

Destiny Newsletter

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by
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O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM

Undoubtedly you have watched the mounting bloodshed in the Holy Land with horror, as have we, and wondered where it all will end. Even now, things there are changing so quickly that we hesitate to comment upon them, knowing that by the time this letter reaches you, they are almost certain to have changed again.

Not since “the lightning war of 1967” has there been such carnage and flagrant hostility. At this writing, open war has not yet broken out between Israel and her neighbors. However, Israeli reserves have been called up in anticipation of a massive and sustained military action. Suicide bombings claim precious civilian lives virtually every day, with Israeli patience wearing thin and violent reprisals escalating. The Holy Land remains a smoldering powder keg, awaiting the spark that

We must warn the Gentile world...Israel's rejection of Christ the Messiah brought devastation.

could ignite a regional, and perhaps even global, conflagration.

It is, however, most interesting that, when things heat up in Israel (as they are doing now), people turn to us with pointed questions as to what the Bible foretells about the future and how Israel will be involved. People seem to realize that the Middle East is where it all began, and it is where it's all going to end.

But also of great concern is the question that is raised as to how we really feel about the nation of Israel. Some of our Arab friends feel we side automatically with the Israelis, giving them carte blanche to do whatever they want, not only with impunity, but also with our unconditional support. They claim that we love Israel indiscriminately and, perhaps, far too much.

On the other hand, there are those Jews who accuse us of not going far enough. Some even suggest that we hate the Jews—that we blame them for killing the Savior and for rejecting the Kingdom of Heaven.

The truth is, we do love the people of God—although we know that they are by no means perfect. And while the Bible is a record of the special nature of the nation of Israel, it also contains the account of Israel's many mistakes and failures (and consequently, her

discipline by God for those failures).

Looking at the strife that centers around Jerusalem and now threatens the security of the whole world, we think back upon the day nearly 2000 years ago when the voice of Jesus Christ was lifted at the Mount of Olives in a most plaintive cry. He said, “*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate*” (Matthew 23:37-38).

These are some of the most moving words that have been spoken in all of history. And were it not for the balance of the whole counsel of Scripture, one might be able to assume that God was forever finished with the people of Israel.

But thank God, that desolation is not to be forever. Rather, God will send upon Israel during the Tribulation, “*the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn*” (Zechariah 12:10).

Yes, the Bible teaches that Israel will be converted. *“In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness” (Zechariah 13:1).* That great conversion, however, will not come until the final years of that awful period of time called “The Great Tribulation.” For Israel, what a day that will be! It will also be a great day for the rest of the world, *“For if the casting away of them (Israel) be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?” (Romans 11:15).*

The historical fact is that out of the rejection of Jesus by Israel came that greatest of all acts of murder, the death of Christ. Yet out of His death on the cross came the wonderful offer of full and free salvation, made to **all** the people of the world, not just the Jews. Out of that unspeakable tragedy came the most wonderful blessing the world has ever known. There is no doubt about it, all men everywhere are now invited, yes commanded, to change their mind about God and believe the Gospel of the Grace of Jesus Christ.

Remember that Israel will have a fountain of cleansing opened for it during the days of the Tribulation. Will a special fountain of cleansing be opened for the Gentiles as well? The answer is that a fountain of cleansing has already been opened. It flows with the shed blood of Jesus Christ from Calvary’s cross. Indeed, the hymn writer put it well in saying,

There is a fountain
filled with blood
drawn from
Immanuel’s veins,
and sinners, plunged
beneath that flood,
lose all their
guilty stains.

God’s gracious offer of forgiveness and cleansing is extended to the whole world. All who believe in Jesus Christ are forgiven of every sin and made a member of the Church, which is His Body. Let us remember, however, that the offer of salvation by grace will not be forever. Soon the season of rescue will be o’er. Soon we will be taken to heaven in that marvelous event called the Rapture of the Church. At that point, the Church, the Body of Christ, is complete and the Gospel of the Grace of God will be replaced by the Tribulation message of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Knowing this, we can easily picture Christ in these days, standing above the nations of the world and saying, “O Los Angeles! O New York! O London! O Paris! O Johannesburg! How often would I have gathered **you!**”

The world is preoccupied with so many things, not the least of which is the threat of mushrooming war in the Middle East, that it still neglects the tender invitation of Christ. Soon, the door of grace will be closed and desolation will come upon the world. Soon, the Church will be taken and the days of the vengeance of God will break upon the world.

