

Destiny Newsletter

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May 2000

by
Dave Breese
**THERE'S A
GREAT DAY
COMING**

One of the most universal characteristics of our world condition, which affects everything and everybody, is incompleteness. Perfection continues to escape all of us and all of our efforts; so the results of our endeavors are short of perfect - short of the fulfillment of our well-laid human plans. The same goes, of course, for human knowledge. This is always the case because our knowledge is partial and incomplete. The Apostle Paul points this up when he says, "Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (I Cor. 13:12). The characteristic of everything which we think we know in this world is partiality, we only know in part. This is easy to show when we remind ourselves that no one knows what light is, what life is, what electricity is, how the mind influences the body, or where the wind comes from. In fact, speaking about the wind and everything else, our Lord said, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest

*But then shall
I know even as
I am known.*

THEN SHALL WE KNOW

the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth" (John 3:8). Interestingly, He finished this expression by saying, "So is every one that is born of the Spirit."

Because we do not know everything, we are wise to be humble about our so-called "great knowledge." Thomas Edison reminded us that no person alive knows more than one 1/100th of one percent of anything. Our knowledge is, in fact, so limited that we have no recourse except to turn to the stated principle that "the just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17). Speaking strongly about this, the Scripture says, "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (I Cor. 1:19,20).

Mere Human Intellect

We are wise, therefore, to beware of the person whose only credentials are earthly knowledge. The Scripture says, "The world by wisdom knew not God" (I Cor. 1:21), which says it all about the capacities of the mere human intellect.

But let us note that after Paul talks about human partiality, he gives us a prophetic promise. Every person who seeks after wisdom or fulfillment of any kind should rejoice when reading, "But

then shall I know even as also I am known" (I Cor. 13:12). Yes, the prophecy of the Word of God is that there is coming a day of perfect knowledge, total realization of reality, a wonderful understanding of everything. Think of it! Perfect knowledge will one day arrive for all of us who know Jesus Christ as personal Savior. With such a promise, we should all be delighted.

Of what will that knowledge consist? First of all, we can be sure that it will be a first-hand knowledge of the great reality — heaven! For many Christians, heaven is an entirely too distant place. It is ephemeral, cloudlike and "unreal." Many foolishly think that the physical realities of this world are more substantial than the spiritual realities which we sense in this world and will know completely when we go to heaven. Nothing could be further from the truth.

These bodies in this world are, in fact, passing finite things. The thing that does not fade nor pass is the eternal reality of heaven. Concerning heaven, the Scripture says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (I Cor. 2:9). Happily, we have a partial sense of heaven, for the Scripture says, "But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (I Cor. 2:10). Alas, how wonderful it will be when we move from the shadow to the substance.

We must learn that this world is not final reality, but rather it is the prelude to reality. It is but the introduction to that fabulous life which will be ours when we move from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant. We will touch the streets of gold, we will examine the mansions, we will partake of the exquisite cuisine - yes, we shall know even as we are known.

Happily, we also are sure that we will "know" Jesus Christ, seeing Him face-to-face. While we are in this body, we fulfill the Scripture that says, "*We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord*" (II Cor. 5:8). Preceding this, however, we are at home in the body and, therefore, we are absent from the Lord. This is our human condition, but it will certainly not be the mode of reality that we participate in when we are in heaven.

Glad Reunions

Think of it! We shall be in the living presence of Jesus Christ. To contemplate the moment of receiving His tender embrace is itself wonderful beyond description.

THE STORY OF JESUS FOR CHILDREN

From The Jesus Film Project



See enclosed order form

Let us also remember that we shall know our loved ones. Heaven could hardly be heaven without recognizing Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa, wife or husband, and children once again. Glad reunions will mark those days. We will not even have to leave to get home early because there is no night there.

Also, we shall see and know the saints who have gone before. Every generation has produced distinguished leaders whom we have not yet met. We shall meet them there; what delightful conversations those will bring.

In addition to all this, there are a thousand facts, ideas, details of life and eternity which are unknown to us now. In that day of perfect knowledge, we shall understand it all. Knowledge will then be perfect and total wisdom will be available to each of us.

Final Answers

Considering all of this, there is a wonderful fact that we should remember even now. It is this. Final answers must await our arrival at heaven. Yes, through a study of the Word of God we can learn much, for it contains all that pertains to life and godliness. However, with finite minds and human brains, it is impossible now for us to understand it all. But over there, in that land of fadeless day, we will know. "We'll understand it better by and by" is a valid line from the old song. The person who demands that all questions be answered here is asking for the impossible. The person who now lives by faith and is totally confident of perfect knowledge "over there" - that person will walk in confidence and capability. In this world, we are promised everything we need to know. In that world, we are promised all knowledge. Yes, we will know it all!

