

Destiny Newsletter

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by
Dave Breese

2003 -- YES?

There is some degree of expectation which lives in the heart of every person. Were this not so, what would be the reason for getting up in the morning? The fact is that most have expectations which reach into not only today, but also the months, the years to come. For them, when an annual milestone is passed and they look forward to the year to come, most will certainly ask the question, "Will this be the year?"

For most people, however, expectations run along the lines of the natural world. They ask, "Could this be the year?" but they are referring to a clearly human event.

Most are probably asking, "Could this be the year when I break through into long-awaited success in life?" They have labored for years and looked forward to that indefinable time in the future when "success" would be theirs.

*"Be you also ready:
for in such an hour
as you think not the
Son of man cometh."*

"WILL THIS BE THE YEAR?"

There are many other kinds of expectations. Many others will say, "This could be the year of my happy marriage." From that point, expectations begin to slowly circle around that event which is coming up on the "4th of June." The fact is that the majority of hopes, of expectations center around the achievement of personal happiness. Dreams that are carried in mind, often for many years, become the object of expectations. Truly, hope springs eternal within the human breast: "This could be the year when dreams come true."

We Christians, however, have greater expectations. For us, "the year," could bring the return of Christ. The Bible says that every Christian should "*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth*" (Col. 3:2). Those who obey this admonition (and the numbers are growing) find themselves often in a time of thrilling contemplation. They ask questions such as, "What will it be like to go to heaven?" and "How will I feel when I walk the streets of gold?" Especially, they wonder, "What will it be like to meet Jesus Christ face-to-face?" Even the simplest answer to that question creates a thrill for the soul that can be afforded from no other source. The hope of heaven is a very real thing! Every person who has believed in Jesus Christ has eternal life. That eternal life will include residing in one of the palaces of heaven. It will include partaking of the fountains of pure water. We

will thrill to the music of the angelic choir, and, the greatest delight of all, fellowship with God Himself.

The great thrill reverberates within the soul when we are able to say, "Perhaps today." Yes, our hearts are lifted with ecstasy when we give the Christian response to the assertion, "This could be the year!" The year of what? Why, of course, the year when Jesus comes again to take us home to be with Himself.

Let there be no doubt about it! The coming of Jesus Christ and our trip to heaven is a sure and certain promise given to us in the Word of God. Listen once again to the Apostle Paul's description of that great event, the Rapture of the Church; "*The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words*" (1 Thess. 4:16-18).

The Lord does not give us the day or the hour of His coming. Why? Because, of course, He wants us to be ready for His coming at any given time. He wants us to say, "This could be the year," or even, "Perhaps today."

Remember that Jesus said,

“But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore be you also ready: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes” (Matt. 24:43).

Many will say, “I believe Christ may come this year, but what shall I do?”

The answer again comes from the words of Christ, *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord has made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he comes shall find so doing. Verily I say to you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods” (Matt. 24:45-47).* The faithful servant was the one who, in the absence of his master, continued to faithfully conduct himself as a servant of the Lord. What then shall we do? With this example of faithfulness in mind...

- 1. We will be faithful witnesses for Christ.** Millions do not know the Savior and will be left behind when He comes.
- 2. We will faithfully live godly lives for Christ.** Many in our time have betrayed the Lord while pretending to live for Him.
- 3. We will faithfully study the Word and faithfully observe the signs of the times.**

Our service for Jesus Christ must be done in the light of His appearing. When will that appearing take place? This is the year of our Lord, 2003. He could appear at any moment. Yes, this could be the year!

CHRISTIAN DESTINY'S 40TH YEAR

Over the years, many people have asked, “What is Christian Destiny?” It is, in fact, the great truth that God has a purpose in history that reaches from time into eternity. It is the bright promise that He invites us to be part of His great purpose. It is the amazing revelation that we are destined to someday share in the unimaginable adventure of ruling the universe with Christ.

The unsaved world does not share in that destiny, but rather faces the horrible fate of eternal separation from God. There is, however, Good News for the world. No one has to accept the fate of a godless eternity, if he accepts, instead, the atoning sacrifice of Christ's death on the cross.

One by one and silently, every individual is invited to share the marvelous destiny that God has planned for the Church. But first, he must hear the news that Jesus saves and is coming back again.