What then shall we do? We must

warn the Gentile world that it must not make the same mistake that Israel did. Therefore, the message of the Church in our time should be one of invitation and also warning. Christ invites the world to believe in Him, but at the same time warns of devastating judgment soon to come. How soon? Sooner than ever before!

Do we love the Jews? Of course! The Bible says, *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee” (Psalm 122:6).* It says of Israel *“for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his (God’s) eye” (Zechariah 2:8).*

The Bible is very clear that conditions around Jerusalem will continue to deteriorate until the end of the Church Age. Oh, there will be negotiations, treaties and promises of peace. But in the end, all that these efforts will produce will be *“sudden destruction.”* And it could well be that what we are seeing in Israel today is a sign that time is running out.

That’s why it’s so important for us to work together to take the saving message of the Gospel to the world while there is yet time. Many of those who still have electrical power in Israel and in the Palestinian territories can hear about Jesus each week via “The King Is Coming.” And it is your kind and generous support that makes it all possible.

Time may indeed be running out, and we have much yet to do before the Lord comes for His Church.

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

“EVER MORE ASSAULTS ON CHRISTIANITY” is the provocative title of a column in the Washington Times written by David Limbaugh. Limbaugh believes that “the war against Christianity in America is escalating and becoming increasingly hysterical.” He asks the question, “Could it be that those attacking are motivated more by an antipathy toward Christianity than an affinity for religious freedom?”

Concerning recent passage of legislation by Congress which allows for the “use of the Capitol Rotunda for their prayer sessions,” Limbaugh says, “This apparently incensed Barry Lynn of the Americans United for Separation of Church and State.” Limbaugh quotes Lynn as saying, “If members of Congress want a religious service, they can go to their houses of worship. The U. S. Capitol is not a revival tent.”

Limbaugh continues, “Don’t tell Barry Lynn, but the murals around the Rotunda wall depict pilgrims praying, the baptism of Pocahontas, De Soto planting a cross on the banks of the Mississippi and George Washington passing into heaven.”

“How ironic that instead of honoring the Judeo-Christian tradition underlying our unparalleled liberties, the secular neo-libertarians are trying to eradicate all vestiges of that tradition in the public arena.”

A QUOTE BY BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, former Prime Minister of Israel, gives a valuable insight into the fundamentalist Islamic mind set and its attitude toward America. “Some of you

may find it hard to believe that Islamic militants truly cling to the mad fantasy of destroying America...Unless they are stopped now, their attacks will continue, and become even more lethal in the future.”

Netanyahu continues to warn that one of the goals of these Islamic terrorists is to obtain a nuclear device and then detonate it within New York City, thereby striking at the very financial and cultural heart of America.



EARTHQUAKES ARE A SIGN

of divine judgment, as we know. The Scripture says, *“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood”* (Rev. 6:12).

Several times in the prophetic Scriptures, earthquakes are mentioned as characterizing the end of time. Their increased intensity and frequency should certainly therefore be seen as a sign, the evidence of a voice from God.

The wicked leaders of the world will speak to the mountains and the rocks and say, *“Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of His wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?”* (Rev. 6:16, 17).

ALTHOUGH WE GIVE NO CREDENCE to extra biblical revelation, the following

information from Grant Jeffrey’s chapter in the book Foreshocks of Antichrist (page 108) is quite fascinating. Jeffrey says that, “on several occasions the present pope has indicated that he believes he is the last pope who will follow the teachings of Christ and truly believe in Jesus Christ as the Lord God Almighty.” Apparently, the pope believes in a series of ancient prophecies given by a “Saint Malachi”

about 850 years ago which purport to foretell the future of the Roman Catholic Church “from Pope Celestine II (who ruled in AD 1143) until the last pope who would rule during the final destruction of the Catholic Church, almost a thousand years later, during the Battle of Armageddon.” Jeffrey continues, “According to Saint Malachi’s prediction, there would be only 111 popes...following Pope Celestine who died in 1146.” Curiously, this present pope is pope number 110. The prophecy further claims that the next and final pope would be the first to dare to assume the name and title of Peter and would rule from Rome during the Tribulation. In a final observation, Jeffrey says that Pope John Paul II apparently “believes that he is following an agenda based on these extra biblical predictions and that he will lead the world during the political, religious, and military crises that will lead to the appearance of the Antichrist.”