The Great Divide

There's an ongoing tragedy in American life today and it has to do with crossing the Great Divide.

What do we mean by this? There are millions of marvelous young men and women who are raised in our churches and Sunday schools across the nation. At an early age, they received Christ and moved on with every intention of walking with the Lord. Through grade school and high school, they successfully faced the problems and temptations of young life. We were all proud of them.

Then they came to the Great Divide! They left their home environs and went away to the university campus. At the university, they quickly found themselves in the midst of moral, intellectual, spiritual and ideological pressures that, in many cases, were too great for them. The result, in all too many instances, was spiritual disaster. Yes, on the university campus, millions of young people crossed the Great Divide and we do not see them returning. They found themselves unable to answer the anti-Christian arguments of professors and the anti-God moral pressures which came both from teachers and fellow students. Here, too many of our precious young people succumbed to the world and lost their identity--and many times their lives--under a cloud of godlessness that too often is the case in the colleges of America.

What can we do? Check the enclosed insert for excellent material to challenge young minds.

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF THE EXPLOSION OF KNOWLEDGE.

These are amazing times in which to be alive! The world is progressing-more rapidly than any of us could have expected-towards the "Brave New World" of the Antichrist.

One of the most irrefutable signs that we are living in the Last Days is recorded in the Bible, when God told Daniel: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4).

The exponential increase of knowledge is a phenomenon that is particularly unique to this generation alone. The explosion of knowledge that has accompanied the advent of the computer age is unparalleled in all of history! From the time of Christ until 1950, the sum of human knowledge had only increased by a factor of ten-- that over a period of nearly 2,000 years. But since 1980, the grand total of human knowledge has increased over a thousand-fold! There has never been another generation in the history of the world that has seen such an explosion of knowledge!

WE HAVE BEEN WATCHING how that explosion of knowledge is working out in our world in the area of human genetic research. As recently as a month ago, it was believed that the mapping of the human genome would be complete as early as the end of this year. But in April came the surprise announcement from Celera Genomics, that it had entirely completed the mapping of the human genetic sequence for the first time. This is well ahead of even the earliest predictions and thrusts the world into an area of

moral and scientific turmoil.

Will the mapping of the human genome finally lead to the cure for cancer, Alzheimer's, aging, and the like? Will it lead to the end of personal medical privacy as doctors begin searching the genes of their patients to see if they may have genetic tendencies towards disease? And if this happens, will insurance companies be allowed to deny coverage to people who may be deemed "at risk" for certain diseases?

The off-shoot of it all could be the insistence of the government, sometime in the future, that people submit to genetic manipulation to "re-engineer" their genetic structure to avoid disease or risk being locked out of the hospital when a medical emergency does arise. We could well be entering the "Brave New World" of the Antichrist very, very soon!

ISLAM IS ON THE RISE throughout the world, using the wealth of Islamic oil producing nations to fund research and purchases of technology that could be used by terrorists to further the Islamic cause. Despite the peaceful overtures of the Pope, Islam remains the desperate enemy of Christianity and Judaism. And just as we Christians will not rest until we have told the world about our wonderful Savior, Islam will not rest until it has wiped Christianity and the Jews from the face of Planet Earth.

The possibility of terrorist attack--and even nuclear blackmail--continues to increase. It may well be that before this page arrives at your door, there will be yet another bloody incident of Islamic terrorism perpetrated upon an innocent and

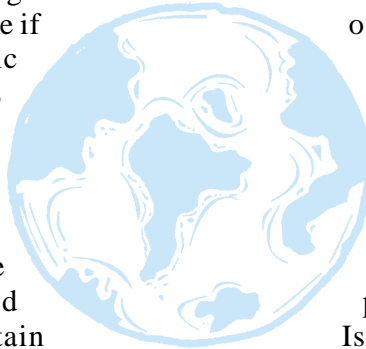
unsuspecting populace to draw attention to the Islamic cause. Islam remains the fastest growing religion in the world and you and I would do well to keep "our eyes open, our heads low, and our powder dry" as we move towards the terrors of the End-Time wars.

ONE OF THE GREAT PLAYERS IN THE END-TIMES WARS

will be the nation of Russia. The Book of Ezekiel describes Russia's prophesied invasion of Israel in chapters 38-39. In the days of Boris Yeltsin, many of us could not imagine a scenario that would draw Russia into battle in the Middle East. But now that Vladimir Putin has been elected president of Russia on his own, we must look to see what kind of man he really is to get a picture of the things which are to come.

