

Destiny Newsletter

PUBLISHED BY CHRISTIAN DESTINY

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March 2001

by
Dave Breese

WAITING AND WATCHING

To avoid preaching on the return of Christ is to suggest by silence that there is no deadline against which we are to work for the Savior. Indeed, it is impossible to preach the whole counsel of God without a prophetic component in our preaching. This statement, "Christ is coming again," should be the regular animated conversation of believers. How, for instance, can a church conduct a communion service without reference to the return of Christ? The Scripture says, "For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you do show the Lord's death till He come" (I Cor. 11:26). At a communion service, a new Christian would certainly be expected to ask, "Why do we do this?" The answer is, "We do this to show the death of Christ on the cross and we are invited to

"...Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

UNTIL HE COMES

conduct communion services until the time of Christ's appearing for His own." Certainly the communion service cannot be properly explained without reference to the return of Christ.

If the church at Thessalonica were asked the reason for the zeal with which they believed in Christ, followed Him, and became an example of the believers, they would certainly have responded, "We are waiting 'for His Son from heaven'" (I Thess. 1:10). Anticipation of the return of Christ and preaching on that motivational subject is one of the outstanding reasons that the Thessalonians had a great church. They reached across the world with the Gospel because they believed in the return of Jesus Christ.

If a Christian individual were noted for living a Godly life in the days of the early church, onlookers may ask why. "Why are you not promiscuous?" the cynic might ask. The answer from the Christian was, I am "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Tit. 2:13). Yes, we notice again and again in the New Testament that belief in the return of Jesus

Christ is tied to godly living, earnest testimony, successful witnessing and confidence toward God.

Effective individual Christians in the great churches of the New Testament preached the Gospel, prayed for sinners and brightly anticipated the coming of the Lord Jesus. The first announcement made to the early Church was "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). What a joyous motivation this must have been! Upon hearing this, we can be sure that the members of the early church were greatly heartened and filled with anticipation. To know that their ultimate destiny was sure in the Lord Jesus would make it possible for them to face every other concern of life. They wanted then to go nowhere, to believe nothing, to be involved in no activity that they would not be proud to present to Christ upon the occasion of His return. The early Christians were marvelous people and conducted themselves as in a great program of spiritual warfare. This was certainly because they knew Christ would come again for them.

Does the Bible tell us of the

attitudes of mind we should have when we think of the return of Jesus Christ? Indeed, it does! It tells us, first of all, that we should be **waiting for His appearing**. We have noted that the Church of Thessalonica was waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ! So were others! The Corinthian church was told by the Apostle Paul, “*You come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (I Cor. 1:7). Paul reminded us that when Christ comes He will be “*glorified in His saints, and... admired in all them that believe*” (II Thess. 1:10). That is an event worth anticipating, worth waiting for.

Beyond waiting, we are also reminded that we must be **watching for the return of Christ**. The Scripture says, “*You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober*” (I Thess. 5:5,6). Watching for the return of Christ certainly suggests a degree of concentration on this subject. When we are looking at the sky, we are supposed to see more than the deep blue of the vault or the billowy white clouds. We are to be reminded of the return of Christ. To watch for His return means to watch for His return. We must not be neutral as we anticipate that great day. The Scripture, advising against disinterest, tells us that we are to be **looking for Him**. The Scripture says, “*So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and to them that look for Him shall He appear the*

second time without sin to salvation” (Heb. 9:28). When one anticipates a lovely event, like a reunion with a long-absent loved one, that one is looking. That one is standing on tip-toe, staring out the window and pays scant attention to other things. Looking for Christ should resemble a wife intently anticipating the return of a husband who has been away on business.

In an even stronger fashion, the Scripture indicates that we are to **love His appearing**. Speaking about his own future, Paul says, “*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing*” (II Tim. 4:8). Even reading this emotional passage causes each of us to wonder how much and by how many has been wasted on the things of this world. True love has within it the element of preoccupation, the constant thinking about something as against possible interest. Who can deny that Christians, the church of our time, have such a myriad of interests, commitments, ministries, involvements, fascinations that these may well become the foliage that hides the Person who should be the first love of us all. To love the appearance of Christ in its essential meaning certainly means to love Christ Himself.

We are also advised to rest in the reality of the certain coming of Christ. When we

are sure of the return of Christ, everything else is finally alright. If Christ is coming again for His own, there is little by comparison concerning which we shall worry. So it is that the Scripture says, “*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels*” (II Thess. 1:7). In the same vein, the Apostle Paul, when speaking about the return of Christ for His own, says, “*Wherefore comfort one another with these words*” (I Thess. 4:18). Comfort—words of assurance—these are the words that constitute the promise of His coming. The promise of His coming is a commitment of greater value than almost all the other promises of life put together.