LIGHT SHINING OUT OF DARKNESS



*God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.*

*Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.*

*Ye fearful saints fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.*

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence,
He hides a smiling face.*

*His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour:
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.*

*Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.*

— William Cowper

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“I especially appreciated your article ‘That You Sorrow Not’ in the March Destiny Newsletter. While each newsletter is read from cover to cover, this one was especially appropriate and spoke directly to my heart. I did have a short period of deep sadness at her passing but have no doubt that she is with the Lord and I am looking forward to the time that I can be with her again. The Lord has given me peace and I have certainly felt the prayers of friends across the country. Your ministry fills a special niche in my life and I want you to know how much I appreciate you. I thank God for you.”
– Waukee, IA

“As a retired teacher, I’m spending more time in my Bible, especially prophecy. My parents taught me to love the Jews and prophecy. So few people even in church seem to know that. I do watch what is happening in Jerusalem each day.”
– Indianapolis, IN

“I continue to thank and praise God for every time I watch you on my television on Sundays, Channel 16, and for my newsletter, and Destiny Bulletin and my letters and notes. I can’t say enough about how I am encouraged and blessed to be able to have it all in my life.” – Kansas City, KS

“I teach an adult Bible study group each Wednesday morning and following our study time, we have our prayer ministry. It is a joyous delight to me personally to see how our great and wonderful Lord is blessing and opening our hearts more fully to His work in our lives. I would appreciate a copy of ‘Signs of the Times’ and ‘What Happens If You Miss the Rapture.’ These should be an additional tool for us as His children – to help us witness to those around us. Thank you for making these ‘tools’ available to us.” – Pollock Pines, CA



WORTH QUOTING

“Right is right, even if everyone is against it; and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.” — William Penn

“Don’t be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can’t cross a chasm in two small jumps.”
— David Lloyd George

“We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there.”
— Charles Kettering

(Speaking of Satan) “A person who has for untold centuries maintained the imposing position of spiritual head of four-fifths of the human race, and political head of the whole of it, must be granted the possession of executive powers of the loftiest order.”
— Mark Twain

“Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education and minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”
— George Washington

“The question before the human race is whether the God of nature shall govern the world by His own laws, or whether priests and kings shall rule it by fictitious miracles.”
— Thomas Jefferson

“As the sun creates your shadow, God creates your soul—but in each case it is you who determines the shape of it.” — Frank A. Clark

But especially,

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (Gal. 6:9).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q: Does God have a will, a plan for my life?

A: The Apostle Paul gave his testimony in this regard when he said toward the end of his life, *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"* (II Tim. 4:7). By saying this, Paul declared that he knew the "course" which God had prepared for him. He also testified that he had "finished" that course. He brought to completion the plan of God for his life.

Again and again the Bible speaks of the will of God and declares that we are to know the will that God has for us. Therefore, we can be sure that God has a plan for our personal lives. The fulfillment of that plan means that we will receive *"a crown of righteousness"* (vs. 8). Paul says that this crown is *"not to me only, but to all them also that love His appearing"* (vs. 8).

Q: How can I know the will of God for my life?

A: The Bible says, *"Wherefore be you not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is"* (Eph. 5:17). Here the word "unwise" means "mindless" or "empty-headed." So a person is mindless who does not know and do the will of God.

God declares His will for all. To know His will I must:

1. Be a Christian (II Pet. 3:9).
2. Be committed to Christ (Rom. 12:1).
3. Know the Word (II Tim. 2:15).
4. Pray for His leading (Luke 18:1).

There are other considerations. I assure you that the pursuit of the will of God is the great adventure of life.

Q: How can I best bring others to Christ?