Putin was trained in the Soviet KGB, rising to a position high within their ranks. When "democracy" came to Russia and the Soviet Union fell apart, the KGB was reorganized as the FSB. But a change in name does not a new service make. And as head of the FSB, Vladimir Putin established himself as a spy among spies - a secret service man of immense cunning and cold calculation.

It will take a man like Putin to pull Russia together. The fledgling Russian economy has been held hostage by one of the most powerful underworld organizations in the history of mankind. The modern "oligarches" act as feudal lords, robbing the nation of its economic profit to line their own pockets, while the general population struggles to live on a subsistence income.



NATURE



By whose behest is sunshine led
to warm my upturned face?
My eyes are closed in evening sleep,
by what forbearing grace?
The massive oceans mighty tide
with breakers in its care
The snow that mantles mountain steep
the gorge—why is it there?

The days, the years in cadence sure
course through the mist called time.
Why am I sure a towering will
guides with a hand sublime?
Why do I surely also know
that all perceive the same,
That everyone in all the earth
knows of a heavenly frame?

For in the heart of all mankind
a knowledge firmly lives.
A voice that says “Believe, believe,”
a mind that knowledge gives,
A soul like ours that waits for us
beyond the evening shade;
Who in the meantime shows Himself
through all that He has made.

How do I know His tender love
upon me is outpoured?
He in His Word presents Himself
as living, loving Lord,
Who in creation shows His power
and on the cross His love,
So we can step through nature’s veil
with Him to dwell above.

Weep then for those who know Him not,
who by their choice are blind,
Whom caring nature’s open door
they cannot, will not find.
Rejoice with those who in a rose
their great creator see,
Who finding Him who made the rose
are blest eternally.

Dave Breese

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"David, about 25 years ago my family and I moved into the New Jersey area and I am so thankful that God led me to the Hawthorne Gospel Church. That is where I met you the first time. I remember several of your sermons. . . example--The one on I Cor. 15:1-8 and winding up with Therefore. . . verse 58! And then that sermon on II Peter 1:15-21 where v. 19 states 'We have also a more sure word of prophecy'. . . more sure than the voice of God in v. 18! I listen to you every Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m." – Charleston, SC

"Some thirty years ago, God's Word was presented at our home in Park Ridge, IL. The messenger was a product of Virginia Latham's teaching. The Word took root and is still growing!! Thank you God. Thank you Dave Breese."
– Wheeling, IL

"Please accept our small gift. Stay faithful to the work for it is a great help to many." – West Memphis, AR

"I offer my thanks for your wisdom, knowledge and understanding of the Word. The messages have been a source of encouragement and learning as well as a help in my Christian walk. May God grant you the peace and joy of being in His service." – Hagerstown, MD

"Thank you so very much for your wonderful newsletters and bulletins, etc. Both my husband and I read them and we certainly agree with everything you write. You give us great comfort in these days of wild and strange winds that are blowing among people, claiming to be God's people. If we can keep looking up, everything is so exciting--I can hardly wait to see Jesus--nothing but nothing matters but Jesus."
– Burlington, Ontario, CANADA



WORTH QUOTING

"Freedom is not a gift to be bestowed upon us by other men, but a gift that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature." — *Benjamin Franklin*

"All the distinctive features in the superiority of our Republican institutions are derived from the teachings of Scripture." — *Edward Everett*

"Without Him I understand nothing; without Him all is darkness. . . Every period had its manias. I regard Atheism as a mania. It is the malady of the age. You could take my skin from me more easily than my faith in God." — *Henri Jean Fabre*

"The Bible is the truest utterance that ever came by alphabetic letters from the soul of man, through which, as through a window divinely open, all men can look into the stillness of eternity, and discern in glimpses there far-distant, long-forgotten home."
— *Thomas Carlyle*

"What is liberty without wisdom and without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice, and madness, without restraint. Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites." — *Edmond Burke*

"Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks."
— *Phillips Brooks*

But especially . . .

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q. What will heaven be like?

A. We must say that heaven will be a thousand times more wonderful than any joys that we know in this world. And so it is that Scripture says, *"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him"* (1 Cor. 2:9). One of the touching descriptions of heaven is, *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away"* (Rev. 21:4). The last few chapters of the Book of The Revelation gives a description of heaven which cannot be surpassed by any human commentary.