We, therefore, suggest to every discouraged Christian, to every despondent church that some new thought be put into the marvelous promise of the return of Christ. A study of the prophetic Word will bring other details about the end times. However, the core of it all is the blessed promise of the return of our dear Savior. We may look for Christ. When we love His appearing our lives will be transposed upward into a plane of light and reality. There will come a time, of course, when heaven will burst upon us in its totality. Then the shadow will give way to the substance, then will our feeble enlightenment be overwhelmed by the light of eternity. When we stand on that fair shore, we will regret no moments spent in advance contemplation of that wonderful hour.

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND when the shameless ways, dress and speech of our culture's "teenage idols" are being emulated by countless millions of impressionable young girls and boys throughout the nation and world?

And the young boys of our society are now being heavily influenced by what could best be termed an in-your-face "rude boy" culture which glorifies obnoxiousness and all things crude, disgusting and despicable.

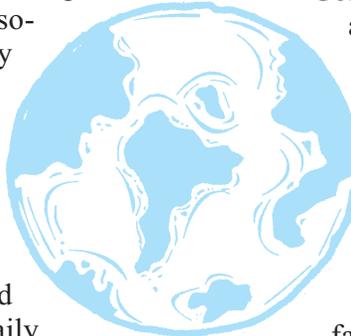
And the disheartening news that due to the increasing portrayal of nudity in mainstream media, we are now beginning to experience the newest scourge in America--that of "burgeoning nudist colonies."

THE THEME of this society-gone-mad could well be summed up in the use of the popular expression "Whatever!" Is it possible that we as a nation will soon be accepting of anything and everything wicked so as not to appear "intolerant"? Our culture is self-destructing before our very eyes and our only hope is to return to the Lord and His word.

WITH THE RECENT ELECTION of Ariel Sharon as Prime Minister of Israel, there have been renewed threats from the Palestinians of "war and rivers of blood." Indeed, Sharon has refused (and rightly so) to consider giving all or part of Jerusalem to the Palestinian Arabs for their capital and further stated that his purpose is to keep Jerusalem the undivided capital of the Israeli state. Security experts are already warning that conditions are ripe for an "all-out war" that could very well "unleash destructive forces that would imperil Israel's existence."

ON A POSITIVE NOTE, our newly elected president, in an act of great courage and internal fortitude, has thrown down the gauntlet to the pro-abortion, pro-death culture crowd with the reinstatement of the Mexico City policy. If you recall, during the Reagan years this so-called "Mexico City policy" was one that restricted "U.S. funding of international family planning agencies."

We should thank God for him and lift up fervent prayer daily for him and his administration.



EVEN THE INTERNATIONAL SPACESTATION has an appointment with Destiny. With a crew of 5, the space shuttle Atlantis recently blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center carrying a 1.4 billion dollar space laboratory with the name of--would you believe--"Destiny" and bound for the International Space Station high above the earth. We want to take a moment to consider the amazing capability that God has given mankind. We should pause to remember our final destination as children of the Heavenly Father--a home far beyond the starry skies.

WILL THERE BE MORE TURMOIL in the Middle East? I think we can count on it! Should we be concerned to the point where it cripples our testimony and drives us to despair? Absolutely not! We are to look forward with joy to what the Lord yet has in store for us as believers. We are to labor with the stubborn ounces of our lives as long as life and breath remain. That's what we must always be careful to do.

In our outreaches, we continue to hold forth the light of salvation to a

world that hungers for the truth about the future. People yearn to hear good news, and we have the best news anyone could ever hear--Jesus saves and is coming back again!

The world is hungry for the Gospel message as never before, and we must take advantage of that open door to take them the news that could save their souls.

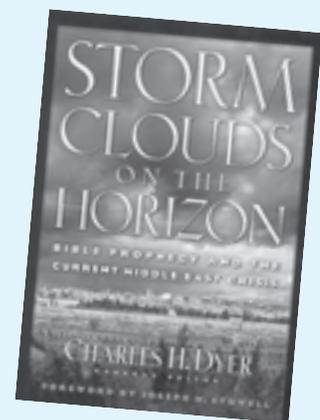
STORM CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON-- Bible Prophecy and the Current Middle East Crisis is the title of a

fascinating **book** of essays dealing with the vital subject of Israel

and the Middle East and how current events fit in with Bible Prophecy. This book is edited by Charles H. Dyer and includes essays written by several imminently qualified Moody Bible Institute scholars. For your contribution of \$12 to the ministry of Christian Destiny, we will see that you receive your copy of this very informative and highly provocative 90-page book.