A: That concern is very commendable because it is the opportunity and duty of every Christian. First of all, you must know that you are yourself saved. Secondly, learn the Word of God and thoroughly understand the Gospel of the Grace of God. And, thirdly, live a godly life so that others will see your faith. Earnest prayer for that person is also imperative.

Finally, be sure you want to bring others "to Christ" rather than simply into some institution. If your sincere concern is the salvation of others, there will be no limit to the spiritual opportunity before you.

Q: If I commit a sin as a Christian, am I lost?

A: The Apostle Paul accused the Corinthian church of 19 separate sins. Nevertheless, he said they were saints and they were also sanctified (I Cor. 1:2). A Christian, through failure, does not lose his salvation, but he may lose his sense of warm, personal fellowship with God. Therefore, God has made a wonderful provision for sin in the life of a Christian saying, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (I John 1:9).

Salvation is gained and kept, not because of your personal conduct, but because of the conduct of Christ on the cross. There He died and rose again and became the author of eternal salvation for all who believe.

Q: Can you cite a Bible chapter and verse that frees Jew and Gentile Christians alike from Mosiac Laws?

A: Certainly. *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us"* (Gal. 3:13). *"The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death"* (Rom. 8:2). *"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law"* (Rom. 3:28). *"By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight"* (Rom 3:20).

Q: I have committed my life to Christ, can I now expect to go to heaven?

A: Sure, you can go to heaven, but not because you have "made a commitment to Christ." It is inexact, misleading preaching that says, come and make your commitment and you will be saved.

The fact is that we are not saved by our commitment to Christ, but by His death on the cross for us. The precise way in which we are saved is that we are saved by faith in His blood. In salvation we receive a free gift of life eternal.

Now, to the saved, an invitation is extended for a commitment. Paul says, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service"* (Rom. 12:1). The people who were invited to present their bodies were already brethren. We need millions of committed Christians in today's world, but first we must trust in Christ and the finished work of the cross in order to be born again. The Gospel is not what we can do for God, but what Christ has done for us by His death, His burial and resurrection.

THINKING TOGETHER

FIVE NEEDED RESUSCITATIONS

In the ongoing of anything in this world, there is an ebb and flow of attention to certain facts and propositions as their seeming importance waxes and wanes. As it is in the world, so it is in the Church. There is a heightening and a fading of attention to the propositions of our existence. These propositions, these facts are called “the doctrines of the faith.” Yes, the core of our Christianity is not what we do, it is what we believe. Christianity is called “*the faith which was once delivered to the saints.*” The elements of that faith, the doctrines of the Church, need to be regularly examined and reinserted in our hierarchy of values to the high degree of their importance.

This being the case, we suggest that there are at least five vital, critically important doctrines which are in a state of severe neglect in our time. They need to be reemphasized, indeed, resuscitated.

Those five needed resuscitations, those doctrines which need in our day to be brought back to attention and paramountcy, are the following:

1. The distinctive nature of the Church.

The Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ is “*the head over all things to the church, Which is His body, the fulness of Him that fills all in all*” (Eph. 1:22,23).

What then is the Church? The Scripture clearly says that the Church is a most remarkable thing, it is the Body of Christ. Therefore the great calling of Christians is “*to the intent that now to the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God*” (Eph. 3:10).

There is a contrasting doctrine which is emerging within Evangelical Christianity in our times. This is the view that the Church is Israel. Therefore the commission, the mandate which God gave to the nation of Israel is the same as that of the Church today.

This view fails to see that Israel is God’s earthly people with an earthly mission and the Church, the Body of Christ, is God’s heavenly people with a heavenly mission. In eternity, Israel inherits the earth, where the throne of David will be established forever (Ezek. 37:21-28). Abraham and his seed inherit this world (Rom. 4:13) while Christians inherit all things (Rom. 8:32). The false doctrine that the Church is Israel is already leading to many frustrating perversions of Scripture and many misdirected suggestions as to the program of God in the world today.

2. The imminent return of Christ.

Christians are always to be “*looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify to Himself a special people, zealous of good works*” (Titus 2:13,14).

