come* (Matthew 12:32; Mark 10:30; Luke 18:30), and Paul wrote of *this age* (his present age), *and the one to come* (Ephesians 1:21), as well as *ages to come* (Ephesians 2:7), and *the ends of the ages have come* (1 Corinthians 10:11). Hebrews (6:5) refers to *the age to come*, and Daniel (7:18) refers to *all ages to come*.

Given these eight citations, three of the most prominent figures in scripture saw a present age, a present end of the ages, an age to come, and ages to come, without giving us much detail as to their start dates (or, precipitating events), duration, or character. All we know is that we are in an age and there are future ages yet to come. It is not my intent to try to sort out the ages; although, elsewhere, I have written on various aspects of them. In this issue, I want to introduce what could be called *an age of 6,000 years* that started with the first Adam and will end with the second arrival of King Jesus, the last Adam. According to at least six translations, this age could be called *man's day*.

To me it is for a very little thing that by you I may be judged, or by ***man's day***, but not even myself do I judge. (1 Corinthians 4:3 YLT [bold italic added; also discovered in CLV, Darby, DRB, LITV, MKJV])

A footnote in Bullinger's *The Companion Bible* states: *Lit. man's day. The day in which man is examining, and "judging," and God is silent.* The Greek word translated as *day* clearly refers to a period of time; thus, a generic day. Other translations use the expressions *human court, human standard, man's judgment.* Pulling these thoughts together makes the point that in man's day (however long this day is), men judge, examine, and scrutinize one another, as if they have the ability to know a person's heart. Paul's response was that man does not have the ability; therefore, he left judging to the Lord who examines the heart. *So then, not before the fitting time, be judging anything,—until the Lord shall come, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and, then, the praise shall come to each one, from God* (1 Corinthians 4:5 Rotherham).

In His manifesto of the kingdom of the heavens, Jesus, who knows the heart of man, told His disciples: *Do not judge, lest you may be judged, for with what judgment you are judging, shall you be judged, and with what measure you are measuring, shall it be measured to you* (Matthew 7:1-2 CLV). Why? Because our judgments of one another are most often filled with prejudice, partiality, pride, blindness, and downright error. If you want proof, then look at the broken, politicized justice system of our day.

This is man's day. Since the fall of Adam, we have been living in it. God gave man six days or 6,000 years to have dominion (rule; judge) over the earth and to be fruitful. Judging one another is part of having dominion or ruling over one another, as well as over God's creation. However, as mankind's history has proven, we have not done such a good job of ruling over (judging) one another or God's creation—not that we have failed totally, just that we have never reached the level of perfection that satisfies the heart of our creator. Another way to state this is that the nations have never achieved a global rule of righteousness, justice, and impartiality. History proves it, and we are living proof of this failure in our day.

However, man's day is not something that caught God off guard. In my opinion, it is in the perfect will of God who works all things after the counsel [plan] of His will (Ephesians 1:11). Before He created man, Elohim purposed that man would fail and be given 6,000 years or six days to attempt to judge on earth under the weakness of sin. Why? It is all part of God's plan to show mankind the need to do His will, for He is the creator of all and, as such, has the right to actively engage in the affairs of His creation. As Daniel declared: *Heaven (God's realm) rules!* Stated another way; man must learn what it is like to live without God and His righteous judgments. Truly, in our day, we can see what it is like to live without God actively engaged in the life of the nations, and, as the saying goes, it isn't a very pretty picture.

Since the fall of Adam, apart from the Lord, man has continually tried to subdue according to his own strength and knowledge (of good and evil) in a world that is under the strain of a carnal nature. If you will, change the words *subdue* or *rule* to *judge*, a valid synonym for *rule*. Since the flood, the best man can do is *be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth* (Genesis 9:1; well over 7 billion on earth and counting). Man cannot effectively *rule* or *judge* himself, let alone God's creation that he was told to rule over. The word *effectively* is used to acknowledge that man, at times, has judged adequately in some measure, but not consistently. At times, we get it right. However, throughout man's history, it has been more the rule than the exception that man has judged according to his own fallen nature, manifested in a number of ways (love of money, greed, power, control, pride, self-righteousness, partiality, prejudice, vengeance, ideology, lawlessness, amorality, etc.), which has led to failure on many fronts. Of course, the foundation of this failure is death that came through the first Adam and sin that reigns in death.

Through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin death, and thus ***death passed through into all mankind***, on which all sinned. (Romans 5:12 CLV [bold italic added])

This is the legacy of man's day over the last 6,000 years. Thankfully, God has had a plan from the disruption (foundation) of the world to rectify the plight of humanity that manifested about 2,000 years ago.

In Adam [first Adam], all are dying, thus also, ***in Christ*** [last Adam], ***shall all be vivified*** [made alive]. (1 Corinthians 15:22 CLV [added])

The good news is that at the 4,000-year mark from the first Adam, Jesus, the Son of God, the last Adam, came to this earth to settle the whole matter of sin and death and usher in life for all. And He did so in a glorious and unexpected fashion—death and resurrection from among the dead!

Depending where one begins, at the birth of Jesus (September 29, 2 BC) or at His death (April 3, 33 AD) [both dates based on the Julian Calendar], we are either beyond 2,000 years or have thirteen to fourteen years to go. Regardless of the math, one thing is for sure—man's day of 6,000 years has an expiration date set by God and many alive today will live to see the glorious arrival of King Jesus as His reign of the seventh day openly manifests to all the nations. *Six days, then the seventh!* For this, we eagerly wait!

For the grace of God has appeared, ***bringing salvation for all people***, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ***waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ***, who gave himself for us ***to redeem us from all lawlessness*** and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14 ESV [bold italic added])

See *Six Days, then the Seventh* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art45.pdf>