

Destiny Newsletter

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September 2000

THE ELECTION THAT COUNTS

by
Dave Breese

NO RE-COUNT ALLOWED

We are, of course, in the midst of an election year. The activity of the next few weeks will decide who will be the president of the United States for the next four years. Vying for the ascendancy will be the Republicans, the Democrats and yes, the 3rd party candidates. At the consummation of this campaign, either George W. Bush or Al Gore will be elected as president of the United States. Or perhaps one of the 3rd party candidates will be victorious—something which is highly unlikely. Conversations everywhere will be occupied with the question, “Who will win the presidential election of 2000?”

The outcome will be important because our next president will be the leader of the one remaining empire in the world and possess enormous human influence. In a very special way, the election of 2000 will go down in history.

However, there is a far more important election that must be considered by us all. This is the

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election that really matters. It is described in the Bible when God says that Christians are “*Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ*” (I Pet. 1:2). Here we have presented to us an election that is connected with the will of God and reaches from time into eternity. This election is of infinitely greater importance than the choosing of mere human leaders. Human elections merely put into temporary positions of power “*the princes of this world, that come to nought*” (I Cor. 2:6). Yes, human elections are a very small thing compared to being a member of “*the elect*” before God. The election that really counts is divine election.

This subject, despite its importance, is unknown to many Christians and misunderstood by many more. This being the case, we should think again about this most important subject. To understand election as presented in the Scripture, we should note a number of considerations . . .

1. Divine election is “according to the foreknowledge of God.” This means that election is a special standing before God that comes to the individual on the basis of divine foreknowledge. God

foreknows; He sees in advance that we will accept Christ as personal Savior and become His children. He therefore elects us on the basis of our faith already having been exercised in Christ.

2. Election is “unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.” Notice that we are here told that we are the object of the changeless intention, the unbreakable plan of God, that, having been saved, we will be brought to the place of perfect conformity to the will of God. The Apostle Paul says this same thing, “*Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved*” (Eph. 1:5,6). Here again we learn that election, predestination is unto conformity to Christ.

In salvation, we exercise faith in the finished work of Christ, we choose Him in response to the invitation that “whosoever will.” In election, we, now saved, are sealed by God unto becoming “*holy and without blame before him in love*” (Eph. 1:4). Predestination is, therefore, not unto salvation but unto Christian maturity. It is the saved who are elected. It is the lost who are invited. Election, therefore, has a

condition - that condition is "faith unto salvation." God, foreknowing our salvation, chooses us to be "*conformed to the image of his Son*" (Rom. 8:29).

3. Election brings the promise of security. The believer in the Lord Jesus can know without a doubt that he has everlasting life. This gift of life is based on his faith in Christ. The gift is confirmed by election, which is the promise that God will work inexorably and inevitably to bring the believer to conformity with Christ. Because of this--this promise of eternal destiny which cannot be broken - the believer can walk in total confidence. He is confident that Christ walks with him - indeed, lives in him --today. In addition, he has total confidence that at the end of life's journey, he will arrive safely on the other shore. The Christian doctrine of election gives great meaning to the promise of Christ extended to all believers, "*I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand*" (Jn. 10:28-29).

How sad that there are Christians who do not know this great truth of divine election. As a result, they miss the assurance of salvation and daily wonder. They ask, "Am I truly saved today?" or "Have I been good enough to retain salvation?" These are the questions of spiritual novices who are untutored in the Word of God. What a contrast this is to the

Christian who knows the Scriptures and, as a consequence, walks fearlessly in this world and confidently toward heaven.

In today's merely human elections, the victors will be forgotten in a few short years. By contrast, we who are "the elect of God" will never be forgotten by our Heavenly Father, not for time and not for eternity. To be the elect of God is, therefore, an infinitely greater privilege and more valuable status than anything human politics has to offer.

Being the elect of God, we can say with confidence, "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son that he might be the firstborn among many brethren*" (Rom. 8:28,29).