STORM CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON

Bible Prophecy and the Middle East Crisis



This new book is now available for \$12 each. Please see the enclosed order form.

NO BLOOD, NO ALTAR NOW



*No blood, no altar now the sacrifice is o'er!
 No flame, no smoke ascends on high; the Lamb is slain no more;
 But richer blood has flowed from nobler veins,
 To purge the soul from guilt, and cleanse the reddest stains.*

*We thank Thee for the blood, the blood of Christ, Thy Son:
 The blood by which our peace is made, our victory is won:
 Great victory o'er hell, and sin and woe
 That needs no second fight, and leaves no second foe.*

*We thank Thee for the grace, descending from above,
 That overflows our widest guilt eternal Father's love.
 Love of the Father's everlasting Son,
 Love of the Holy Ghost, Jehovah, Three in One.*

*We thank Thee for the hope, so glad, and sure, and clear;
 It holds the drooping spirit up till the long dawn appear;
 Fair hope! with what a sunshine does it cheer
 Our roughest path on earth, our dreariest desert here.*

*We thank Thee for the crown of glory and of life;
 'Tis no poor with'ring wreath of earth, man's prize in mortal strife;
 'Tis incorruptible as is the throne,
 The kingdom of our God and His Incarnate Son.*

by Horatius Bonar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Our adult Sunday School class at Concord North Evangelical Free Church used your Revelation series recently with study guides and videos as our lesson material. Now we are using your Ezekiel videos and study guides.” – Coleridge, NE

“I have just read your Christmas commentary for 2000. Undoubtedly, these are the best words you could have written about the birth, life, and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. It was very inspiring to me as I prepare my message for December 24th for our church. I just had to write to you and thank you for being part of Christian Destiny.” – Richards, TX

“I’m just writing this letter back to you to thank you so much for all of the material you have sent me and questions you have answered. I can say that I’m really starting to understand the Book of Revelation a whole lot better. Your program really inspires me to stay in the Word of God, and tell others about Jesus Christ.” – Baraga, MI

“The grace of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless and multiply your efforts and work you are doing to further the Gospel. I listen to you every Saturday morning. I have been studying your publication for a long time and it has helped me to be rooted and grounded in truth.” – Hays, KS

“Your ministry helps me realize the overall drama we see unfolding here on earth, and to know Who shall be victorious; Who shed His blood for us; and Who redeemed us, and actually desires to welcome a Full House of redeemed sinners to live eternally, with Him. What a privilege to know and to serve Him here, as we occupy until He comes. May the Lord keep, and continue to use your ministry for His glory.” – Ft. Worth, TX

“Just a short note to tell you, Dave, how much I appreciate all of your messages, the teaching ministries and truths that I have learned from watching your programs. I pray for you and your ministry every day. I also want to encourage your entire staff to keep up the wonderful work they are doing in sending this most important end-time message out to a dying world. All of you will have a glorious reward waiting for you in Heaven, I am sure!” – Waukesha, WI

WORTH QUOTING

“Four things to learn in life:
To think clearly without hurry
or confusion.
To love everybody sincerely.
To act in everything with the
highest motives.
To trust God unhesitatingly.”
—Helen Keller

“Beyond doubt, Christ is the Founder of the first true Church; that is, that Church which, purified from the folly of superstition and the meanness of fanaticism, exhibits the moral kingdom of God upon the earth as far as can be done for man.”
— Immanuel Kant

“Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.”
— Thomas a’ Kempis

“The English Bible - a book which if everything else in our language should perish, would alone suffice to show the whole extent of its beauty and power.”
— Lord Macaulay

“Cursed be all that learning that is contrary to the cross of Christ.”
— James Madison

“I am rather tired of hearing about our rights and privileges as American citizens. The time is come - it is now - when we ought to hear about the duties and responsibilities of our citizenship. America’s future depends upon our accepting and demonstrating God’s government.”
— Peter Marshall

But especially,
“Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12).



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q. Why is the Bible hard to understand?

A. When we are children, everything is hard to understand, some things are impossible. As we grow, however, we are to exercise our minds so that we can become intelligent. The believing Christian will become progressively more spiritually intelligent.

