

Destiny Newsletter

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“THE BEST IS YET TO COME”

by

Dave Breese

CONFIDENCE RECOMMENDED

There is a gradual alteration of attitude moving upon our society in present days. People are sensing the instability of our times. Everyone watches the rules for living our lives change nearly every week, and they wonder if whatever foundations there were in the past on which we could build hope for the future are crumbling beneath our feet.

In the midst of these attitudes, people listen to the news becoming more apocalyptic with every day that passes, with predictions for the future of society sounding increasingly unpromising. The sentiment that has come upon our society is that the best years were the 60's, or perhaps the 70's, 80's, or 90's, but now the tide of good things has passed. Some even feel that, concerning today's culture, it is time to announce that the party is over and

“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.”

we are turning out the lights.

Is it time to despair of the future? The answer to this question is twofold: yes and no. This is because there are two kinds of people in the world and, therefore, there is not one, but two futures that must be considered when we think of the up or down contents of tomorrow.

First of all, for Christians there is the Christian future. That future is described in the Word of God and it is so unimaginably beautiful that despair for the Christian is unthinkable. The Christian who is depressed with his present circumstances and who thinks that there is no real promise for tomorrow does not properly understand Christianity or the Word of God.

For the Christian, the future is wonderful beyond description. To those who believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Bible 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). The Scripture says that one of the reasons we are saved is *“that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus”* (Eph. 2:7). Every Christian can read with encouragement the Scripture that says, *“You will show me the path of life: in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand there are pleasures for evermore”* (Psalm 16:11).

In these and a hundred other places in the Bible, God makes to each believer great and precious promises so that the heart of a trusting member of the family of God can rejoice always. The believer knows, because God has said it, that for him, the best is yet to come.

The believer knows this for many reasons. First of all, because he knows that God presides above history. At a given time, the world may think that things are out of control and that no one is in charge. Therefore, the world worries and sometimes despairs of life because history seems like a careening automobile with no firm hand at the wheel.

The Christian knows that nothing could be further from the truth. To the Church the Lord says, *“These things says He that is holy, He that is true, He that has the key of David, He that opens, and no man shuts; and shuts, and no man opens”* (Rev. 3:7). Here is the promise made to the Church of our time that a loving, omnipotent, and efficient God presides above all of the details of history.

The Christian is confident also because he knows his salvation is secure in Christ. Having believed in the finished work of the Lord Jesus on Calvary's cross, the Christian hears with joy the reassuring promise of Christ, *“And I give to 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" (John 10:28,29). Because salvation is by grace alone, it is also as sure as the promise of a faithful Heavenly Father.

The Christian also takes confidence in the never-failing presence of Christ. The description of the core of Christianity is that this faith is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). This wonderful and reassuring set of promises is the reason why Christians think differently about the world than do the mere citizens of time.

Whatever may be the temporary inconveniences of time, the Christian knows that one day he will walk the streets of gold in the New Jerusalem, being forever beyond the reach of sorrow, tears, or the frustrations of this world. The believer knows that the earth is hardly final reality; it is the fleeting prelude to the greater reality, to the infinite joys of heaven. The worst that the world can lay on a Christian is simply "our light affliction, which is but for a moment" and it works for the Christian a "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (II Cor. 4:17).

A suggestion for these times is, therefore, appropriate. In our churches, we would do well to sing more songs about heaven and the life which is to come. No one is properly ministering the Word unless he fills his hearers with bright anticipation of heaven and a deep longing for the moment when Jesus will come again.

This is not so for the man or woman

of this world who has considered not the Gospel and received not the Savior of men. It is time for another Jonathan Edwards to appear in our midst and preach again on the subject of "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." Every Christian should consider regularly the pitiful, hopeless condition of the man or the woman who does not believe the Gospel of Christ. The condition of that person is sad beyond description. Why?

