Destiny Newsletter

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THE REMAINDER OF WRATH

May 2006

A very understandable attitude is developing in our time and that is that things are out of control.

The nation has come through a well-known set of unusual difficulties including floods, drought, fires, landslides, earthquakes, record freezing temperatures, hurricanes and many other things. These "natural catastrophes" are compounded by forms of human criminality that were rare in days gone by.

The result is that many are beginning to say, "It is getting to be too much! We are put upon by problems which are beyond our capacity. Could it be that even God has forgotten us?"

There is a pointed answer to that question to which the world of our time should pay very close attention. The Psalmist has said, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise You: the remainder of wrath shall You restrain" (Psa. 76:10).

We note that we have two

"The wrath of God has not yet been revealed from heaven because you are here and I am here." wonderful promises given to us, therefore, from the Word of God. To understand both of these promises is to move into hope and confidence, no matter what may be our external circumstances.

The first promise of this verse is that nothing in all of life will ever come upon us which cannot be used to the glory of God and our personal good. The time is upon us when we will need to believe this promise as never before. Foolish promoters of many evils are bringing upon this world a set of circumstances that can certainly be called "the wrath of man."

Despite all of the conferences, all of the peace movements, and all of the solemn promises, the world of our day is being torn by ferocious, angry disputes of every kind. In several dozen places across the world, these disputes take the form of bloody warfare, bringing to us daily reports of death and destruction that are heart-rending indeed.

In addition, the personal life of every individual in the world, even those reading these pages, is beset by many incomprehensible difficulties. Even to the believer the Bible says, "In the world you shall have tribulation" (John 16:33).

All of these things, however, are no cause for despair!

Again and again the Bible tells us that the circumstances of life for all of us are carefully controlled by the Lord. In the midst of life, therefore, God promises to us again and again that nothing will take place for us that is

beyond our capability to handle and that is devoid of some saving grace. We are all familiar with the great promise, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

Even in the midst of the deepest problems of life, we note that the Scripture promises, "There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not permit you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13).

This promise is given particularly to believers, and in this we should rejoice. The promise, however, is almost the same for the whole world, that the wrath of man will yet praise the Lord.

Serious thought therefore should be given on a daily basis by each of us about our circumstances in life. We need to ask about even the worst things, "How can this be used to the glory of God?"

We will soon discover that the genius of Christianity is not that we are in the midst of a different set of circumstances from the world. No, indeed, the rain falls on the just and the unjust! Rather, the believer has a point of view, the divine viewpoint, that views everything differently from the world's vantage point.

We must therefore put it down

and never forget it, that all of life, without exception, can be used for the glory of God. We are well commissioned by the Lord to remind the world of this fact as well.

We have a second promise given to us in this verse. It is that God will restrain "the remainder of wrath." That simply means that any event or set of circumstances that are more than can glorify God, the Lord Himself will restrain.

We can be very sure, therefore, that there is somewhere a repository of awful things that would come under the title of "the remainder of wrath." These things are even now being contained, restrained, held back, and put into a "bank of wrath."

We cannot therefore help but be reminded of the prophetic Word of God. The Bible teaches that there is coming a day when the restrainer of iniquity will be in fact taken out of the way. The Apostle Paul declares, "You know what restrains that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity does already work: only He who now restrains will continue to restrain until He be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked one be revealed" (II Thes. 2:6-8).

What then will be the condition of our world? What will happen when the Restrainer is withdrawn?

In a word—devastation!

The Scripture teaches that this matter of divine indignation, the wrath of God, is being withheld until that given moment of the revelation of wrath. The Scripture, describing man's activity today says, "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render

to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:5).

Out of this, we can take great confidence, remembering that this is not the day of the wrath of God. This is the day of grace! It is the day of the Church! It is the era in which the grace of God is to be preached to all of the world announcing that "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17).

During this day of grace, God continues His careful protection of that marvelous organism, the Body of Christ. The wrath of God has not yet been revealed from heaven because you are here and I am here. We, as believers in the Gospel of Christ, are insurance for the world against divine judgment. He will not withdraw His restraining hand and pour out His wrath until we are taken from this world of ever-rising iniquity.