Because this is true, we thrill to the announcement, "*Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*" (Rom. 8:30-32).

Indeed, it is a great, great thing to be a Christian.

THE COLLEGIATE LETTER during this year ahead will discuss such subjects as Christian philosophy, science and the Bible, evolution, personal fulfillment, winning over depression, life planning, love, marriage, and especially, the will of God.

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THE BIBLICAL PATTERN FOR LEADERS

by Dave Breese



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THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

ONCE AGAIN, JERUSALEM has taken center-stage before the eyes of an onlooking world. Yes, the international spotlight is again focusing world attention upon Jerusalem and Israel and even though the recent peace talks have been temporarily suspended or at least delayed, it surely couldn't be long before another round of negotiations are initiated. And that by leaders who continue to naively believe that they will be able to bring to pass this elusive dream of peace that the world so desperately wants to believe is possible.

The main point of contention continues to be Jerusalem itself. According to an article in the July 24th issue of Newsweek, Arafat and the PLO have continued to demand that Jerusalem be given to the Palestinian Arabs and be designated as the undivided capital of a heretofore non-existent Palestinian state. Of course, the Jews have emphatically stated--and rightly so--that Jerusalem shall remain the "eternal and undivided" capital of Israel. **A word of warning** to the principal players in this drama is in order. It is absolutely imperative that they be reminded of what God says in His word through His prophet Zechariah. In Chapter Twelve, verses 1-3, God states that He will make Jerusalem a "*cup of trembling*" in the hands of the surrounding nations and "*a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces.*" Surely we see this prophecy beginning to be

fulfilled before our very eyes! Another warning is found in Zechariah 2:8, where the Lord says, in speaking of Jerusalem and Israel, that "*he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.*"

Those who burden themselves with Israel will have to answer to Israel's God and it makes no difference who they are or claim to be. Woe to that person or nation who would dare to lift a finger against God's chosen people. Perhaps we should again read the Book of Zechariah. We have available a study that you will find to be of interest. May we suggest our 3-part study on "The Book of Zechariah" which is available in audios (\$5 each) or videos (\$20 each) along with free study guides?

FROM THE LAND "where thinking is just too much trouble" comes a very disturbing headline: "Activists seeking 'legal personhood' for great apes." The article goes on to say, "sometime in the next decade, a chimpanzee will have its day in court, and on that day it will be decided if chimps are people too." Lawyers in what is called the Great Ape Legal Project hope, through a series of legal precedents, to "raise the status of great apes from property to people" and secure for them the same basic legal rights and protections under the law that humans enjoy. However ludicrous and absurd this may sound to those of us who have not dispensed with our basic logical and moral



sensibilities, many culture watchers believe that our country's social and intellectual climate is ripe for just such a thing to occur in the next few years. This, my friend, is just where unquestioning loyalty to and belief in the unproven and unprovable--and by the way, untrue--**theory of evolution** has taken us as a society and culture after a century and a half of its unholy and illogical influence. At first, we were told that "humans are just animals." Now the next "logical" step is for them to try to tell us that "animals are people too."

HOWLS OF INDIGNATION have been emanating from the evolution camps in Kansas and throughout the nation over the decision of the Kansas Board of Education to re-write science standards for Kansas school children and return to local control all decisions regarding the teaching of evolution. The main stream media isn't telling the public the underlying reason behind the B.O.E.'s decision. It had been the hope and intention of the proponents of evolution to force--in a "coup de grace" against all rival theories of origin--the mandatory teaching of evolution as absolute scientific fact, not just theory. (They call it the "Unifying Principal of Science.") The B.O.E. wisely rejected this move, realizing it would not be in the realm of good science and for this have been pilloried in the press. Incidentally, the teaching of evolution has not been outlawed in Kansas.

