

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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New Jerusalem #30.

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Vision of One New Man

With this thirtieth issue on New Jerusalem, it is time to bring this series to a close for 2009. However, this does not mean that I am done with this great subject. Lord willing, I will have more to say about it as I am given more light.

Now, I want to conclude with a vision of New Jerusalem that I was given by the spirit of God in 1992. I have reported on this previously, but it seems the most appropriate way to sum up the thread that has run through this series.

Prior to 1992, I had been studying New Jerusalem, but I must confess that my understanding was quite shaky. I had a real heart-yearning to see as John saw, but I kept coming up short in the vision department. I sought the Lord to see more clearly. Then, one day, I was reading a book by a well-known commentator of Scripture, F.B. Meyer, and I was caught by the following quote from one of his books.

“Around us the most stable structures are being tested and some are crumbling to the ground. As they fall, they show that their service was transient. But as the scaffolding is taken down, the true building, the city of God emerges.”

If there were ever a word for our day, this is it. All around us we see the structures of men, especially of Mystery Babylon, falling to the ground. So much of what men and, even, the church-at-large hold to is transient. That which can be shaken is being and will be shaken; even if men manage to prop it up for a season, it is still transient.

Don't be misled by the things you see going on in the world, even that which appears to be good. Even good things can and will be shaken if they are not of the Lord. I state this as a reminder that the smart minds that run Mystery Babylon are quite capable of keeping things intact or, at least, making them look intact, even if they are built on sand or the building is a house of cards. We need spiritual discernment in these days of shaking, as well as in these days of great deception.

Let us be like the wise man who built his house on the rock, the word of the Rock of Christ.

(24) Every one therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock: (25) and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon the rock. (26) And every one that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand: (27) and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and smote upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall thereof. (Matthew 7:24-27 ASV)

Well, when I first read the quote from F.B. Meyer, the full impact of what he wrote did not come to me until some time later.

One Sunday during worship, I began to see more of the heart of God in relation to this quote. As I was meditating, I imagined (not a vision, just “picture thoughts” in my mind) God working on the scaffold of this huge structure. It was like a typical building project we observe here on earth. If we visit a building project, what is often seen is a mess with debris all over the place; scraps of wood, concrete, wire, etc. It

is usually not a pretty sight. In fact, a building project can be quite messy. We look at it and wonder how anything of any beauty or utility will emerge from such a mess. Oftentimes, we cannot even imagine what the final structure will look like.

In meditating on this subject, I pictured a scaffold in my mind with God building from it. God was also the architect of this structure, and He was like the painter looking at the scene He wanted to paint. God had in full view the end product of this building project, and He was diligently working. As He was working, it was like most building projects; debris was falling onto the ground—building materials that were of no use to the final product. Parts that were of no value, that would not become part of the building, were thrown down onto the ground. It looked like a big mess to an observer. Some parts were given a prominent place in the building; others were given less prominent, but functional, places. At times, men would try to help in the project but would not really be working with God.

My imagination went a little further to picture the structure also going through wind, rain, and even earthquakes. Through these tumults, other things would fall off the building to the ground, things that men attempted to put into the building; and so it continued to be a messy project. However, through it all, God kept working, building, until one day, He was done. The scaffold was removed, and there emerged the finished product. What God had in His mind to build was finally completed.

But what happened next shocked me. In my mind, I was going to imagine a city, but the spirit of God had something else in mind for me. As I was trying to picture a literal city, I was given a vision.

In spirit, I saw the silhouette of a Man standing with His arms outstretched. In the same instant, the spirit of God revealed to me that I was looking at the one new man in Christ, the new creation in Christ, New Jerusalem.

The Lord was standing as the one new man. I was given a vision of what the city-bride truly is in the heart of God. With this vision, all I could do was worship and praise God.

The vision revealed New Jerusalem as a people gathered together into one man conformed to the image of the Son of God, the many sons brought unto glory (Hebrews 2:10). After all, **our lives are hidden with Christ in God, and when Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory, for it is Christ in you, the hope of glory** (Colossians 3:3-4; 1:27).

New Jerusalem is the Father's answer to His Son's prayer as He faced the cross.

(22) And the glory which thou hast given me I have given unto them; that they may be one, even as we are one; (23) I in them, and thou in me, that they may be perfected into one; that the world may know that thou didst send me, and lovedst them, even as thou lovedst me. (John 17:22-23 ASV)

New Jerusalem is the perfection of unity, oneness, and of the love of God.

Dear brethren, if there is one thing that you learned from this series, may it be that you see that New Jerusalem is about God the Father being fully satisfied in His Son and in a people conformed to the image of His Son. It is not about a place or a thing; it is about the Son of God and the sons whom He is bringing to glory.

If you are truly born from above, you are part of the city which God is now building. The building of the city is going on inside of every child of God that will be placed as a son in the kingdom of God. The Son of God is being built in you, and you are being built in the Son. And when all is said and done, collectively, there will be one new man that answers to the heart of God.

This man **will reign forever and ever** (Revelation 22:5).