We Christians, therefore, need to picture ourselves as laboring in the city of man which is located at the foot of a large dam. One day that dam of restraining grace will be taken away. At that day, the overwhelming floodwaters of divine judgment will break upon the world in a fashion that is not to be compared with even the worst activities of man today.

Yes, the world will be swept by a tidal wave of uninhibited iniquity which will threaten the very survival of humanity. About that time Christ spoke saying, "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved" (Matt. 24:22).

This is still a gracious day of opportunity, but at the same time, the mounting waters of divine judgment are building pressure and more pressure on the dam that protects us. Then the inundating of iniquity will be unimaginably great. Perhaps the

floods and hurricanes of this last year were but a small illustration from God as to what is soon to come in our world.

In the meantime, we Christians walk in total confidence that God knows, He understands; He works with efficiency and power every day in order to guide the affairs of earth that all things may work out to His glory. Walking in this confidence that we are protected, guided, and helped by God, we say again, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31).

From the writings of Dave Breese

DEVIATION

A bias on the lines of life
Seems always to be there,
Slightly warping everything
The thickness of a hair.
It even turns the ship of state
By just a few degrees.
Anon the vessel founders low
In poorly charted seas.

Just so, in every deviant thought

The warp of truth is found.

To subtly ease the well-steered helm

To finally run aground

The open seas must be achieved

Ere sails can be unfurled.

Then charted, tested truth will give

The vessel to the world.

Full many a man and many a cause
Embarked with noble goals.
But inattention to the helm
Wrought wreckage on the shoals.
Beware therefore the warp of life
That bends us from the plan.
With chart and compass stay the course.

At stake? The soul of man.

Dave Breese

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

"MISSIONARIES ORDERED OUT OF THE COUNTRY--The

missionaries have been here for years, offering Bible lessons, helping cure the sick, and painstakingly learning the Indians' language. Now, President Hugo Chavez says their U. S.-Based evangelical group has links to the CIA, and he ordered all missionaries working with the New Tribes Mission to leave Venezuela.

The New Tribes Mission, based in Sanford, Florida has settlements in remote, mineral-rich tracts of Venezuelan rain forests located far from the surveillance of authorities. Chavez [...] ordered New Tribes missionaries to leave, accusing them of exploiting indigenous communities and having links to the CIA through 'imperialist infiltration."

Philadelphia Inquirer

"THE POST-MODERN CRISIS--

Dr. Ed Hindson, Dean of the Institute of Biblical Studies at Liberty University, recently penned a penetrating insight into the mind set of young people today.

'We have a post-modern culture which is inherently irrational. To put it simply, today's younger generation doesn't care what is true. They prefer to believe whatever makes them feel good despite all the so-called facts. Public education has convinced them of a relativism that quickly and conveniently dismisses fact for feeling...

Therefore, post-moderns can mix incompatible theologies into their philosophical "blender" and come out with a mutual belief in Jesus, Buddha, Krishna, tarot cards, same-sex marriage, and abortion—all while claiming to believe in biblical inerrancy! . . . For them, nothing is certain but their own experiences."

The Lamplighter

"REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD IS SET FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE"--The

Redeemed Church "was founded [in Lagos Nigeria] by men and women who were once the

target of missionary work
themselves. Now their
church is one of the
most aggressive
evangelizers to
emerge from the
recent advance of
Christianity across
Africa, and [...] is part of
a boom in African churches

establishing American outposts. [...]

'We are afraid with the way things are going in the world and in America--allowing people to do what they like, creating their own religion and philosophy--those people are going to pay for it. We don't want that to happen.' [...]

The Redeemed Church believes Christianity here has become a lifestyle, not a transforming way of life, and they feel obliged to rescue the people who brought them the faith in the first place.

'There is a vibrancy in Africa.
[...] We are offering that gift back to America.'" Rachel Zoll, Associated Press

"SHOULD BIBLE PROHECY BE TAUGHT IN OUR CHURCHES? [...]

If there ever was a day when Bible prophecy should be emphasized and taught, it is NOW! [...] Israel is the most frequently mentioned subject in the Bible next to the LORD Himself! You will find it 2566 times in the Bible. God has never forsaken His people nor cancelled His covenant with them. It is NOT based on their performance but upon His love and faithfulness (Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Psalm 105:8-11)."

David Hocking, Prophecy Watch

"THE SUNFLOWER STATE REMAINS AT THE CENTER OF THE STORM over the very lively question of how to teach origins.