First of all, the sinner is living a wasted life. Every activity of the lost person, be it good or evil, is of zero consequence to gain credential before God or even to produce human advancement. All the activity, the total accomplishment of the sinner is simply that he is treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God (Rom. 2:5). Indeed, the Bible says that even "the plowing of the wicked, is sin" (Prov. 21:4). To speak of "the glorious accomplishments" of the people of this world is foolishness. It is all but valiant dust that builds on dust.

The unsaved person is also an enemy of God (Rom 5:10). When a person is in this condition, his life is hopeless and he can only look forward to defeat and consequent despair. The battle against God is one that no one, however clever, however affable, can win. He may think of himself as dedicated to good or even great purposes, but alas, the accomplishments of his life will collapse into dirt and ashes. Being an enemy of God is an insane posture, and he is infinitely foolish who thinks he can win a contest against the God of the universe.

The sinner is condemned already and will be finally lost apart from his faith in Christ. In most somber fashion,

our Lord said, "He that believes on the Son has everlasting life: and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). How awesome are the words "He that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). It, therefore, can be truly said that the life of the unbeliever will go from bad to worse, from worse to hell, and from hell to the lake of fire. The sinner may succeed as a salesman, an attorney, a doctor, a husband, a father, or even a religious leader. However, apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ, these things are irrelevant and inconsequential.

So, is the best yet to come? It is for one who knows Christ as his personal Savior. It is not, however, for one who neglects the divine invitation, the command to believe the Gospel.

Let us, therefore, extend an invitation. It is, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31). Each reader is invited to believe the Gospel and accept Jesus as personal Savior, even now. What is the Gospel? It is the marvelous message that "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3,4). Whatever may be your past, when you believe that, receiving Christ as personal Savior, we promise that the best is yet to come!

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THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

ISLAM—WHAT THEY BELIEVE

by Harold J. Berry



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OUR PRICELESS

OPPORTUNITY: Beginning immediately **"The King Is Coming"** telecast will be seen on European satellite and cable covering 120 million homes! Think of it! In the land that will give rise to the Antichrist, we are proclaiming the truth of the Prophetic Word. In the Muslim world of Southern and Eastern Europe, Northern Africa and parts of the Middle East, the message that Jesus saves and is coming back again can now be heard.

IT'S BEING BILLED as the

"biggest currency switch in history" and the "culmination of a dream born in the ashes of World War II, a milestone on Europe's march to peace and brotherhood, a pledge of prosperity for more than 300 million people." What is it? It is the final adoption of the "Euro," on January 1st, as Europe's

official continent-wide "eurozone" currency. Not since the unification of Germany in 1873 – involving 50 to 60 million people and the melding of six currencies into one – has anything like this taken place on the world scene.

With the arrival of Euro notes and coins, the diverse peoples of Europe will be afforded the ability to shop anywhere from "the Arctic Circle in Finland to the balmy Greek island of Crete" without the worry and hassle of those pesky

exchange rates and commissions or having to bother with changing money from one currency to another. We know from Bible Prophecy, of course, that the ultimate end of this "pledge of prosperity" and "march to peace and brotherhood" will be to – after the Rapture of the Church – usher Europe and the rest of the world into the Tribulation and the global kingdom of the Antichrist.

THE IDEA OF HUMAN

CLONING has recently moved from the sphere of science fiction into the real world with the announcement by a biotech firm that it has successfully cloned its first human embryos. The firm is said to now have "the ability to replicate the smallest human beings in masse, and will do so." Their desire is to then extract stem cells from these embryos and use them to help treat ailments once thought incurable or inoperable. (Stem cells are capable of developing into any type of cell in the body and, therefore, could be used to regenerate damaged tissue in ill patients.) But there are alternative sources of stem cells which make the harvesting of fetal stem cells – with the resulting destruction of a human being – absolutely unnecessary: i.e.: adult

stem cells as well as umbilical cords. Japanese scientists are reported to have successfully used stem cells from a patient's own hip bones to repair that person's heart damage.

