

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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Cords of Falsehood Revisited

This issue first appeared in 2008. Considering its relevance to our day, it is reprinted here.

I am fascinated with what is happening in the United States today, especially what has transpired in the political realm and Congress. I often write the *Upward Call* several days, sometimes months, before I issue them, but lately I have felt compelled to try and keep pace with current events and what I believe the Lord is speaking to me about these events. There is always the danger of overreacting to specific events, but I have consistently warned that all that can be shaken will be shaken, for we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Some people do not like to hear such words for fear of what it means to them personally. Others do not like to hear it because they are tired of doom and gloom, as if some sort of Armageddon is coming, which it isn't. Of course, when most hear this word, they immediately think that the world is coming to an end, which it isn't.

So, let me be crystal clear about where I am coming from on this entire matter. *First* and foremost, God is love! Do not allow anyone to rob you of this truth. The Father loves you! God loves you, and God loves the whole world. *Second*, God must shake all things that can be shaken, and He must judge. This is a truth of scripture. *Third*, when the Father's appointed time comes for our present age to end, it will end, and no one will be able to stop Him from closing it out. *Fourth*, and most importantly, this is a GOOD THING! Let me repeat: It is a good thing! Why? Because when the appointed time comes, the great voices in heaven will confirm the truth: *The kingdoms of the world did become those of our Lord and of His Christ, and he shall reign to the ages of the ages!* (Revelation 11:15). Can you think of anything more glorious than the kingdom of Christ taking root in this earth and beginning to manifestly rule and reign over the nations with Christ's conquerors in the lead? Do you realize that, in that day, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness (Isaiah 26:7-10)? The Lord loves righteousness and justice (Psalm 33:4-5), for the foundation of His throne is righteousness and justice (Psalm 89:14-16).

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all it contains; let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the LORD, for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness. (Psalm 96:11-13 NASB)

I love these verses. The Lord is coming to judge, but notice that His judgment is in righteousness, and He will do it in His faithfulness. After all, His name is *Faithful and True*.

Now, I want to add to the warning (and encouragement) that I have been sounding to any that have an ear to hear. As stated elsewhere, I believe the Lord has clearly revealed to me that He is beginning to judge the political realm or system of the United States. I do not know what this will look like, but I am sure that it is coming, if it is not already upon us at this moment. Just consider what happened on Monday, September 29, 2008, when the House failed to pass the rescue bill and the DOW dropped 777 points by 7% (the number 7 stands for perfection of what is in view; a perfect storm). Listen carefully to what the two political parties are stating. I won't go into it because I do not want to inject specific politics into my message. Besides, the two parties represent the political system. But, to me, there is confusion, bewilderment, anger, pointing the finger, posturing, self-righteousness, a great amount of falsehood, and the list goes on.

I believe the reason judgment is coming upon this system is because the Lord is calling attention to His people that they have their eyes on the things of this earth and not on above where He is seated. He is beginning a process of getting our eyes off this world system that is judged and upon His kingdom that is here now but soon to be

manifesting in glory. Our hope is not to be in a political candidate, in a 401K, in an investment account, or anything else. Our hope is in Christ, Christ who is our hope or expectation. Whether a person believes in Jesus or not does not alter the fact that the world's future is *in* Him alone.

Many in the US, including Christians, are looking for the government to solve their problems. Many are now living in fear and bitterness over many things that have transpired lately. His judgment is to reveal the unrighteousness and, sadly, the corruption of power and greed that have gripped our political system. It is time to turn from it and look off unto the love of our life, our Lord Jesus. It is time to trust Him, to know Him as our trust. If we do not learn this lesson in this day, we will be like the five foolish virgins who were unprepared when the cry went forth that the bridegroom was coming. The end of this world is not coming—the end of the world system, as we know it, is coming, for He is coming! Hallelujah!

For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings. His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords [*chebel*] of his sins. He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray. (Proverbs 5:21-23 KJV [added])

So the common man will be humbled and the man of importance abased, the eyes of the proud also will be abased. But the LORD of hosts will be exalted in judgment, and the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness. Then the lambs will graze as in their pasture, and strangers will eat in the waste places of the wealthy. Woe to those who drag iniquity with the cords [*chebel*] of falsehood, and sin as if with cart ropes; who say, "Let Him make speed, let Him hasten His work, that we may see it; and let the purpose of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come to pass, that we may know it!" Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight! Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine and valiant men in mixing strong drink, who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the rights of the ones who are in the right! (Isaiah 5:15-23 NASB [added])

I believe what the Lord has shown me regarding this matter is contained in these verses. In particular, I draw your attention to the phrases *the cords of his sins* and *the cords of falsehood*. The Hebrew word for *cord* is *chebel*, which means "a twisted rope; or a noose (as of cords); figuratively a company as if tied together." The Hebrew word for *falsehood* is *shav*, which means *evil* (as *destructive*), literally (*ruin*) or morally; figuratively *idolatry* (as false, subjectively), *uselessness* (as deceptive, objectively; also, adverbially in *vain*)." Source: *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. The political system is a cord of sin, a cord of evil, attached to the American people. The good news is that this cord has been cut and the part attached to the people cleansed. The kingdom of righteousness is coming.

Consider the woes that are included in these verses, especially the woes directed to those who call evil good and good evil, those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight, or those who justify the wicked for a bribe and take away the rights of the ones who are in the right. All of these woes speak of the system to which we have been yoked. Notice that I am not singling out a specific person(s) or political party. I am speaking of a system of falsehood and sin. Also, just as in John's day when mystery Babylon (his present Jerusalem) was judged, so in our day do we see something similar—the kings and merchants of the earth are drunk with the immorality, sensuality, greed, and hunger for power of a broken, evil world system. It is instructive that Isaiah's valiant men who mix strong drink are the ones who justify the wicked and take away rights. This is our day! Think about it!

We have been tied to this system and dragged around like a cart. A *cart* is something revolving, such as a wheeled vehicle. We have been led around by the cords of falsehood, which is the very heart of politics in our day. It is time to repent for looking to this system and not unto Jesus. It is time to cry out for deliverance from this evil. It is time for us to be ready for the ruler of the kings of the earth—King Jesus!