THE CHOOSING



Twelve kinds of wonder
 Ten kinds of thrill
 That God has endowed us
 With two words, "I will"
 In loving permission
 He whispers, "You may"
 We're free moral agents
 What can we say?

Upheld in His sovereignty
 His universe stands
 Each infinite detail
 Held fast in His hands.
 Where nothing may vary
 From His precise plan
 No alternate mind
 But then . . .
 He made man!

Within him He placed
 The power to choose
 For good or for evil
 To win or to lose.
 With the image of God
 Anchored deep in his being
 He communes with his Lord
 And by faith waits the seeing.

The loving experiment
 Heaven has designed
 An alternative will
 Though often maligned.
 Is the reason for living
 The essence of life
 By this is explained
 The joys and the strife.

So, choices do matter
 Commitments still count
 The law that we live by
 Came down from the mount
 Guaranteeing us freedom
 From the most to the least
 Marking always the difference
 'Tween the man and the beast.

Let therefore the person
 Who would live life aright
 Be shrewd in his choosing
 'Neath heaven's bright light.
 Led by the Spirit
 Blest from on high
 We follow the pathway
 That leads to the sky.

by Dave Breese

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Your radio programs have been a blessing to me, and I pray the Lord’s blessing upon the work you have so faithfully carried on...I pray for continual strength and guidance as you seek to continue to carry out the Lord’s work. People are in need of enlightenment.”
– Hillsboro, KS

“Just wanted to let you know how much my husband and I enjoy and are inspired by your Destiny Newsletters--especially the July issue...Thank you for your humbleness in explaining the truth of God’s Word. I have been a Christian for 21 years now and have found out that you and John MacArthur do not add or take away from the Word.” – Lake Charles, LA

“We were among those present when you took part in a Prophecy Conference in North Long Beach, California years ago – when each of the speakers gave a five-minute testimony of how they came to the Lord. Remember? It was so good.” – China Hills, CA

“I am sending this to support the printing of your newsletter. I am always happy to read it and agree with everything you say. I have almost discontinued receiving all of the other materials with exception of a few, including yours, that are standing firm...I am glad to hear that you do not intend to compromise. . .” – Fairview Park, OH

“We, along with our group of intercessors, will be praying for God's Will to be accomplished in each of your lives. ‘That He would grant you according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man.’ We will pray for the entire month of August, 2000, expecting our Lord to do a mighty work in your midst.”-Fraser, MI

“I thank God for your stand in Christ, for God! The article, ‘Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled’ from July 2000 Destiny Newsletter healed my heart. I had been so anxious about pleasing my sister-in-law thinking that would be my wholeness. Ha, the devil is so tricky. God almighty shone His light that day I read this teaching. It brought hope back and my salvation became evident. It is so funny how we can forget our most precious gift sometimes. Thank God He understands our weaknesses too. God knows we are dust.”--Warren, RI

WORTH QUOTING

“Experience shows that success is due less to ability than to zeal. The winner is he who gives himself to his work, body and soul.”
— Buxton

“I am fully assured that God does not, and therefore that men ought not to require any more of man than this, to believe the Scripture to be God’s Word, and to endeavor to find the true sense of it, and to live according to it.”
— Chillingworth

“The world’s a stage, where God’s omnipotence, His justice, knowledge, love, and providence do act as parts.” — Du Bartas

“All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.” — Emerson

“Goodness is the only investment that never fails.” — Thoreau

“Our life is always deeper than we know, is always more divine than it seems, and hence we are able to survive degradations and despairs, which otherwise must engulf us.”
— James

“There was never yet a truly great man that was not at the same time truly virtuous.” — Franklin

But especially . . .

“That in every thing you are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you” (I Cor. 1:5,6).



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q: According to the Scriptures, what should the government do for people?

