

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)

#04-1012

Eighth Day #1

January 27, 2010

As stated in the last issue (#04-1011), for many years now, I have placed much emphasis on the seventh day and the fact that God has set seven 1000-year days for our present earth. However, in the last year, I have been increasingly aware of the eighth day to the point that I believe it is far greater than the seventh day, for it speaks of something far more glorious that is in the Son of God, and that is, the new creation and sonship. The eighth day is not about taking us back 7,000 years to the restoration of the earth and the first man; rather, it is about taking us on to new things; it is about creating a new Man, the one new man in Christ, the sons of God. Thus, it is not about going back; it is about going on.

To begin, let us look at seven points regarding the number 8 and the eighth day.

First, the Hebrew word for the number 8 comes from a root word that means “to make fat; to super-abound.” As a noun, it signifies “superabundant fertility.” Consequently, we could call the number **eight the superabundant number**. E.W. Bullinger makes the point that seven is “that which is spiritually complete or satisfying; while eight denotes that which is “**superabundant or satiating.**” Thus, we could say that completeness leads to superabundantness.

Second, the number 8 also signifies a **new beginning** or a **new order of things**. As such, it is often associated with **resurrection** and **new life**. The number 7 is a perfect number that signifies completion, and the number 8 follows seven, indicating that a new order has begun. The number 8 always speaks of the new and not the old. It also is associated with the number 1 in a series, for there are 7 days in a week and the new week starts on day 1, which is also day 8 in the order of days.

Even the restoration that brought forth the second earth (i.e., the second ordered earth) resulted in a new day or eighth day, for Elohim created in six days and rested on the seventh day, which was followed by a first or eighth day in which the new creation called *man* began to establish a new order on the restored earth.

Another intimation of its meaning is seen in the account of Noah and the flood. Only eight people were brought through the flood and left alive after the judgment of God in order to start a new order on earth. Noah was the eighth person to step out of the ark, signifying resurrection life, and onto the soil of the earth to start this new order with his three sons and their wives (1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5).

Third, the most telling meaning of the number 8 is discovered with Jesus Himself when, in the presence of John, He declared: “**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end**” (Revelation 22:13 NASB).

The gematria for *Alpha* is 1 and for *Omega* is 800. The gematria for the name *Jesus*, as well as for the words of Jesus, “**I am the life,**” is 888. Further, the gematria for 1 Corinthians 15:25 is 8888: **He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet**. For those unfamiliar with gematria, it refers to assigning numeric values to Hebrew or Greek characters and totaling them for singular words, phrases, or whole sentences. For more on the number 888, as well as the numbers 61 (6+1=7) and 37, please see issues #03-0927 (February 18, 2009) and #03-0928 (February 19, 2009).

Fourth, the number 8 signifies **sonship**. After all, Jesus’ number is 8, and He is the Son of God and the firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15). This is proven in what could be called **the law of the eighth day**.

(29) “You shall not delay the offering from your harvest and your vintage. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me. (30) You shall do the same with your oxen and with your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me.” (Exodus 22:29-30 NASB)

This law lays down the principle for the eighth day, which was why Jesus, the firstborn Son of God, had to be presented to the temple for circumcision eight days after His birth.

And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2:21 NASB)

Consequently, the eighth day and sonship are intimately connected.

Fifth, there is more, for Jesus was also resurrected from among the dead on the first day of the week or the eighth day, in accordance with the law of the wave sheaf that required the high priest to wave the sheaf of barley in the temple at the third hour on the day after the sabbath.

“He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.” (Leviticus 23:11 NASB)

It was on the eighth day that Jesus rose from the dead, ascended to the throne, and presented Himself to the Father at the exact moment the high priest waved the sheaf of barley in the temple on earth. This was Jesus' first ascension to the throne following His resurrection. After appearing to the Father, Jesus returned to His disciples to reveal Himself three times (John 21:14) until His final ascension as recorded in Acts 1:9.

Interestingly, the waving of the sheaf was also the starting point for Pentecost seven sabbaths later, which always fell on the eighth day.

‘You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths.’ (Leviticus 23:15 NASB)

Just as Jesus had been presented to the Father on the eighth day, so was the Pentecostal ecclesia of God presented to the Father, starting in that upper room on the eighth day 2,000 years ago.

Sixth, there is a greater presentation to come that pertains to the last feast, the eight-day Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-44) in which the first day and the eighth day were days of rest. On the first day, the people were to begin living in booths. This typifies the conquerors in Christ being transfigured into the image of the Son of God to become immortal and glorified sons of God; the glorious event that manifests the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ on earth.

On the eighth day, the same conquerors will literally be presented to the Father just as Jesus was literally presented to the Father 2,000 years ago. They are the wave sheaf of barley, the barley company, and the priests of God and of Christ (1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 20:6), priests according to the order to Melchizedek (Hebrews 7).

Seventh, there is another type of this seen in the consecration of Aaron and his sons as high priests. They remained in the tabernacle for a full seven days (Leviticus 8:35) and emerged on the eighth day for the Lord and His glory to appear to them.

Now it came about on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel ... for today the Lord will appear to you ... the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people (Leviticus 9:1, 4, 23 NASB).

In like fashion, the conquerors will be hidden as the temple of God, New Jerusalem, for seven days and appear in glory before the Father on the eighth day; after which, they will be manifested before all the people (or, the nations) as the sons of glory and of God (Romans 8:20-23). From their innermost being will flow rivers of living water (John 7:37-38) that will bring life and healing to all the nations as represented by the holy city, New Jerusalem (Revelation 22:1-3). Again, this will begin the kingdom of Christ on earth as the knowledge of the glory of the Lord fills the earth, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

We could say that the superabundant, satiating life of Christ will go forth throughout the earth through the manifested sons of God, *the corporate Christ* (first fruit anointed) and *the Lambkin*, both of which speak of *the Head* and *the Body*. Thus, sonship speaks of the superabundantness of the Son of God expressed in many sons of glory, and this is signified by the number 8 and the eighth day.