Forty years ago, in 1963, Dave and Carol Breese, along with a board of directors from the Chicago area, founded “Christian Destiny” as a non-profit evangelistic outreach. Their goal was to help take the message of salvation to the world of our time. Over the last 40 years, “Christian Destiny” has grown to become a truly worldwide outreach, spreading the Good News of the Gospel via television, radio, speaking engagements and the printed page.

Dave went to be with the Lord in May of 2002, but the message of “Christian Destiny” still reaches out to the world. Carol continues, with the help of a wonderful group of workers and supporters, promoting the timeless message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Powerful new voices have joined the cause, touching countless souls with the truth of the Gospel.

Every believer is invited by prayer, financial contribution, and participation to be a part of this exciting and growing ministry. There is much yet to be done in these critical and opportune hours of history. Together we reach out with the Word of Christ, that the world through Him might be saved.

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

REWRITING THE BIBLE? In his controversial and quite opinionated book entitled "A Moral Reckoning," Daniel Jonah Goldhagen suggests that it wasn't just the Roman Catholic Church that added fire to the flames of anti-Semitism during Hitler's Holocaust, but the New Testament itself! According to Goldhagen:

"...the New Testament's 'libelous and hate-inducing passages about Jews must go..."

"In addition, the church must recognize that anti-Semitism has been inseparable from its authoritarian and imperialistic pretensions and must...embrace religious pluralism to make clear that salvation does not come through the church alone..."

"The need, Goldhagen contends, is for Christians to rewrite the New Testament, to expunge anti-Semitism from it..."

Have segments of the Church ever been guilty of anti-Semitic attitudes and activity? History affirms that they have. But does the Bible, and in particular the New Testament, teach anti-Semitism? Definitely not! Such attitudes have arisen because of the misinterpretation of the Bible.

Under the guise of rectifying a terrible wrong, there are voices arising, demanding that we "rewrite the New Testament" to accommodate their sensitivities. The suggestion that the inspired Word of God can be rewritten to embrace whatever view is currently in vogue, sets a precedent for the coming Religion of the Antichrist!

Quotes taken from book review in the LA Times by John K. Roth

"THE GOVERNMENT AND

THE MEDIA for the past nine months have been calling this a 'war against terror.' So have we here. But terror is not the enemy. It is what the enemy wants to achieve. So we're making a change in the interest of clarity and honesty. The enemies in this war are radical Islamics who argue that all non-believers in their faith must be killed. They are called Islamics. Let us be clear. This is not a war against Muslims or Islam...It is a war against Islamists and all who support them, and if ever there was a time for clarity, it is now." Lou Dobbs--CNN's



Moneyline

"THE NEW YORK TIMES reported...that Iraq has ordered large amounts of atropine, a drug that can be used to counter the effects of nerve gas. The Times, quoting senior Bush administration officials, said the orders were placed mainly with suppliers in Turkey and that the United States is pressing Turkey to stop the sales."

"If the Iraqis were going to use nerve agents, they would want to take steps to protect their own soldiers, if not their population,' an official told the Times."

A SOCIETY BUILT ON INSTANT GRATIFICATION is what we have in America today, reports one newspaper analyst. Pursuing instant gratification is a tricky, dangerous business. And, of course, it never works. It has two other liabilities. The first is that it is very costly. If you want

something, it pays to wait awhile, pray awhile, think it through. If you must have it now, you'll pay through the nose.

Instant gratification is also very boring. One of the most fulfilling emotions of life is anticipation. If there is no time, no years, months, or days between desire and fulfillment, then we will die of boredom--which is the worst way to go.

"CHRISTIAN THINKING THAT FORGETS our eternal hope can easily give way to despair. Our age has produced much discouragement because it tells Christians to think more than they should about this world. About the Christian, the Bible says:

'For our citizenship is in heaven; from where also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Phil. 3:20).

Thinking too much about the things of the earth will produce despair, for all human relationships are loaded with ambiguities, unanswered questions, disappointments and frustrations. Because the universe is finite, there is no final fulfillment within the historical process. For fulfillment, we must look beyond the fading bubbles of time into the reality of eternity."

From the booklet **Getting Out From Under Depression** by Dave Breese. Please write or call for your copy. Suggested contribution: \$3.00.