THE COMING PEACE TREATY:

It was Nikita Khrushchev who said, "Treaties are like pie crusts – made to be broken!" Over the years, we have seen many treaties come and go in the Middle East. It is with great interest and just a touch of sanctified cynicism

that we observe the posturing of parties in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as they move towards yet another round of negotiations. Nearly everyone hopes these efforts will produce a peace treaty that might bring lasting peace to the Holy Land.

The Bible teaches that in the last days, the Israelis will make yet another pact, another treaty, with those who dwell alongside them in the Holy Land. Once again, Israel will be deceived by a diplomat whose real intention will be the subjugation and ultimate destruction of Israel. Details of that betrayal can be found in many places, including Daniel 9:26-27, Matthew 24:15-22, II Thessalonians 2:3-4, and in Revelation chapter 13.

It seems rather odd, does it not, that throughout history, Israel's attempts at making peace treaties virtually always ended up in some terrible catastrophe? Sadly, the prophesied treaty of the last days will be no different. In fact, it will signal the beginning of a time so terrible it is called the Tribulation. During that 7-year period, half the people in the world will die amidst wars, plagues, the judgment of God, and the vile machinations of an evil man called in the Bible, "the Antichrist."



WINTER



*How cold the snow must be
Yet still the earth it warms,
To shelter now the seeds of spring
'Gainst later, colder storms.*

*How hard our trials seem
When in the grip of pain.
Yet God in grace allows them all
For future, greater gain.*

*Let minds then be renewed,
Let hearts with courage sing.
For seeds by winter's trials fed
Will blossom in the spring.*

*Then summer harvest comes
Whose bounty bids us learn.
That faith amid the snows will bring
An hundred-fold return.*

— Dave Breese

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Enclosed is our annual contribution in support of your ministry. We enjoy receiving the **Destiny Newsletter** and **Destiny Bulletin**. They're filled with wonderful insight and truth, answers to questions, and poems that touch the heart. Everything about them is so uplifting. May the Lord continue to bless you and your entire staff in this ministry and keep it growing for His glory, honor, and praise."

– Tuscola, IL

"I like the way you write the newsletter. I pray for Christian Destiny every day." – Arlington Heights, IL

"Blessings upon you, your family and ministry. I enjoy your teachings and your ministry very much. Also enjoy Tim, Dr. Ice, and Ed too."
– Los Angeles, CA

"I am getting so very much from your prophetic newsletters! Thank you for all your available materials." – Dayton, OH

"I have thanked my television company for having Inspiration Channel on the air and listen faithfully every Sunday evening to **The King is Coming**. Please send me "[What To Do If You Miss the Rapture](#)" as I have wanted it so long. Also send Dr. Breese's poems."
– Towner, ND

"I have always been impressed and blessed by your friendship and appreciated your sincere encouragement as well as being impacted by your exhortation and explanation of the Word of God. Your zeal for the Lord and His Kingdom has been an example to me, personally, as I am sure it has been for countless numbers of those who have sat under your teaching. Just recently, I listened again to a cassette tape, which was made while you were at the Bibletown Conference in Boca Raton, Florida and I was again reminded of your great sense of perspective when it comes to some of the difficult passages and aspects of Scripture. So, although I do so inadequately by this brief note, I want you to know that you have taught me much and have brought brighter light to my own soul." – Nashville, TN



WORTH QUOTING

"The most important thought I ever had was that of my individual responsibility to God."

--Daniel Webster

"Labour to keep alive in your breast that little part of celestial fire--conscience."

--George Washington

"I have sworn upon the altar of God hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

--Thomas Jefferson

"I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday."

--Abraham Lincoln

"Ordinary people think merely of how they shall spend their time; a man of intellect tries to use it."

--Schopenhauer

"Look well to the hearthstone; therein all hope for America lies." --Calvin Coolidge

But especially,

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom." (Ps. 90:12).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q. What will heaven be like?

