

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)

#02-0890

JULY 10, 2008

THE DAY IS NEAR—TUMULT

We are living in days of great change, but what has occurred in the last seven years or even in the last year is nothing compared to what is coming. I know that many Christians believe that they are immune from the judgment that is coming upon the kingdoms of this world in preparation for the coming of the kingdom of Christ. After all, many have been taught that they will be raptured out of here before the heat is turned up on the nations, so to speak. I once thought this way because this is what I was taught. However, I no longer see it this way. We will not be taken out of this earth and the unbeliever left behind, as so many hold to in our day. I will address this specifically in an issue to be posted in mid-August.

The point I want to make is that great change is coming to this earth as a harbinger to the coming of *the reign of the heavens* to this earth. As I have written and will write on more in the days ahead, Babylon, the Great City, is about to fall as the Stone Kingdom begins (continues) to crush the kingdoms of this world until the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ is manifested on earth, and the King of kings, along with His conquerors, the faithful company of believers that have been chosen to sit upon His throne, begins to bring the nations under His righteous rule.

Now, I want to add to this thought a word that came to me the night of July 8, 2008. It is **“tumult is coming.”** Ezekiel was given a similar word: **The day is near—tumult** (Ezekiel 7.7 NASB). Believe me; I don't seek these words or the dreams that I have had over the years, some of which point to major change coming upon the nations of our generation. It is coming, for the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of our life, and His kingdom is coming. Regardless of the pain that may be inflicted upon the nations and, perhaps, us individually, it is a good thing. This I know and this I testify to because the Lord has told me to testify of His kingdom. However, I have been given no specific word on the timing, but I do know that we must discern the time just as we discern the weather.

Interestingly, during the early morning hours of July 5, 2008, I could not sleep because I heard a low humming sound. I figured it was some sort of equipment some place in our community, which is still under development, but it made no sense why it started some time after midnight. I heard this humming all night, even until dawn; however, my wife did not hear it, even when I mentioned it to her. As soon as I got out of bed in the morning, I went outside to listen for the humming, but I could not hear any humming sound close by or in the distance. Further, I could not find any equipment in our house that was humming. Finally, the sound went away. I wondered if something was wrong with me, until this word about tumult came to me three days later.

Interestingly, according to *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, one of the Hebrew root words from which *tumult* is derived is *hamah*, which is “a primary root; to make a loud sound (like the English “hum”); by implication to be in great commotion or tumult, to rage, war, moan, clamor.” When I looked up this word, I was caught by the comparison to the English word *hum*. There is another Hebrew root word *huwm* with a similar meaning; notice the similarity to the word *hum*. Was I perhaps hearing the hum or tumult to come prior to being told that it is coming? To add to this, *Webster's New World Dictionary* defines *tumult* as “a swelling or surging up, 1. noisy commotion, as of a crowd; uproar. 2. confusion; agitation; disturbance. 3. great emotional disturbance; agitation of mind or feeling.”

At this point, I cannot state emphatically what the tumult will look like or where and when it will occur. But we should not be unwise as to events that have occurred in the world recently. Of course, we could look at the financial markets of the world, particularly the US financial system. Recently, I was talking with a financial expert and he said there is no precedent for what is happening in the financial sector under the “new world economic order.” In other words, the experts have not seen anything like this before in the

US; it is uncharted territory. Add to this the rumors of bankruptcy for Ford Motor and General Motors, and the possible sale (or failure) of some very large US financial institutions, and there is much room for a coming tumult.

It doesn't take much foresight to see that a tumult, in all likelihood, will begin (or, is in the process) in the Middle East and be like dominoes falling across the globe. No one should naively think that the Israelis' military exercises over the Mediterranean Sea in June were without significance. They were flexing their military muscle, sending a message to Iran to beware that they might be coming to take out their nuclear dream. As I write this issue, the news has just reported that Iran has responded in kind by test firing missiles, one of which has the capacity to deliver a bomb to Tel Aviv, Israel, as well as to the Strait of Hormuz, a major waterway for the shipment of oil. We need to be reminded that Israel recently attacked what was believed to be a Syrian nuclear facility. Considering that there is an unfulfilled prophecy over Damascus, the capital of Syria, this should be an eye-opener as well. **"Behold, Damascus is about to be removed from being a city and will become a fallen ruin"** (Isaiah 17.1 NASB). Damascus has never disappeared as a city.

Many Christian Zionists see this as a good thing because they believe that God is on the side of Israel, which can do no wrong because they are chosen, even though they reject Christ. However, do not be so sure of your understanding of Scripture on this matter. What will many Christians say if Israel suffers great loss, even massive destruction, and the "church" is still on the earth? Prophecy indicates that Jerusalem will fall just as Shiloh fell (see Jeremiah 7, 19-20; Galatians 4.26).

All of these potential events, and more, may be part of the coming tumult, but there is one area that we should not overlook, and this is the ecclesia of God or what many simply call the "church." Earlier in the year, I wrote about how all things that can be shaken will be shaken, for we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12.28). All things that can be shaken will be shaken as our present wicked eon is brought to its rightful conclusion by God, the One who sets or appoints the times.

The church of our day will be shaken as events on earth occur that may not match the common wisdom of many theologians and prophetic teachers. I see the church shaken on many fronts. What will the prophetic teachers say if Jerusalem is destroyed, the world is in tumult, and there is no rapture or escape out of this world for Christians? What if the first resurrection occurs in fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets, but believers who are alive and remain have not been glorified yet as they wait for the Feast of Tabernacles? Or, even before all this, what if things begin to happen amongst God's people that do not match the religious template of the day? There are things happening today that critics are proclaiming are of the devil because they do not fit with how they interpret Scripture. They say these things are too strange. Have you read the Old Testament lately? There are some mighty strange things recorded in the historical record. Let us not be too hasty to judge until we see the fruit of such change. May the body of Christ be a living testimony of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

I have no doubt that the times have changed. June 23, 2007 was a mighty powerful day for me as the Lord revealed many things. I won't share all that the Lord spoke to me that day, but the day started with a dream of a peaceful day with a bright blue sky. Something major had happened on earth. I was standing outside with another man and we were trying to figure out the time. He said that we could not be sure of the actual time because the time had changed. Although the weather seemed very nice and pleasant, as if it were summer, he said it might be winter. I woke from the dream with a peaceful calm. Prior to this, on June 18, 2007, I heard in the night another word: **"The stability of order; the uncertainty of change."** This is the day in which we live. The stable order that we have enjoyed for many decades is being overcome with change and its uncertainty.

Tumult is a good thing if it leads to *the reign of the heavens* coming to this earth. Have you heard the hum? Perhaps the day is near! May it be so! Come, Lord Jesus! Come and manifest Your life in Your people so that the nations will learn righteousness and know God is love. Be encouraged!