Q. Who will be the queen of heaven?

A. Heaven has no queen. However, when Israel forsook the Lord, the Bible says of them, *"The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger"* (Jer. 7:18). The worship of anyone save God Himself is forbidden in Scripture. Even so, the worship of the mythical queen of heaven appears now and then in apostate churches in our time.

Q. How can I believe in something I have not seen?

A. The most important things in life are the things that we have not seen. This includes love, truth, fidelity, high purpose and other great qualities. The things that we can see are relatively unimportant. It's the things that we cannot see that really count, so the Apostle Paul said, *"While we look not at the things which*

are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Cor. 4:18). Many things which are today invisible will soon be seen through the eyes of faith.

Q. How can I be controlled by the Holy Spirit?

A. It is never the intention of the Lord that you be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Rather, the Scripture teaches that we are led by the Spirit, saying, *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God"* (Rom. 8:14). The Spirit, rather, would teach us that blessed quality of self-control. We are not marionettes pulled by strings from heaven. No, we are free moral agents and the Christian grows more free every day.

Q. How can I get over being afraid to speak of Christ?

A. In the Scriptures we notice that most of the time the disciples had no such problem. About them, the Scripture says, *"So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it be right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard'"* (Acts 4:18-20). The disciples saw Christ, they heard Him preach and the balance of their lives was spent telling the world about Him. Nevertheless, the

Apostle Paul asked for prayer, *"that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the Gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak"* (Eph. 6:19,20).

Q. Is unconditional election true?

A. The Bible says that we are *"elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, to obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ"* (I Pet. 1:2). Therefore, election has a condition. We are *"elect according to the foreknowledge of God."* God, in His wisdom, foreknows that we will accept Christ. As a consequence, we are elected, which means that we are guaranteed eternal life unconditionally. But notice, election is not unto eternal life, but unto obedience. God, therefore, foreordains that we will arrive at heaven and be perfect in eternity, conformed to the image of Christ. The doctrine of unconditional election is interesting philosophy, but poor theology.

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THINKING TOGETHER

WHO SHALL OVERCOME?

A song, written many years ago, has become popular in our time. It seemed destined to become the theme song of the civil rights movement in America. Large crowds here and there, members of one race or another, could be seen rocking from side to side and plaintively singing, "We Shall Overcome." In those days (and in these days), the word "overcome" usually meant to be set free. It suggested that large numbers of people were being held in bondage and lived lives of daily and regular oppression. Therefore, the song was sung in a plaintive fashion expressing a fond, but distant hope. Words even were sung "We shall overcome someday." It is probably a provable fact that a high percentage of the people of our world even today feel that they are oppressed by something or someone. Consequently, this song still prevails today, and nostalgic people continue to sing, often with a tear, "We Shall Overcome."

"Who shall overcome?" By this we mean, "who will finally prevail?" "Who will come out from under the bondage of these days?" "Who will be set free?" There are still those who attempt to answer these questions with raucous political voices. However, the promisers of freedom have no more hope of delivering on their promises than they did a generation ago. This is because none of the speakers of those times or these times had any authority to promise anybody that they would ultimately overcome. It can generally be said that the civil rights advocates of the past have moved on to other things, with only very few of their promises having been faithfully kept. And the freedom that was presumed to accompany overcoming continues to remain elusive.

But the question prevails, "Who shall overcome?" Because the only source by which we can answer that question, or any question, is the Word of God, "*what saith the Scripture.*" It says "*Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*" (1 John 5:5). Still the word "overcome" means to be bigger than, stronger than, more capable than any pressures that the world may bring against us. When the Bible uses that word, it really means it. It gives us the rather remarkable assertion that the person who overcomes the world is one who believes a single poignant doctrinal proposition. That proposition is "Jesus is the Son of God." Overcoming then does not grow out of intellectual brilliance, radical activity or clever talents. It comes from believing that central proposition that Jesus is God. The doctrine that Jesus is the Son of God, when believed, therefore becomes the key to everything.

Why is this the case? It is rather easy to explain. Think for just a moment and let us remember that if Jesus Christ is the Son of God, then **His Word is ultimate truth.** You can depend upon what He says. His promise is valid when He said, "*heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away*" (Matt. 24:35).

Virtually everyone in the world who is not a Christian is walking around in bewilderment in our time asking as did Pilot, "*What is truth?*" "What can I believe in?" "Who can I trust?" "Where does final authority really reside?"