'Kansas currently
has the best science
standard for the
teaching of evolution in
the nation,' declares
Logan Gage, a policy
analyst in
Washington, D.C.,
with the Seattle-based
Discovery Institute.

The new standards call for teaching the strengths and weaknesses of Darwinian theory. The idea is to get students to think-to engage them in the science. 'Why shouldn't students know there are lively disputes in journals over many aspects of Darwinian theory?' Gage asks.

'There is much disinformation being spread by the Darwin-only lobby' Gage warns. 'The issue in Kansas is NOT over Intelligent Design,' creation or anything but how to teach evolution.

With significant 'Darwinonly lobby pressure, Kansans will have to work hard to hold on to their new standards.'"

Timothy McGhee, Washington, D.C., Website provider, *christiandestiny.org*

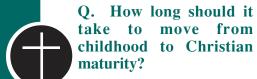
SPEAKING OF KANSAS--

"Smith Center--Followers of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, known for founding the transcendental meditation movement, recently broke ground on a complex they are calling the World Capital of Peace.

The \$14 million project will sit on 480 acres of land in north-central Kansas, near the Nebraska line and close to the geographical center of the continental United States."

Associated Press

Y OUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



The Bible says, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (I Peter 2:2). It is, therefore, the divine intention that we do not remain spiritual children, but become mature Christian adults, worthy associates of Jesus Christ. The path to maturity may vary, however, depending on the study of the Word, earnest prayer, a daily effort to live up to the principles of Scripture and the help of God. Work at it because Christian maturity is the greatest need in Christianity today.

Q. Why are so many people not Christians?

A. There may be many reasons, but one of the chief ones is that too many unsaved people have never met a real Christian. Too many Christians are poor examples of the faith and as a result, many are not attracted to Jesus Christ. We must pray for them and attempt each day to be a shining example of the truth of the Word.

Q. Is anything better than riches?

A. "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold" (Proverbs 22:1). Human riches will perish at the using, but the possession most to be desired is to live a life that is approved of God.

that you can give to a young person?

A. "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Tim. 4:12).

Q. When will Christ come again?

A. Be sure, first of all, that Jesus will come again. We are not told the time in Scripture because we are to expect Him every day, every hour. To pursue a given date is foolish, but to live each day in great expectation of His return is the attitude of a wise man.

Q. As a Christian, I have not lived a perfect life. Can I still be sure I am going to heaven?

A. Salvation is not determined by the life that you live. It is rather determined by the death that Jesus died on your behalf on the cross of Calvary. Christian may fail the Lord many times, but his salvation is unaffected by this. It is the blood of Jesus Christ that produces salvation. The Bible says about the Lord Jesus, "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever lives to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). Remember the couplet which says,

"How Thou canst love me as I am And be the God Thou art Is darkness to my intellect But sunshine in my heart."

Q. How long should it | Q. What is the best advice | Q. How shall I invest my money?

A. Most human promotions, in answer to that question, are bogus, money losing schemes. Money should be used to buy treasures in heaven, rather than simply stacking up wealth. Be careful, be prayerful, and be plenty cynical about human financial advice. One of the best things to do is to invest in the Gospel.

Q. Are there rewards for serving Christ?

A. Yes, indeed. Paul describes the accomplishments of our lives as producing "gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble." Then the Scripture says, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall test every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he has built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shallbe saved; yet so as by fire" (I Cor. 3:13-15).

Surely one of the great moments of eternity will be to hear Jesus say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

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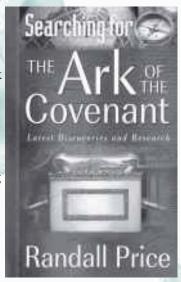
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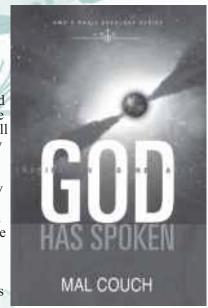
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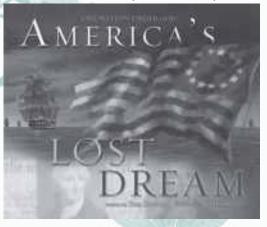
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Written by Tom Dooley
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Dr. Ed Hindson

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