

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)

#05-1145

The Number 186 in Light of the Quake

August 25, 2011

I must begin by acknowledging that what follows is subjective in nature, meaning I cannot prove it. However, I believe in a Sovereign God who rules **over the realm of mankind** (Daniel 4:32), and, as such, I do not believe in happenstance or coincidence. **There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries** (Daniel 2:28). Everything is being worked out in the history of man in accord with **God's eonian plan and purpose**. With this in mind, what follows should capture our attention.

Earlier this year, I reported that the **Washington National Christmas tree**, which was planted 32 years ago, toppled on February 19, 2011. At the time, I questioned if there was a message in this from God regarding our nation. Perhaps it signified that the nation that historically has taken pride in its motto "**In God We Trust**" no longer trusts God. Based on the number 32, I questioned if the toppled tree was a sign that, as a nation, we have broken our covenant with God upon which our nation was founded.

Now, **186 days later on August 23, 2011** (inclusive of this date), a 5.8 earthquake hit Mineral, Virginia that sent shock waves up and down the eastern seaboard from the southeast to the northeast.

As a result of this rare major quake, two national icons in Washington, D.C., the heart of the nation, experienced damage to the tops of their structures.

It was first reported that the **Washington National Cathedral** lost three **top stones**, which fell to the ground on the "**Pilgrim Street**" side.

Then, within a day, it was reported that the **Washington Monument**, which honors our first president, suffered a **four-foot, one-inch long crack in the stone of one of its triangular faces at the top of the monument**.

So, here we have the top stones of two national icons damaged by a rare major quake. It appears that God is speaking to us through the toppling of the national tree followed by the toppling or cracking of national top stones 186 days apart. Before looking at the number 186, a comment is in order about the cathedral top stones falling on Pilgrim Street.

The word *pilgrim* caught my attention. The **Pilgrims** were the first permanent settlers of the present-day Commonwealth of Massachusetts. They were what were called **English Separatists** or **Puritans** who broke away from the **Church of England** and traveled to America in 1620 to establish their own government based on the Bible. They wanted to create a **Bible commonwealth**. They separated because they believed that the work of the **Reformation** was not complete, and they sought to complete it in a new land where they would be free to do so. Based on the migration of the lost (10) tribes of Israel into Europe and the British Isles, it is most likely that these settlers were of the lost tribes. They even considered themselves to be the **New Israel**. Consequently, America was settled by Christian Israelites with the purpose of establishing the Kingdom of God, even New Jerusalem, in a new land. Unfortunately, no matter how motivated or even anointed they were, they were still in the era of Pentecost, not Tabernacles, and as such, their movement was destined to be **baked with leaven** [i.e., corruption] (Leviticus 23:17).

Could top stones falling from a cathedral (Christian symbol) onto a street named Pilgrim be God's way of revealing how far we have strayed from our roots as a nation? On the positive side, could He be telling us that the only remedy to our condition is Jesus, the one and only Top Stone? All our icons must be shaken to the ground to make way for the Crowned King. **He will bring forth the top stone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it [Him]!"** (Zechariah 4:7).

One further fact is that 186 years after the Pilgrims landed (1620-1806), five Williams College students prayed together one rainy afternoon and committed themselves "to send the Gospel to the Pagans of Asia, and to the disciples of Mohammed." From this commitment to the Lord, **America's first foreign missionary society** was formed in 1810.

This leads to the number 186. According to Bonnie Gaunt in her book *Jesus Christ--The Number of His Name* (1992, Adventures Unlimited Press), "interplay of numbers is not unusual in the gematria of the scriptures. Numbers are often reversed or rearranged in a different order." She points out that the number 186 can be reversed to 681, as well as rearranged to the number 618. "Just as the Hebrew text reads from right to left, and Greek text reads from left to right, so the numbers can be read both ways, and are so used many times in scripture" (page 154).

If we accept this understanding, the numbers 186 and 681 reveal something quite significant.

The word **Golgotha**, the place of Jesus' death, has a gematria of **186**.

In reference to the cross, the declaration, **"It is finished"** (Revelation 16:17) has a gematria of **186**.

In reference to New Jerusalem, the promise **"And there shall be no more curse"** has a gematria of **186**.

The time between **Jesus' death on the cross** and the end of the 7th day and the beginning of the **8th day of the Feast of Tabernacles** was **186 days** (inclusive of the last day). The 8th day speaks of Tabernacles and New Jerusalem.

In Greek, the phrase **"the seventh day"** has a gematria of **681**. The 7th day signifies that the 8th day of the Feast of Tabernacles follows. Thus, the 7th day leads to **the last day, the great day of the feast** (John 7:37).

Finally, the phrase **"The Lord shall be King over all the earth"** (Zechariah 14:9) has a gematria of **618**.

But there is more. The words **Calvary**, **Lambs**, and **Lampstand**, as well as the phrase **"He is the Rock,"** each have a gematria of 301. Multiplying 301 (Calvary) by .618 (The Lord shall be King over all the earth) yields 186 (the great day, the 8th day).

So, with the gematria of these scriptural references, we come full circle. We start with the Cross and end with the last day, the great day of the **Feast of Tabernacles**, which speaks of the **first resurrection** and **transfiguration** of the conquerors who are the first fruits of **New Jerusalem, the temple in the Lord** and **dwelling of God in spirit** (Ephesians 2:21, 22), full of living water, which speaks of the life of the Son of God and the fullness of the Spirit of God.

(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.'**" (John 7:37-38 NASB)

And he showed me **a pure river of water of life**, bright as crystal, coming forth out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. (Revelation 22:1 LITV)

(10) And he carried me in spirit onto a great and high mountain, and showed me **the great city, holy Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God**, (11) **having the glory of God**. And **its light** was like a very precious stone, as a jasper stone, being clear as crystal.... (Revelation 21:10-11 LITV)

And its light! Do you know that the speed of light is 186,000 mps? Here is yet another meaning of the number 186. **The Light of the World** is coming to shine through His many sons of glory, the saints in Light (Hebrews 2:10; Colossians 1:12). This is truly good news!