A Christian has no such problem. These questions are irrelevant to him because he knows the answer in advance. He knows that he can believe in Christ and that whatever

by Dave Breese

Jesus Christ says is final truth. Therefore, we can confidently assert that one of the greatest commands in Scripture was given to the rulers of the feast by the mother of Christ. Pointing to her son she said, "*Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it!*"

We could think of no more poignant advice in all of life. 99% of the bewilderment of our time, some of which resides in the hearts of Christians, would be dispelled if everyone would listen carefully to the words of Christ and then proceed to do what He told them. This is the proper attitude for correct living.

So it is that the Bible says, "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*" (1 Cor. 3:11). Jesus Christ, the author of all truth, therefore, becomes the only foundation on which life can be built. When we know the author of ultimate truth, we overcome the world.

Secondly, if Jesus Christ is the Son of God, **His presence is final reality.**

Reality is one of the key words of our day. "This is reality" says the car maker. "This is reality" says the brewer. "This is reality" insists the cultist.

What then is reality? It is not education, it is not amusement, it is not human success, literally it is-- Jesus Christ.

The Bible teaches that when a person knows Christ as his Savior, he is "*in Christ.*" One of the common salutations of the New Testament was for Paul or one of the other apostles to greet those in a given city who were "*in Christ*" (Eph. 1:3). Christians might have been "at Ephesus" or "at Corinth"

but this was not their true environ. Rather, they were *"in Christ."*

Nothing makes this more apparent than just a bit of travel across the world. I have been tens of thousands of miles away from my own home (100 yards is enough), but have never been lonely. Why? Because I am *"in Christ"*--along with all believers. Reality, therefore, is not the smile of someone or the approbation of another. It is to know that Christ is in me and I am in Him. One of the most beautiful expressions in the New Testament describes the Christian: *"Christ in you, the hope of glory."*

Let us also note that if Jesus Christ is the Son of God, then **His triumph is inevitable**. There is not a shred of doubt in the mind of any right-thinking Christian as to how the final triumph of the battle between good and evil will work out. The answer is quite simple. Satan will finally be defeated and end up in *"the lake of fire"* (Rev. 20:10). Jesus Christ will triumph and we will triumph with Him to the extent of being joint-heirs with Christ (Rev. 19:11-16). We Christians know who will be the ultimate masters of the universe because we've read the final pages of the Bible. Whatever may be the vicissitudes of life that a Christian will face, the end is to step up from this dark world into glory. In fact, being translated to heaven may not be so startling a change because we are here *"in Christ"* and there we'll be also *"in Christ."* That is our ultimate environment and is final reality.

In the face of all this, how sad it is that there are so many willingly ignorant people who stumble around in the gloaming of this world wondering, hoping, fearing, never "getting it all together." They think that another million dollars will do it, another diamond, another political triumph, another marriage. How sad that reputedly intelligent human beings could be so incredibly ignorant of reality.

We, therefore, make two recommendations. The individual

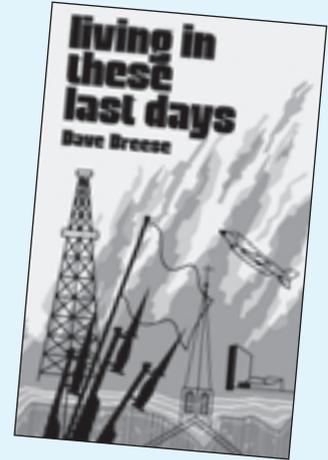
reading this page is first of all recommended to the Lord Jesus. Having recognized that we are sinners and then believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are given God's great gift of everlasting life.

Secondly, we recommend to each Christian a life committed to Christ. Then we can be used of God as overcomers in the midst of this pitiful culture of ours. Our world is one vast city of the living dead. Its poor, degenerate, zombie-like citizens can only be given help and hope by learning of Christ and His power to save.

We Christians are already in the process of overcoming the world, being equal to every obstacle. Let's pass on that great open secret to those who need Christ in these days. We, knowing Christ, are overcoming the world. Someday we will get to tell that glad story in heaven.

LIVING IN THESE LAST DAYS

by Dave Breese



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FINALLY



Dear Special Friend of Christian Destiny,

God has given us an amazing outreach in television, radio, publishing and many other strategic activities. These opportunities, plus your prayers make a winning combination.

Carol and I also wish to say thank you for your support of the ministry of Christian Destiny. Your prayers and your gifts are appreciated more than words can tell and make it possible for us to carry on this exciting outreach in these days. May God bless you and make this spring season great in your life.

Faithfully yours,

David W. Breese, President
Christian Destiny, Inc.