A: This question allows us to remind ourselves that governments have moved beyond their responsibilities to an absurd and dangerous degree in our time. The Scriptures say (Rom. 13) that governments should be a terror to evil works and an encouragement to good works. Government should not be the participant, but rather the umpire in the activities of people. Too much government control destroys human volition and then life itself loses its point and purpose. When the umpire leaves his position, picks up a bat and plays in the game, then the game is over. Presumptuous government in our time certainly will soon mean that the game is over.

Q: Why do governments fail?

A: There are certainly many reasons, but the root reason we must consider. The Scriptures say, *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God”* (Psalm 9:17). In the last analysis, the failure of government is not simply foolish economics or weird voting patterns. The Bible says that everything is built on a spiritual base. When a government loses its spiritual base, it is but a physical thing unprotected by God. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn said the reason for the failure of the Soviet Union was *“they have forgotten God.”* In

this, there lies a sage advice for all governments.

Q: What must rulers do to properly lead the governments?

A: Happily, we have a precise answer to that question. King David said, *“The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God”* (II Samuel 23:2,3). Above all else, the ruler must be God-fearing and just. If he intends to lead, he must be well-reputed for moral living, spiritual insight and divine wisdom. Nothing else will suffice at any time, and especially in a world like this.

Q: What should the people do in the midst of a government?

A: Christ told us that we should render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and unto God the things that are God’s. We are to render tribute to whom tribute is due. We also are admonished to

pray for those in authority over us. God help the ruler who becomes the enemy of the people and, therefore, causes people to pray against rather than for him.

We should also be a voice in the midst of government. Christ spoke to the governor of His day, Pilate, and said, *“You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.”* Any government needs to hear this more than often.

Q: What real authority should government have?

A: We must remember that, as we mention Jesus said, the government has no authority whatsoever except by divine commission. So when government takes to itself *“its own authority,”* it becomes humanistic rather than a divine instrument. The government must not inhibit righteous activity on the part of individuals. Christ was speaking about the salvation of the society when He spoke to Christians saying, *“Ye are the salt of the earth”* (Matthew 5:13).

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION?

One of our Christian Destiny Position Papers may be of help!

They include:

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WORDS--THE DEADLY SEMANTICS GAME

CHRISTIANITY AND LIBERALISM

CRITICAL ISSUES OF OUR TIME

SECULAR HUMANISM

PROTESTANT TRANSUBSTANTIATION

CENSORSHIP

NATURAL LAW

Request any of these as you write this month with your contribution to the ministry of Christian Destiny.

THINKING TOGETHER

THE COMING REDEMPTION

There is a condition of our time which is ignored by many believers and unknown to many others. That condition could well be summed up in a single sentence, "It is coming, but we are not in the kingdom yet."

The present condition of our world is well described by the Apostle Paul when he said, "*For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body*" (Rom. 8:22,23).

In saying this, Paul points up a truth that will be ignored only at our own peril. He reminds us of the fact that creation is not yet the object of divine redemption. The ultimate redemption and transformation of the external world is in the program of God, but "not yet."

While many attempt to convince themselves into believing otherwise, the fact is that we still travail in pain while we move through this unredeemed world. We have not yet been delivered from suffering and physical death.

We do not understand this unless we understand the nature of personal salvation. When I receive Christ as my Savior, my spirit is instantly "*saved to the uttermost.*" I am given the gift of everlasting life. We know that we have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, but we forget that redemption up until this point applies only to the spirit of man and not yet to his physical body. In fact, the whole creation still

groans for that day of redemption, but it has not seen it as yet. Therefore, we are reminded in Scripture that "*we are saved by hope*" (Rom. 8:24). When we receive Christ, we have the "*hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began*" (Titus 1:2). We are also saved from despair, depression, and despondency because we possess the hope that goes beyond the grave. We have been given a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

One of the grave problems of our time is that too many Christians (and too many denominations) have become tired of living on the basis of hope in Christ. Therefore, they have invented a theology and report a whole set of experiences which are the claim to fulfillment, rather than hope. In effect, they are fatigued with mere anticipation of the kingdom and have now started to publicly claim that "the kingdom is now." "Kingdom now" theology has come upon us in strong fashion, producing reports of initial ecstasy. But then comes long-term despondency in the lives of the people who follow these doctrines.