Q. Can we Christians really change the world?

A. The answer is yes and no. Christ did pronounce believers to be very special people when He said, *"Ye are the salt of the earth . . . Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid"* (Matt. 5:13,14). The Bible teaches and history confirms that Christians have definitely changed the probable course of history, at given times and in given places. Our human activity should, therefore, be invested for the basic purpose of preserving our spiritual opportunity. Ultimately, however, *"evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived"* (II Timothy 3:13). The final state of society will not be a

utopia, but rather the Great Tribulation. So, we will not finally change the prophesied end of history, but both the great local and global changes have already been produced by consecrated Christian activity.

Q. What can I do to have God work through me?

A. It is not, strictly speaking, true that God works "through" us. That would make us simple conduits or even automatons. Rather, the Scripture says, *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"* (Phil. 2:13). The results externally come then as a result of cooperation between the will of man and the will of God. God works in us and it's our responsibility to pursue that inward leading and strengthening so as to accomplish a result "on the outside" to the glory of God. By the same token, it is not correct to say that God "controls" us, but rather He "leads" us by His Spirit (Rom. 8:14).

Q. Many people are talking about success in life. What is the key to success?

A. We must first of all properly define the word "success." If this means fame, fortune, popularity, possessions - then the question is irrelevant; for these things are not success. All efforts intended to produce these things are vain. (Don't buy the touted cassettes, books and programs that offer us success.) But, if success is defined as properly doing the will of God, then there is a great key. Christians must consecrate their lives to Christ and then success can be theirs. What is success? It is to be enabled of God to so live so that one day I can

stand before Christ and hear Him say, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant"* (Matt. 25:21).

Q. I have been the object of child abuse and I hate my parents. What shall I do?

A. Concerning every problem or resentment of the past, the Bible tells us to forget *"those things which are behind,"* and to reach *"forth unto those things which are before."* Whatever may be the burdens we carry, we are to *"press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 3:13,14). The past cannot be changed, but the future can still be marvelous for the Lord. So don't hate your parents, yourself or anybody else. Rather, commit yourself to be constrained by the love of Christ to be a good witness for Him.

Q. I have committed many bad sins in my lifetime; what must I do to be saved?

A. We can be very happy that the Bible says, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8). Every person is a sinner — *"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* But eternal life is available to anyone who will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank God that salvation is by grace and no matter how terrible a sinner anyone may be, he is cleansed whiter than the snow when he believes that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for our sins on the Cross of Calvary. Almost all religions believe in salvation by some kind of works. Do not believe this--but remember, the salvation that Jesus gives comes to us by grace alone.

THINKING TOGETHER

OVERCOMING THE WORLD

The totality of experience for nearly 100 percent of the people of this world is the world itself. The stimulus, the ideas, the direction, the motivation which impacts their lives comes virtually every minute of a 24-hour day from that constant system which the Bible calls "the world."

It, therefore, is inevitable that the major shaping of the lives of virtually everyone comes from the pressures left, right, strong, weak, up, down, around, which originate in the world. The consequence is that virtually all individuals are simply the products of the world's ideas, thoughts, motivations. "The world is too much with us" said the poet, and this is almost a universal truth.

In the providence of God, however, there comes to each of us an occasional moment of clear lucidity, when we see quite obviously that we have been mere lumps of clay, shaped by the world. Along with this moment of perception, we may experience a touch of sadness, saying to ourselves, "I am merely a product and victim of my circumstances. What can I do to transcend the world and be shaped more completely by heaven's purposes?" In such a moment we are coming close to obedience to the Scripture which says, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever"* (I Jn. 2:15-17). Here we are reminded again that the worldly process by which we allow our lives to be shaped is very wrong. Minding earthly things and

becoming experts on the issues of time, we face the danger of missing the voice of God and the hand of heaven's guidance. "I am hopelessly trapped by the world" is the sad testimony of most in our time.

Can this trap be avoided? Can we be delivered from a wasted life that is simply spent in adapting ourselves to this world's system? The question becomes more pressing and poignant when we remember that the Bible teaches that a person who minds *"earthly things"* (Phil. 3:19) may well be one of *"the enemies of the cross of Christ"* (Phil. 3:18). Overcoming, successfully resisting, triumphing over the world is, therefore, a really necessary thing. It is the key to real life! How then can I be strong enough, perceptive enough, jealous enough to triumph over the world in personal life and human activity?

The Great Question

Knowing that we would finally come to this question, John has given us an answer.

"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I Jn. 5:5). What a promise! Here we are told that there is a way in which concerned individuals can be strong enough to resist the pressures of this corrupt society. Who is the person who can live such a victorious life? It is not necessarily the person who is smart or strong. Rather, it is the individual who believes something. It is the one who believes the simple proposition that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

This deserves further thought. How does believing in the deity of Christ make me an overcomer of the world? "It seems too simple," many will say. How does this work? We can understand this by facing some

by *Dave Breese*

simple propositions.