A. Heaven is more wonderful than anything we can experience or imagine in this life.

About heaven the Scripture says, *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9)*. However, we are enabled to partially understand these things because *"God has revealed them to us by His Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:10)*. The Psalmist gives us another description of heaven, saying, *"You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psa. 16:11)*. Pleasures quickly fade in this world, but they are forever in heaven.

Q. What are the saints in heaven doing now?

A. The Bible says, *"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" (Rev. 14:13)*. It then promises that these will rest from their labors. Many will have labored long for Christ and now in heaven they are in the midst of a well-deserved rest.

Q. How many people are in heaven today?

A. The Scripture says, *"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands" (Rev. 7:9)*. Enoch also

prophesied saying, *"Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints" (Jude 14)*. Therefore we can plan on an inestimable number of people being in heaven. Charles Spurgeon thought that there would be more people in heaven than in hell, and this because of infant mortality alone. Modern abortionists are attempting to cause that statement to be true. They have a great surprise ahead.

Q. Since I was saved, I have not lived a perfect life. Am I still saved?

A. There are, strictly speaking, two ways of salvation. Those are salvation by perfection and salvation by grace. No one, save Jesus Christ, has lived a perfect life, before or after salvation. Therefore, the doctrine of salvation by grace alone is our only hope. The preaching of salvation by works (tragically, this is very common in our day) is a despair producer. We are not saved by the lives we live, but we are saved by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ, shed at Calvary.

Q. My brother gave his life for his country. He will be in heaven, won't he?

A. If your brother knew Christ and was saved by faith in the finished work of Clavary's cross, he will be in heaven. If not, though he could give a thousand lives for his country, he will not be saved. We need to learn anew that the only possible way of salvation is by grace through faith plus nothing. Many Christians believe we are saved by grace plus something. They will never have the assurance of salvation.

Q. How can I be happy when there is so much sadness and there are so many problems in the world?

A. The Bible does not teach that the happiness of our lives is created by our circumstances. Rather, the Scripture says, *"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice" (Phil. 4:4)*. Remember that happiness does not come from benign or cooperating circumstances. Rather, it comes from the Lord. Happiness should be remembered as a product of responsibilities met, duties fulfilled, tasks completed. We should not wait to just be overtaken by happiness, but rather, ask "What is my duty?" It is in doing one's duty that we have the joy for which we seek.

Q. How can I improve and stabilize my mental attitude?

A. The answer of the Bible is, *"Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8)*. Mental slippage can be avoided by thinking on the things of Christ and of eternity.

Q. Can you give me one neverfailing rule that I should follow in life?

A. Yes, certainly. *"Whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him" (Col. 3:17)*.

THINKING TOGETHER

THE SPIRITUAL INITIATIVE

You and I have often been asked the question, "What is the greatest need in the Church in our time?" The answer to that question in our time (and perhaps for all time) is to believe the truth and then exercise the spiritual initiative. Do the truth!

The truth, of course, is the Word of God, and the truth of salvation is especially the Gospel of the grace of God. To be saved by grace is to mount up on wings of assurance and gratefulness to God for His wonderful salvation. Apart from understanding the Gospel of the grace of God, we will drag around with us through life the burden of dead works--and the assurance of salvation will forever escape us. Believing the truth of the Gospel sets us wonderfully free.

Having now believed, I am called to accomplish magnificent things, called "good works" in the Bible. Each of us who believe the Gospel is now a "divine masterpiece" (Eph. 2:10). How do we live up to this calling? It is by taking the spiritual initiative. Indeed, one of the great inhibitions to the ongoing of the Gospel in our time is quiescent Christianity. Who is the quiescent Christian? He is the one who waits for something to happen rather than one who initiates spiritual happenings. He waits for the phone to ring rather than calling someone. He waits for a letter to arrive when he should long ago have taken his pen in hand. He waits for the approval of the committee, the board, the high

spiritual authority, before doing what he knows to be the will of God.