"Kingdom now" theology claims that all of the promises made to anybody in the entire Bible are present possession of all believers in these moments of this life. Their foolish slogan is "name it and claim it." Therefore, miracles, healing, financial riches, glowing health and life without problems are now promised by the unthinking leaders and given to naive Christians. The consequence is that multi-

by *Dave Breese*

tudes of individuals, ignoring the teaching of the Word of God, claim to be experiencing personal riches, the solution to every problem, deliverance from the pressures of this world and all of this as a result of "claiming the promises." Such theology, as against realizing the promises of Christ, ignores His promise. Jesus said to Christians, "*In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*" (Jn. 16:33).

Again and again, the New Testament Scriptures warn the believer against spiritual presumption. By presuming that "everything I want God will give to me," they are denying the assertion of Scripture. The Bible says, "*For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me*" (Phil. 1:29,30). So it is that Paul promises that one of the gifts from God, which we seldom hear preached, is the gift of suffering for the sake of Christ. Why does suffering, sickness and death still continue in our world? The answer is that the kingdom is not yet. We are redeemed spiritual beings who live in an unredeemed world. Argue as we will, this is still the case. If we believe otherwise, we risk the possibility of severe disillusionment, which, of course, can lead to despair.

The promise we have now is the unfailing presence of Christ and His gift of sufficient grace. That gift, which is ours now, is the best of all!

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS GOVERNMENT

That is a relationship which is the object of great discussion in our time. Because the evangelical cause has greatly expanded in these days, the question presses all the stronger. "How much should a Christian be involved in political things?" is the subject of many an animated discussion.

There is a degree of involvement of which we can be very sure, for it is advocated in the Word of God. The Apostle Paul spoke to Timothy saying, "I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (I Tim. 2:1,2). So it is that earnest prayer for those in authority is recommended in the Word of God and can do nothing but good.

Therefore, let all of us be admonished to pray for the coming November election. We are to pray for the president and whoever may be president after November. We are to pray for the Supreme Court, the Cabinet, the Congress and others whose decisions may impact upon us. In that "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of," we may see truly surprising results if the Christian community gives itself to earnest prayer. The Bible says, "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:3,4). While praying, let us also pray for spiritual revival within our blessed land. While morals are at a low ebb, spiritual possibilities can be very great.

HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD!

In a world that is beset by lies, forgeries, deception and spiritual seduction, the Saints of God are admonished to reject false doctrine and: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" (I Thess. 5:21-24).

The signs of the times are indeed pointing to the soon return of Jesus Christ. The world is digging up new and tantalizing excuses from beneath "The Sands of Time," by which it plans to reject the truth of the Gospel and prepare itself for the rise of Antichrist and his false world religion.

Don't let yourself be deceived by any clever concoction invented to

weaken your faith in Jesus Christ. Rather, invest your time in studying the truth of the Word of God. Then, as these fleeting hours of the Last Days draw to an end, you can use your knowledge wisely as a competent, articulate witness for the Savior.

Jesus could come for us at any moment. Will the final chapter of the Age of Grace contain the story of our tireless labor for the Lord, and the marvelous victories we have won in His name? Let's continue to work together to tell a world the glorious truth that Jesus saves and is coming back again. I pray that we will!

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FINALLY



Dear Special Friend of Christian Destiny,

Once again, Carol and I wish to say a most sincere thanks to you for your prayers, your participation and your support in the ministry of Christian Destiny. Please continue to pray for our national radio and television ministry and the publishing outreach.

May this be a marvelous fall season for you. We pray for you and trust that God will use us all in these important days for His glory.

Faithfully yours,

David W. Breese, President
Christian Destiny, Inc.