The first is that if I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, then His Word is final truth.

When I believe this, I have settled the critical issue of our time, which is the epistemological problem. That is the question, "What is truth?" If Christ is the Son of God, then I need no longer run around from one guru to another looking for the truth. What is final truth? It is the Word of Jesus Christ, the Bible. So, faith in the deity of Christ establishes the Bible forever as the unfailing, unimpeachable guidebook of life. The believer, therefore, no longer wandering and leaderless, has a fixed course to follow. It is the instruction of the Word of Jesus Christ.

Also, if I believe that Christ is the Son of God, His presence is ultimate reality. One is amazed at the people of our time who stumble around asking, "Who am I, why am I here, where am I going, what is reality?" The question of the ultimate nature of things, what is reality, is answered by the deity of Christ. Reality is His presence with me and my presence with Him. Again and again the Bible teaches that the Christian is "in Christ" and Christ is "in him." Our environment then is settled. We are not in Chicago, in New York, in Los Angeles, but we are in Christ. Believing this, the Christian will never be lonely again. He is the fulfillment of one of the Bible's great expressions, *"Christ in you, the hope of glory"* (Col. 1:27).

Remember, finally, if Jesus Christ is the Son of God, His triumph is inevitable. Who will finally win the battle for the world, the universe? The answer — Jesus Christ. Whatever, therefore, may be the temporary hegemony, the leadership of someone in this world, all human vic-

tories finally amount to nothing. The kings of the earth and all the important people are pitiful posturers by comparison to our King - the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Final Scene

The inevitable triumph of Christ is taught in hundreds of places in the Word of God. Think of the picture, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war" (Rev. 19:11).

Who is this person? He is "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:16). He is Jesus Christ.

Yes, there is no doubt about it; Jesus Christ will triumph in history. We can instantly learn from this that all other loyalties are as nothing when compared to allegiance to Jesus Christ. In fact, it is far better to die for His cause that will ultimately triumph than it is to live for a mere human cause that will ultimately fail. Whose triumph is inevitable? Jesus Christ — that's who!

All of these notable things and many more are latent within the conviction that Jesus Christ is God. The individual

that believes that — the deity of Christ — will move to a higher plane of strength, of capability and that amorphous thing called "spiritual victory." This pitiful world is not inexorable and it ought not to control us. Rather, inspired and directed by Jesus Christ under the conviction that He is Lord, we can move to a great program of personal victory and great spiritual conquest.

Remember again the person who overcomes the world is the one who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. When Christ the Lord walks with us in His power and purpose, anything is possible. I trust that He is walking with you today.

Congratulations Katie!



Katie, granddaughter of Dave and Carol Breese, will graduate in May from Trinity Christian High School.

FINALLY



Dear Special Friend of Christian Destiny,

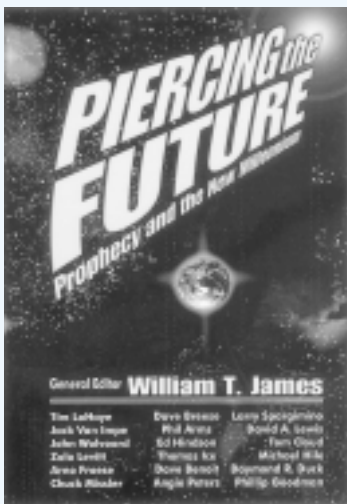
"Behold, I have set before thee an open door" — What a promise that is! This we have seen — an open door of opportunity — in the ministry of Christian Destiny. What a privilege it has been to reach out in every direction via the amazing media of radio, television, the printed page and in many other ways. Consequently, we have seen boys and girls, men and women, people from every background come to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior. Christians have been encouraged in the Lord; they have been stirred to a new level of service for the Lord and witness for Christ. Carol and I rejoice each day at the privilege of being one of the small factors being used of God to bring the message of the unsearchable riches of Christ to this generation. Because of this, we rejoice in your help as well. Many have written with the promise of earnest prayer and many as well with special financial support for the ministry of Christian Destiny. For you we are grateful beyond words. We are so happy when you take the time to write — please keep it up. Thank you as well for praying for this ministry and being, along with us, a part of what God is doing in this generation. Thank you again for your friendship and the part that you are playing in the advancing of the Gospel through Christian Destiny.

Faithfully yours,

David W. Breese
 David W. Breese, President
 Christian Destiny, Inc.

PIERCING THE FUTURE

Prophecy and the New Millennium
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