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

“Thank you so much for your kind note and for getting the copy of Jehovah Tsidkenu to me. Every time I read it, it takes me back to that night in 1955 ‘When free grace awoke me, by light from on high. . .’ and with Dave’s patient help, ‘my terrors all vanished before (His) sweet name.’ Glory to God! I’ve never regretted that night once!!”
– Rutledge, GA

“Let me mention that our weekly Bible study group has just recently begun a study in the book of Romans. We are incorporating the tapes of Dr. Breese on that topic as a helpful aid in our class sessions.”
– St. John, KS

“It is always a bright spot in the day when I receive the monthly newsletter from Christian Destiny. I am so happy you are continuing the great work Dr. Breese started. I think it is a wonderful way to honor his memory, and I know it is pleasing to God. I so much appreciate the ministry of Christian Destiny and all of you who are continuing the work of spreading the Gospel and providing encouragement to Christians.” – Kensington, MD

“Thank you for my first copy of your Destiny Newsletter. It is a special blessing! It came as a shock to me to hear that Brother Dave had gone on to Heaven. As a fellow minister, I think of Psalm 116:15; ‘How fragrant it is in the sight of the Lord at the death of His saints.’ It is a comfort to know Brother Dave will continue to touch the lives of many, thru his books, tapes, and videos - AMEN!” – Redding, CA

“I have been a ‘fan’ of Dr. Breese for quite some time. His eloquence and knowledge of the Word was always a super blessing. His rock solid stand for the Pre-Trib Rapture of the Church was a singular blessing in itself. I was saddened (and yet envious) when I heard recently of Dr. Breese’s homegoing. We have lost a great warrior for the Savior. The Church Triumphant has accepted another valiant soldier of Christ into their ranks.” – Corona, CA

“You and the ministry are in my prayers. Hopefully our Lord will keep you on the air. I really miss Dr. Breese.” – Sun City, AZ

“I am glad that you have taken on the Christian Destiny ministry, Carol, as I appreciated all it contained – the Word as it should be given to the world. The time to work and pray is short.”
– Littleton, CO



WORTH QUOTING

“If frugality were established in the state, if our expenses were laid out rather in the necessities than the superfluities of life, there might be fewer wants, and even fewer pleasures, but infinitely more happiness.” — *Goldsmith*

“Nothing so cements and holds together all the parts of a society as faith or credit, which can never be kept up unless men are under some force or necessity of honestly paying what they owe to one another.” — *Cicero*

“How narrow our souls become when absorbed in any present good or ill! It is only the thought of the future that makes them great.”
— *Richter*

“It is no great thing to be humble when you are brought low; but to be humble when you are praised is a great and rare attainment.”
— *St. Bernard*

“The greatest and noblest pleasure which man can have in this world is to discover new truths; and the next is to shake off old prejudices.”
— *Frederick the Great*

“National progress is the sum of individual industry, energy, and uprightness, as national decay is of individual idleness, selfishness, and vice.” — *S. Smiles*

But especially,

“If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth”
(Col. 3:1,2).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q: There are so many ways of salvation preached today. What is the real answer to "What must I do to be saved?"

A: We agree that there are many contradictory voices lifted now as to the way of salvation, probably 20 different versions within Evangelical Christianity. The true answer to the question is found in Scripture: *"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, and your house" (Acts 16:31).* Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. The Scripture says, *"He that believes on Him is not condemned: but 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).*

Q: After I receive Christ, what must I do to "keep" saved?

A: Happily, we have the clear word of Christ in answer to this question as well. Christ, speaking about His own, said, *"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).*

The answer therefore is that I can do nothing to "keep saved" but I am *"kept by the power of God through faith to salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:5).*

Q: Having received Christ and knowing the

assurance of salvation, is there a further call that is extended upon my life?

A: Yes, it is the call, the opportunity to be committed to the Lord Jesus. I am not saved by commitment, dedication, sacrifice, or any of those things, but I'm saved by the blood of Christ. To all who know Him, however, the Bible 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).* I then have the promise that, when I make such a commitment to Christ, I am enabled to produce *"that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* in my life. Yes, every Christian is extended the upward call to dedication to the Lord Jesus as a consequence of which he can be greatly used of God.

