

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)

#04-1002

“Rivers of Living Water” – 2010

January 4, 2010

When I first received the word for 2010 back in April 2009, I had a feeling that there would be more to the word **“I have come”** or that there would be another word altogether. Well, my feeling came true in the evening of December 28, 2009. Frankly, I had been crying out to the Lord throughout the day with a desire to hear from my heavenly Father. It was a cry to see things as He sees them, to hear what the spirit of God is saying, and, in light of all of this, to know how to interpret the day in which we live. Part of my crying out to the Lord has been to know how His kingdom will operate in the coming age. I pray for wisdom and understanding to know the truth about His kingdom.

All these thoughts were whirling through my mind for most of the afternoon; however, by around 6 pm, I settled down to seek the Lord. As I did, I began to hear the voice that I have come to recognize as the Lord speaking to my spirit.

At 6:42 pm, I heard: “Stu, the second word for 2010 is: **‘From your innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’**”

Obviously, this is a clear word from Scripture, so there is no reason whatsoever to question if it conforms to God’s word. Jesus spoke these words in reference to the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, which is the 22nd day of the seventh month, or the great day or 8th day of the feast.

(37) Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (38) He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” (39) But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39 NASB)

I realize that many have been taught that these verses were fulfilled at Pentecost and are fulfilled when one believes on Jesus. However, it is vital to understand that we only receive a partial fulfillment. I have stressed many times that, when we believe on Jesus, we receive an earnest of the spirit of God (2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:14), which is like a down payment of what is to come with the redemption of our bodies. We must realize that perfection does not come while we live in bodies of death. We must be liberated, and this liberation can only come with transfiguration into the likeness of the Son of God. What we receive when we believe is like a pledge or a promise that one day we will **be filled up to all the fullness of God** (Ephesians 3:19), and this fullness means that we will occupy an immortal, glorified, and celestial body in the image of our Lord, which is full of the spirit of God.

Consequently, I believe Jesus spoke prophetic words on the 8th day of the feast that point to the fulfillment of Tabernacles **when this mortal must put on immortality** (1 Corinthians 15:53).

But there is more to the word that came to me. As I read John 7:38, I was caught by the phrase “as the Scripture said.” I wondered what Scripture Jesus had quoted. As I checked the footnotes in several translations, I noticed that they noted no specific biblical verses matching Jesus’ referenced quote. These translations offered suggestions of comparable verses, so I checked each one out; each had some merit, but none matched Jesus’ words to the letter.

It was at this point that I felt led of the spirit to go to Genesis, the book of beginnings, for surely, God declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). It is in the account of Eden, the type of New Jerusalem, that we discover the genesis of Jesus’ prophetic word.

(10) Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. (11) The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. (Genesis 2:10-11 NASB)

The antitype of a river flowing out of Eden that becomes many rivers is discovered in New Jerusalem, the city of pure gold with a river of living water coming forth from the throne (Revelation 21:18; 22:1). In addition, the word *Pishon* comes from a primitive root word that means “to spread,” which means that the river Pishon itself divided into other rivers that flowed throughout the whole land of gold.

This picture reminded me of Ezekiel’s prophetic word about the sanctuary of God, which, again, is a typological picture of New Jerusalem.

“By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.” (Ezekiel 47:12 NASB)

The water that Ezekiel saw flowing out from the sanctuary was living water, for **everything will live where the river goes** (Ezekiel 47:9 NASB). In the antitypical picture of New Jerusalem, the water comes from the throne of God and the Lambkin, which is the Temple of God, and this water gives life to all through its trees of life, its fruit, and its healing leaves. These things must not to be viewed as independent literal entities but as part of the whole, for, all together, they signify that New Jerusalem is a people, God’s sons, who are temples of the Holy Spirit and who have the abundant life of the Son. New Jerusalem signifies the sons of God seated on the throne of the Lambkin and their abundant life going forth to bring life to all mankind and all creation, until the grand Jubilee of all at the consummation of the eons, when God the Father is all in all new. What a glorious gospel!

Dear beloved, if you are new to my writings, some of what I have presented may be strange to you. During 2009, I wrote a 30-issue series on New Jerusalem that I have put into one file as a PDF-book so you do not have to go searching for them among the 191 2009-issues of *The Upward Call*. However, a word of caution; I do not feel that this series is complete yet. Lord willing, I plan to take what I have written so far on New Jerusalem, add to it, and edit it into a book. As for God becoming all in all new, I refer you to my January 2009 book titled *That God May Be All in All New*.

Now, more words came to me on the 28th. I heard: **“From your innermost being will flow rivers of living water; this is the throne of God and the Lamb. This is New Jerusalem. You are the new Eden; you are the new Sanctuary; you are the new Creation; you are New Jerusalem. The living waters flow out of New Jerusalem, out of My people – My New Creation, My House, My Sanctuary, My Temple. New Jerusalem is coming.”**

When I heard this, it was clear to me that the word *you* is plural, not singular; this is not a word for me alone but for all of the Lord’s people.

How are we to interpret all of this? Simply, I believe that the end of this age is coming soon. For those who believe and who will be placed as sons in the kingdom of Christ for the next 1,000 years, the living water speaks of the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles on the 8th day, which signifies the conquerors’ transfiguration into glory, being full of the spirit of God and the abundant life of Christ.

The 8th day signifies the completion of God’s house, the holy temple of the Lord, the dwelling of God in spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22) – New Jerusalem. We see this in type when Solomon, who, himself, is a type of Christ, completed the building of the temple.

(9) On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for the dedication of the altar they observed seven days and the feast seven days. (10) Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy of heart because of the goodness that the LORD had shown to David and to Solomon and to His people Israel. (11) Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king’s palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of the LORD and in his palace. (2 Chronicles 7:9-11 NASB)

The temple was dedicated on the 8th day, and so it will be when the sons of God are presented to the Father, after which, on the 23rd day, the kingdom of God and of Christ will begin to take root among the nations until all things have been subjected to Jesus and His complement, which is His Body (Ephesians 1:22-23), from whom will flow the rivers of living water. Be encouraged!