There are, in fact, untold millions of Christians in today's world who are "waiting for God to work" and quietly rocking their lives away in the meantime. In the process of waiting, the eyes close in quiet slumber; should opportunity then knock at the door, that sound would not be heard. Quiescent Christians fill our churches and their immobility (sometimes called spirituality) becomes a great limitation to the working of the Lord. To all who name the name of Christ in our time the Scripture extends the earnest call, "*Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light*" (Eph. 5:14). An even stronger word is heard from the Bible, saying, "*How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man*" (Prov. 6:9-11). These are earnest words which come from our Lord, words of which we need to take note not once but many times in life. They are at least a reminder that we need to wake up, arouse ourselves, gird our armor on, and seize the spiritual initiative, lest we sink down into a slumber which is very similar to death.

This is the problem that James faced in his epistle. He addressed a unitarian idea of a distant and unassociated God when he said,

by Dave Breese

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (James 2:19,20). Here James reminds us all that our faith, unless it is characterized by spiritual initiative – works – is dead. Here, James used the word dead in the sense of being unable to reproduce itself. Paul used the *dead* in the same way when speaking about Abraham's faith: "*And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God*" (Romans 4:19,20). Abraham, being beyond the age of fatherhood, was unable to reproduce himself. His body is called "*dead*." In the same sense, the Christian who has only faith, but does not work to propagate his faith, has a faith that is "*dead*," i.e.: unable to reproduce itself. Just so, that deadening influence can come upon any of us who only believe, but who do not seize the initiative to reproduce our faith in the lives of others.

We can lose the spiritual initiative in many ways.

Christians can lose the initiative out of fear. Too often they ask, "What will people think?" "Will I be thought a fanatic by taking the spiritual initiative?" If they

fear the opinions of others because of their overt spirituality, they will soon die—they will lose the initiative.

We can lose the initiative also because of neglect. The things of this world can reduce the thrill of learning new things from the Bible, communicating with God in prayer, and anticipating with joy the opportunity of leading another to Christ.

In these, and a hundred other ways, the initiative has been lost by the ecclesiastical establishment down through the years. Christianity has been in the world for two thousand years and still, more than half the world needs yet to hear the Gospel.

To lose the initiative leads to impotence, boredom, frustration, the sleep of the depressed, spiritual death.

Many individual Christians speak not at all about the Savior, nor seek at all to win others to Him. They give with reluctance, labor little or not at all. The initiative--and along with it the thrill, the joy, the adventure--is gone. Their faith, being without the attempt at spiritual accomplishment, is dead.

Mind you, we are not speaking about salvation, but about living, working, gladiating for Christ in this world. The admonition is "Don't lose the spiritual initiative!" To do so is to die of boredom, which is the worse way to go.



This letter to Collegians is available on the internet at www.christiandestiny.org. Material will be available

which will help them understand the times in which we live. There will be no cost to them for these special offers. Printed copies are available upon request.

Your support of the internet maintenance and premiums offered is needed and appreciated. Tell a collegian! Have them tell their friends.

A young mind is an important thing!

FINALLY



Dear Special Friend of Christian Destiny,

I want to say a most heartfelt thanks to you for your prayers, your friendship, and your generous giving to the ministry of Christian Destiny. This new year, opportunities continue to grow and the needs of the world expand as well. The real need of the world is for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the only hope for society is a knowledge of the Word of God. It is our hope, therefore, to continue to be confident in the blessing of God and the genuine love of the friends of this work for Christ.

Together we can shine like lights on the world in the midst of this needy nation of America and as a source of a knowledge of the Word of God to the nations of earth. The challenge of the future is as big as the world and as wide as the promises of God. Let's work together to touch our generation with the Gospel of Christ.

Faithfully yours,

David W. Breese, President
Christian Destiny, Inc.