Q: Now that I'm a Christian, how does the Holy Spirit work in my life?

A: First of all, we are all baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ, *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13).* In the Christian life, every believer possesses the Holy Spirit. Indeed, this is the mark of a Christian. The Apostle Paul says, *"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9).* This chapter also tells us of one of the great ministries of the Spirit in working with our own personal desires and hopes, *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14).*

The Holy Spirit works in

the life of every believer, constantly filling and using us as we walk in obedience to the teaching of the Word of God.

Q: Will there be people in mortal bodies on Earth during the Millennium? I thought we received glorified bodies at the Rapture and Resurrection.

A: Those believers who die prior to the Rapture will have their bodies placed in the ground, while their souls and spirits go up immediately to be with the Lord.

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8).

At the occasion of the Rapture and Resurrection, the souls and spirits of those who have gone before will return with the Lord, and be rejoined to their new glorified bodies which they will have for eternity. Those Christians alive at that time will be taken up and changed to have these glorified bodies as well (1 Thes. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-53). These bodies will be like that of Christ after He rose from the dead.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).

By the time the Lord comes to rule in His millennial Kingdom, following the Rapture and the Tribulation, the saints will still have these glorified bodies. But those who endured the Tribulation and proceeded into the Millennium will maintain their mortal bodies and continue to bear children. Children are mentioned as being part of the millennial Kingdom.

THINKING TOGETHER

THE DIVINE MASTERPIECE

Many a sermon is preached and many an interesting discussion is centered around the question, "What is a Christian?" The discussion is a valid one because it points to many an answer to that question which is given to us in the Word of God. We can helpfully note a number of those answers.

- A Christian is a son of God (I Jn.3:1).
- A Christian is a sheep in the flock of Jesus Christ (Jn 10:27).
- A Christian is a soldier in the army of the Lord (II Tim. 2:4).
- A Christian is a wrestler in a great contest (Eph. 6:12).
- A Christian is a fellow citizen with all the saints (Eph. 2:19).
- A Christian is a branch of the vine which is Christ (Jn. 15:5).
- A Christian is an heir of God (Rom. 8:17).
- A Christian is a member of the Body of Christ (Rom. 12:5).

These are but a few of the assertions made in the Word of God as to the nature of the Christian. With all of these in mind, we are surprised and enormously complimented by one of the great descriptions of the Christian given us in the Word of God. The Scripture says, "*For we are His workmanship*" (Eph. 2:10). Before we dismiss this as an ordinary statement, note that this word, "workmanship" is very special. It is the word, *poema*. Yes, it is the word from which we get our word, poem. Its true meaning is "masterpiece." One of the greatest kinds of

masterpieces in this world comes in the form of poetry. Even so, we are made as divine masterpieces by the great Artist of the universe, who does all things well.

"Divine masterpiece," what a way of describing the Christian! This means at least that there's something very special about a Christian. It really means that the Christian is the best thing that God ever made in the history of the universe. Yes, the sun, the moon, the stars, the beauties of nature - all of these are impressive things. However, all of these will perish, but not the Christian. This divine and eternal masterpiece will live forever!

Having declared us to be a masterpiece, God understandably states the purpose for which we were created, the purpose for which Jesus saved us. We are created in Christ Jesus "*unto good works.*" May we suggest that there is a special meaning to this passage?

When the Bible uses the word "works," it cannot refer to nugatory activity. It is implicit that our doings are "accomplishments," works that will matter for time and for eternity.

We notice also that we are created unto "*good*" works. We can be forgiven for suggesting that when God uses the word good, He is speaking of something magnificent. It is, therefore, clear from the Word of God that we have been saved by the grace of Jesus Christ for

by *Dave Breese*

the purpose of producing magnificent accomplishments in this world. Indeed, God has before ordained that we should walk in them. Therefore the characteristic, the norm of the Christian life should be magnificent accomplishments. These are the divine intention; they are ordained by God as the purpose of our lives.

Some suggestions for magnificence come to mind . . .

Why not pray for a whole nation, for its conversion to Christ (like John Knox did for Scotland)?

Why not work for the defeat of godless anti-Christian enterprises?

Why not labor for renewal in an area that has been demoralized by ecclesiasticism (like Wesley did for England)?

