

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)

#05-1132

National Christmas Tree Topped

February 19, 2011

Right from the start, I warn you that this issue might be a bit off the wall, so to speak. At any rate, perhaps this will be useful to some in furthering their understanding of biblical numerology.

As I was perusing the news of the day, I was caught by the headline: "**National Christmas Tree toppled behind the White House.**" Of all the critical news of the day, with so much of it seemingly far more relevant, why would this one caption jump out at me?

The 42-foot Colorado blue spruce tree that fell on Saturday, February 19, 2011 had been planted behind the White House more than 32 years ago. Sustained winds of 25 miles per hour (mph) and gusts up to 50 mph swept through the nation's capital and caused the tree's trunk to snap at a point 4 feet above the ground.

Regardless of one's view about Christmas trees and the holiday itself, the fact of the matter is that this tree was a national symbol associated with the December holiday celebrating the birth of Christ. That the tree was reported as the Christmas tree, not the holiday tree or some other politically correct designation, associates it with something of God, even if in a cursory or not so biblical way.

Now, five significant numbers appear in this national news event: 4, 25, 32, 42, and 50. But first, let us look at the biblical meaning of each number (i.e., biblical numerology) in numeric order.

The number **4** signifies **the earth** or **the material creation of God**, even **the fullness of creation**. In Genesis 1:14-19, it was on the fourth day that God completed the restoration of the earth that was in ruin and waste. In other words, the material creation was restored, thus allowing for the populating of the earth with living creatures. This is borne out in creation itself, for there are four regions (north, south, east, and west), four elements (earth, air, fire, and water), four seasons (spring, summer, autumn, and winter), four kingdoms (mineral, vegetable, animal, and spiritual), four divisions of the day (morning, noon, evening, and night), and four phases of the moon (first quarter, new moon, last quarter, full moon). There are also four living creatures before the throne, symbolized as a lion, a calf, a man, and a flying eagle (Revelation 4:6-7). The four gospels depict Christ as each of these living creatures: Matthew proclaims: "**Behold the King,**" which depicts the **Lion**. Mark proclaims: "**Behold the Servant,**" which depicts the **Ox** (calf). Luke proclaims: "**Behold the Son of Man,**" which depicts the **Man**. John proclaims: "**Behold the Son of God,**" which depicts the **Eagle**. There are many more examples in scripture, but these few should serve to make the point.

The number **25** signifies **blessing**, especially as it relates to the **Holy Spirit**. In Hebrew, the number 25 is comprised of the letters *kaph*, which refers to **an open palm**, as in the act of giving, and *hey*, which refers to **inspiration** or **the breath of God**, as in the Holy Spirit. Putting these together, they speak of the blessing of the Holy Spirit. Also, 5 squared equals 25, and the number **5** signifies **grace**, which in itself signifies the **blessing of God**. In Genesis 8:6, Noah's name appears the 25th time in connection with opening the window to allow a fresh breeze into the ark, signifying the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that led to the release of the **doves**, also signifying the **Holy Spirit** (Matthew 3:16). In Genesis 25:11, Isaac's name appears the 25th time in reference to God blessing him. God's blessing fell upon several others when their names appeared in scripture for the 25th time: Jacob (Genesis 28:1), Israel (Genesis 48:8-22), Abraham (Genesis 19:29), Joseph (Genesis 39:6), and Joshua (Deuteronomy 31:23).

The number **32** signifies **covenant**. The 32nd time that Noah's name is mentioned in scripture refers to the covenant God made with him and his descendants: "**Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth**" (Genesis 9:9-10 NASB). Similarly, Abram's name appears the 32nd time with the account of the blessing of Melchizedek with the bread and the wine (Genesis 14:19), which speaks of the covenant of Christ: **For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins** (Matthew 26:28 NASB). Again, there are other examples but these will suffice.

The number **42** signifies **man's opposition to God** or **antichrist**. In the Revelation, we discover that the number 42 (months) appears twice, each time in reference to opposition to God: **They will tread under foot the holy city for 42 months** (Revelation 11:2 NASB). **There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for 42 months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven** (Revelation 13:5-6 NASB). However, the good news is that the number 42 means that the second coming of Christ and His kingdom of righteousness are on the heels of man's opposition.

Finally, the number **50** signifies the **Holy Spirit** or **Jubilee**. It was on the 50th day that the Holy Spirit came upon the 120 waiting in the upper room. Also, in the 50th year, the sons of Israel were called to celebrate a Jubilee in which all **debts were cancelled and liberty proclaimed** to all the inhabitants of the land (Leviticus 25:10).

Well, this is a brief explanation of the biblical meaning of these numbers. This leads to a question: Based on these numbers, could there be some spiritual or prophetic meaning to the toppling of the National Christmas Tree? I will leave it to you to decide. Perhaps, what follows is just like this poor dead tree that is now a pile of mulch.

When I read the article, I was immediately caught by the number 32. I knew it meant covenant, and I wondered if the toppled tree signified **a broken covenant**. Since the tree was a national monument on the grounds of the **White House**, it could refer to our government that has broken its covenant with God. After all, our national motto is "**In God We Trust.**" Have our national leaders turned from trusting God? From all the news of our day, I have to conclude that they, along with the whole nation, have. Could God be telling (i.e., warning) us that whatever covenant we had with Him as a nation is now broken, much like the ancient northern house of Israel broke their covenant with God, leading to their downfall, deportation, loss of national identity (name of *Israel*), and scattering throughout the nations? After all, as I have shared elsewhere, the argument could be made that the US is an Israelite nation.

Next, the tree grew to **42 feet** before its demise. Opposition to God is what brings down nations. Again, the ancient northern kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) fell due to their opposition to or broken covenant with God. Is this a sign that the US has become an enemy of God? When it fell, only **4 feet** of the trunk remained, which could signify that all creation groans **to be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God**, waiting eagerly for the manifestation of the sons of God (Romans 8:21-23). It also means that **38 feet** of it fell to the earth. Although not mentioned earlier, the number **38** signifies **slavery**. After refusing to enter the Promised Land, all the sons of Israel wandered in the wilderness for another 38 years. As a type of Israel, a man had an infirmity for 38 years (John 5:5). There are other mentions of 38 years in connection with events surrounding Samaria or the northern house of Israel (10 tribes) as they were about to go into slavery for their sin.

Dear brethren; God is warning us! **It is time to wake up, repent, and return to the Lord. Are you ready?** But there is good news; the tree was toppled by wind, which signifies the Holy Spirit. Whether a 25 or 50 mph wind hit the tree, we do not know, but either way, it speaks of the blessing of the Holy Spirit and a coming Jubilee. Our beloved Lord Jesus is coming, and the Holy Spirit is getting ready to blow across this land as never seen before. He will topple all that is in opposition to God, for **righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne** (Psalm 89:14). True liberty is coming!