

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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by – Stuart H. Pouliot

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Seek Me That You May live

God said He would remove those things that can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain (Hebrews 12:27). Why? Because we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, and that kingdom is the kingdom of the Son of God's love (Revelation 11:15) that is coming soon!

Well, last night I was having a restless sleep, and early in the morning hours I kept hearing Amos 5:4 over and over again. I did not hear the actual words of the verse, just the numbers of the chapter and verse. It has been some time since I read Amos, so I was not familiar with this particular passage.

For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel, "Seek Me that you may live." (Amos 5:4 NASB)

Amos was a herdsman and a grower of sycamores who was called by the Lord to give a prophetic word to the house of Israel in the days of King Jeroboam II.

A little short history lesson is needed in order to understand the significance of this word, especially to us Americans in this day. Believe me, this is a word for us.

The Lord made great promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 13:16-17; 22:17; 28:14; 32:12) that began to be fulfilled under King David but were fully manifested during the reign of his son Solomon. The twelve tribes of Israel became a great nation. Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance (1 Kings 4:20); Solomon had peace on all sides around about him, and they lived in safety (1 Kings 4:24, 25; 5:4); and the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord (2 Chronicles 7:1). Solomon's kingdom was the head of all the nations on earth with its influence stretching across the globe, even to North America.

Unfortunately, this renown was short-lived, for Solomon turned from the Lord. In turn, the Lord told Solomon: *I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant* (1 Kings 11:11). Following the death of Solomon, Israel rebelled against Judah and the kingdom was divided into a northern kingdom made up of ten tribes called *Israel* and a southern kingdom made up of two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) called *Judah*. From this time onward, the name *Israel* was always associated with the ten tribes and the name *Judah* with the two tribes. This is a vital historical and prophetic fact that many Christians of our day do not understand.

Now, Jeroboam I, an Ephraimite, was the first king of Israel. Thirteen kings later, Amos was called forth as a prophet to the kingdom of Israel under Jeroboam II. This was during a time of great prosperity accompanied with great moral declension. The Lord had blessed Israel with prosperity, but instead of seeking the Lord, they turned from Him. To get their attention, the Lord sent judgments upon them. He caused a lack of bread, withheld rain on some places and poured it out on others, smote them with scorching wind and mildew, sent plagues, and generally overthrew them, and yet they did not return to the Lord. Instead, justice had been turned into wormwood and righteousness had been cast down.

It was with this condition in view that Amos was called upon to admonish Israel to seek Me that you may live, even to seek good and not evil, that you may live; hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate (Amos 5:14-15). We need to understand that the people were somewhat oblivious to what they were doing or not doing. They continued to offer sacrifices, tithes, and freewill and peace offerings. They also sang songs to the Lord and held festivals (Amos 4:4-5; 5:21-23), but the Lord hated it all and rejected it. Some were even longing for the coming of

the Lord, but the Lord had a word for them as well: *Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, for what purpose will the day of the LORD be to you? It will be darkness and not light (Amos 5:18).*

Dear people of God, do you not see a word in this for us today? I have written elsewhere that I believe the United States is an Israelite nation. Many of our forefathers were of the lost house of Israel, and America is part of the modern-day version of Israel that lost its national identity as Israel did. Nationally and prophetically, we are part of the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Six kings after Jeroboam II, the nation of Israel under Hoshea still had not returned to the Lord. Time had run out for them, and the Lord placed them under an *iron yoke*, which meant they were taken captive and removed from their land. This occurred from 745-721 BC when they lost their national identity as Israel and they were scattered among the nations. To this day, Israel remains scattered and its name lost. The sons of Joseph were blessed with the name *Israel*, which meant that wherever they resided, so did the name. *Ephraim* means "fruitful," and *Manasseh* means "making to forget." We can see how these meanings apply to modern-day Israelite nations. For example, take the United States; we have been one of the most, if not the most, fruitful nation in the history of nations, and yet, we have been made to forget that we are an Israelite nation. We might acknowledge that, as a nation, we are Christian to a degree (although this is being undermined every day), but we have never known ourselves as an Israelite nation. Instead, to our detriment, we have been led to believe by many evangelicals that the true Israel of our day is found in the Middle East. This is not true; this Israel is Judah and Edom.

What has become of the Israelite nations of our day, most of which are called the *western nations*? I will answer for my own country. We are rich and in need of nothing; we continue to have great prosperity in spite of the recent financial crisis; we are in moral decline with leaders calling good evil and evil good. There is little righteousness in our government and justice is coming out perverted. Several months back, one very high official in our government stood on the floor of the Senate saying how much he loved the Pledge of Allegiance, but when he recited it, he left out the phrase *one nation under God*. Whether intentional or not, to me it was a prophetic word from the Lord that our nation has turned from God.

What about the church in America? It continues to offer up its tithes and songs and has its meetings and many conferences (festivals). Its measure of success is often how much money it takes in and how big it can get in size and in real estate. Some are also looking for the coming of the Lord as evidenced by the group that was looking for the rapture on May 21 in expectation of avoiding the darkness that is coming. The church has wed herself to the world and to her own institutional mindset. She is blind to her condition in fulfillment of the Lord's exhortation to Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-18). We are in days of darkness that will continue to grow darker as the day of the Lord draws near.

Rapture is not our way out! The Lord is our way through!

And, as all of this is going on, the Lord is smiting us with crisis after crisis. Shaking and upheaval abound!

What are we to do?

For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel, "Seek Me that you may live."

See *America—Wake Up!* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art67.pdf>