Why not write the great book that will influence generations (like Bunyan did with **Pilgrim's Progress**, like Lewis did with **Mere Christianity**)?

Why not establish a movement in a decomposed culture that bears a great witness (like the Huguenots did in France)?

Yes, why not do something magnificent today? To whom? Like loving someone who is not handsome and talented. Like forgiving someone who does not deserve it. Like asking the question, "What would Jesus do?" And then doing it.

FACING THE FUTURE... WITH JOYOUS ANTICIPATION

One of the most obvious attitudes of our present time is fear. One sees it written across the faces of most of the men and women whom he meets. This fear, in its largest form, is now apprehension of the future. "What will happen tomorrow? Will I survive? Can I make it much further along the road of life?" These are the questions which press upon the anxious minds of the men and women of earth.

It is possible not only to be unworried about the events of tomorrow but rather to face them with joyous anticipation. Indeed, it is possible to reach forward with bright hope to the things which lie before. What must be true about the person who is to be delivered from anticipatory anxiety? The following recommendations are certainly in order.

1. Be a Christian. The Bible teaches that the one who has believed in Christ as his personal Savior has eternal life and will not perish. In addition, he has the presence of Christ, the privilege of prayer, the promise that his needs will be supplied and the assurance that God will be with him in trouble. Christianity then, properly understood, causes a person to be "anxious for nothing."

2. Be consecrated to Christ. One who has committed his life to the Son of God has, in a very real way, placed himself in the hands of another. One who has taken up his cross already sees himself as being dead to this world, crucified with Christ and now living for Him. The consecrated life is one then that can

no longer be hurt, jeopardized, buffeted or put in peril. It belongs to the Lord and is no longer mine to protect.

3. Don't let the past have too much influence. The Apostle Paul said that one of the principles of his life was "forgetting those things which are behind." For each of us the trail of life has been characterized by successes, failures, mistakes, accomplishments, joys, sorrows, regrets and moments of which to be proud. The point is that none of these should unduly influence the present or the future.

Past accomplishments can produce pride and this can destroy us. Past sins produce guilt, but the Christian knows that forgiveness is available from Christ. He, therefore, lives the forgiven life which is then succeeded by the victorious life. He learns from the past, but he knows that those lessons are of little value compared with the presence of Christ and the leadership of the Holy Spirit today.

4. Reach forward to the future. The Christian wisely faces every new day by asking in the morning, "What wonderful thing is going to happen to me today?" More properly he asks "What grand thing will I do today?" He looks forward to the fulfillment of the promises of God in his life this very day. Such an attitude produces spiritual initiative,

the imperative quality for any accomplishment. The Christian, living life with zeal, is constantly reaching forward, certain that he will daily enjoy the fulfillment of the promise of Christ, "I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

5. Remember, heaven awaits beyond. Above all other considerations that have to do with time, the Christian knows that he will, one day, be translated from the vicissitudes of time into the glorious, sunlit skies of eternity. He is sure that the day is coming in which God will wipe away all tears, in which there will be neither sorrow nor crying. He knows that the greatest joys and deepest anxieties of this passing, shadowy scene are ephemeral, impermanent things. All that life has to offer, which seems so big today, will soon become "the former things" which will have passed away. Earth is the shadow, heaven is the substance. This life is but the prelude to reality. The life to come is reality itself.

The believer who remembers these things can handle every difficulty of the journey through the passing scene of time. He can face the future with joyous anticipation because the certainty of heaven to come is a far more "sure thing" than any of the variegations through which he may now be traveling.

by Dave Breese

FINALLY



Dear Friend of Christian Destiny,

At this time we wish to say a heartfelt thanks to you for your support this last year. We report the blessing of God and His supply of every need. We also look forward with bright anticipation for the year to come. It will be filled with great opportunity and be more challenging than ever. I trust, therefore, that we may continue to have a place in your prayers. We look forward to the joy of working together with you in penetrating our social structure with the message of the Gospel of Christ.

Most Sincerely,

Carol Breese
Christian Destiny, Inc.



Meet Tim McGhee,
Dave's nephew, who works with
the ministry of Christian Destiny
designing and updating our
website. Check it out at
www.christiandestiny.org