Throughout church history, believing Christians have lived in anticipation of the coming of Christ at any moment. The consequence was and is that “*every man that has this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure*” (1 John 3:3). The Rapture of the Church is a cardinal, purifying, thrilling Christian doctrine. Could it be that some of the oft-preached impurities which have come upon the Church are the result of a loss of the sense

by Dave Breese

of the immediacy of the return of Christ?

3. Salvation by grace.

One of the most familiar verses in the New Testament says “*for by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast*” (Eph. 2:8,9). Nothing is clearer in Scripture than the fact that salvation comes to us “*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us*” (Titus 3:5). We are “*justified by His grace*” (Titus 3:7). Clearly then, salvation comes to us because we believe in the finished work of Christ on Calvary’s cross and as a result are made heirs of eternal life.

This blessed doctrine is no longer universally believed by Christians. Many new “gospels” have come into Evangelicalism in our time which, in one way or another, deny salvation by grace and demand salvation by works. For this reason, many segments of the Church have been rendered powerless, unable to successfully evangelize or properly grow. The power of God unto salvation is “the Gospel” and the Gospel is what presents salvation as a free gift. The present-day Church, in losing this, is populated by people who have lost the assurance of salvation and merely hope for the best when it comes to thinking about eternal life. Christianity ceases to be Christian the instant it forgets that the grace of God is the sole basis of our salvation.

4. The priesthood of every believer.

The Bible clearly teaches that *“there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”* (I Tim. 2:5). Therefore, no other person is commissioned in Scripture to a priestly office to mediate between God and man. In Christianity, there are no high priests save one, that is Jesus Christ. In that we have access to Him, every believer is a priest. *“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:14,15).* Because of this, we have ourselves a priestly office. The Scripture says, *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”* (Heb. 4:16).

What a marvelous status we have with the Lord. As believer-priests, we have personal access into the presence of God. Indeed, we are invited to come boldly before His throne of mercy. Untold evil has been pressed upon millions of Christians in that they are denied by the Church the status of a believer-priest. Few doctrinal errors have wrought more mischief than this.

5. The reality of heaven and hell.

Christianity in our time has been greatly limited in that it has become virtually a humanistic religion preached as the answer to the problems of time. While the problems of time have a small degree of importance, they are not to be compared with the limitless joys of eternity. Religious experts on human things are not commended in Scripture (Phil. 3:18,19). Rather, the Scripture teaches the vaporous transience of

this life and the contrasting reality and solidity of eternity. This life is *“our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* (II Cor. 4:17). Yes, eternity is a real place and far more “real” than is this world or the things of today.

What will eternity bring? It will bring heaven to all of those who believe in Jesus Christ. It will bring hell and eternal damnation to all of those who do not believe. Argue as we will, this is what the Bible teaches. Unfortunately, in our time, human reason and even ecclesiastical sentiment has replaced the clear teaching of the Bible. There are Christians everywhere who would testify that they have not heard even a mention of heaven or hell for many years in the church which they attend.

These doctrines must be

resuscitated, preached again, first of all because they are true. When Christianity loses its truth content, it is but an empty charade, a pale shadow of what it used to be.

These doctrines also need to be preached because they constitute the only message that will produce any real good in the lives of people. Many of today’s Christian gatherings are little more than “harmonic convergence.”

Powerless will be the pulpit that continues to ignore these doctrines. Empty and dismayed will be the Christian who cannot avail himself of the needed Word which produces spiritual strength. All other religious efforts, which at their core do not clearly present these truths of the Word of God, will be for nothing.

Doctrinal resuscitation is in order—*soon!*

FINALLY



Dear Special Friend of Christian Destiny,

A swirling round of events has certainly come upon our world in these recent days. We are reminded again that problems come upon the world in order that people will turn to God in order to discover the answers to life.

I wish to thank you as well for your sacrificial and most appreciated support of the ministry of Christian Destiny.

Let’s pray also for millions of graduates who even now will be thrusting out into life. Why not send them a copy of *Discover Your Destiny* or even *Seven Men Who Rule the World From the Grave*. Let’s work together to make an impact upon our bewildered society with the message of the Gospel of Christ.

May God continue to pour out of His very best upon you and use you in a marvelous way for His glory. One of our great delights is to be workers together with the Lord...and with you.

Faithfully yours,

David W. Breese, President
Christian Destiny, Inc.