Destiny Newsletter

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OVERCOMING THE WORLD

From the Writings of Dave Breese

The totality of experience for nearly 100 percent of the people of this world is the world itself. The stimulus, the ideas, the direction, the motivation which impacts their lives comes virtually every minute of a 24hour day from that constant system which the Bible calls "*the world*."

September 2006

It, therefore, is inevitable that the major shaping of the lives of virtually everyone comes from the pressures left, right, strong, weak, up, down, around, which originate in the world. The consequence is that virtually all individuals are simply the products of the world's ideas, thoughts, motivations. "The world is too much with us" said the poet, and this is almost a universal truth.

In the providence of God, however, there comes to each of us an occasional moment of clear lucidity, when we see quite obviously that we have been mere lumps of clay, shaped by the world. Along with this moment of perception, we may experience a touch of sadness, saying to ourselves, "I am merely a product and victim of

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." my circumstances. What can I do to transcend the world and be shaped more completely by heaven's purposes?"

In such a moment we are coming close to obedience to the Scripture which says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides for ever" (I Jn. 2:15-17).

Here we are reminded again that the worldly process by which we allow our lives to be shaped is very wrong. Minding earthly things and becoming experts on the issues of time, we face the danger of missing the voice of God and the hand of heaven's guidance. "I am hopelessly trapped by the world" is the sad testimony of most in our time.

Can this trap be avoided? Can we be delivered from a wasted life that is simply spent in adapting ourselves to this world's system? The question becomes more pressing and poignant when we remember that the Bible teaches that a person who minds "earthly things" (Phil. 3:19) may well be one of "the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phil. 3:18). Overcoming, successfully resisting, triumphing over the world is, therefore, a really necessary thing. It is the key to real life! How then can I be strong enough, perceptive enough, jealous enough to triumph over the world in personal life and human activity?

The Great Question

Knowing that we would finally come to this question, John has given us an answer.

"Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I Jn. 5:5). What a promise! Here we are told that there is a way in which concerned individuals can be strong enough to resist the pressures of this corrupt society. Who is the person who can live such a victorious life? It is not necessarily the person who is smart or strong. Rather, it is the individual who believes something. It is the one who believes the simple proposition that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

This deserves further thought. How does believing in the deity of Christ make me an overcomer of the world? "It seems too simple," many will say. How does this work? We can understand this by facing some simple propositions.

The first is that if I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, then <u>His Word is final truth.</u>

When I believe this, I have settled the critical issue of our time, which is the epistemological problem. That is the question, "What is truth?" If Christ is the Son of God, then I need no longer run around from one guru to another looking for the truth. What is final truth? It is the Word of Jesus Christ, the Bible. So, faith in the deity of Christ establishes the Bible forever as the unfailing, unimpeachable guidebook of life. The believer, therefore, no longer wandering and leaderless, has a fixed course to follow. It is the instruction of the Word of Jesus Christ.

Also, if I believe that Christ is the Son of God, His presence is ultimate reality. One is amazed at the people of our time who stumble around asking, "Who am I, why am I here, where am I going, what is reality?" The question of the ultimate nature of things, what is reality, is answered by the deity of Christ. Reality is His presence with me and my presence with Him. Again and again the Bible teaches that the Christian is "in Christ" and Christ is "in Him." Our environment then is settled. We are not in Chicago, in New York, in Los Angeles, but we are in Christ. Believing this, the Christian will never be lonely again. He is the fulfillment of one of the Bible's great expressions, "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

Remember, finally, if Jesus Christ is the Son of God, <u>His triumph is</u> <u>inevitable.</u> Who will finally win the battle for the world, the universe? The answer — Jesus Christ. Whatever, therefore, may be the temporary hegemony, the leadership of someone in this world, all human victories finally amount to nothing.



This booklet was written while Dave was Bible Teacher on *The King Is Coming* telecast

For Any Contribution

The kings of the earth and all the important people are pitiful posturers by comparison to our King - the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Final Scene

The inevitable triumph of Christ is taught in hundreds of places in the Word of God. Think of the picture, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He does judge and make war" (Rev. 19:11).

Who is this person? He is "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:16). He is Jesus Christ.

Yes, there is no doubt about it; Jesus Christ will triumph in history. We can instantly learn from this that all other loyalties are as nothing when compared to allegiance to Jesus Christ. In fact, it is far better to die for His cause that will ultimately triumph than it is to live for a mere human cause that will ultimately fail. Whose triumph is inevitable? Jesus Christ — that's who!

All of these notable things and many more are latent within the conviction that Jesus Christ is God. The individual that believes that the deity of Christ — will move to a higher plane of strength, of capability and that amorphous thing called "spiritual victory." This pitiful world is not inexorable and it ought not to control us. Rather, inspired and directed by Jesus Christ under the conviction that He is Lord, we can move to a great program of personal victory and great spiritual conquest.

Remember again the person who overcomes the world is the one who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. When Christ the Lord walks with us in His power and purpose, anything is possible. I trust that He is walking with you today.

The Great Divide

There's an ongoing tragedy in American life today and it has to do with crossing The Great Divide.

What do we mean by this? There are millions of marvelous young men and women who are raised in our churches and Sunday schools across the nation. At an early age, they received Christ and moved on with every intention of walking with the Lord. Through grade school and high school, they successfully faced the problems and temptations of young life. We were all proud of them.

Then they came to The Great Divide! They left their home environs and went away to the university campus. At the university, they quickly found themselves in the midst of moral, intellectual, spiritual and ideological pressures that, in many cases, were too great for them. The result, in all too many instances, was spiritual disaster. Yes, on the university campus, millions of young people crossed The Great Divide and we do not see them returning. They found themselves unable to answer the anti-Christian arguments of professors and the anti-God moral pressures which came both from teachers and fellow students. Here, too many of our precious young people succumbed to the world and lost their identity--and many times their lives-under a cloud of godlessness that too often is the case in the colleges of America. What can we do?...

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DESTINY NEWSLETTER

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

"PARADE MAGAZINE [...] FEATURED an article entitled 'The World's 10 Worst Dictators,' by David Wallechinsky. While the persecution of Christians was not specifically addressed in the article, *for sure*, these countries with these dictators are where the worst persecution takes place. Pray for the Believers in these countries, and pray for the dictators themselves as well as their henchmen.

1. Sudan: Dictator: Omar al-Bashir. 'For 3 years his campaign of ethnic and religious persecution has killed at least 180,000 people in Darfur, western Sudan, and driven 2 million people from their homes.'

2. North Korea: Kim Jong-il. 'The world's most tightly controlled society.' Much malnutrition among the people.

3. Burma (Now Myanmar): Than Shwe. 'Leads the world in the use of children as soldiers.'

4. Zimbabwe: Robert Mugabe. 80% unemployment; [greater than] 20 percent HIV rate; life expectancy: 38 years.

5. Uzbekistan: Islam Karimov. Hundreds of civilians massacred by the army [in 2005].

6. China: Hu Jintao. Hundreds of thousands of people held in labor camps without trial.

7. Saudi Arabia: King Abdullah. All citizens must be Muslims; women are severely oppressed.

8. Turkmenistan: Saparmurat Niqazov. Rules by senseless whim; any disagreement with him is treason.

9. Iran: Seyed Ali Khamane'i. Reforms had been occurring; the present 'government' has reversed previous progress.

10. Equatorial Guinea: Teodoro Obiang Hguema. 'Torture is the normal means of investigation . . . there is no freedom of speech . . . no bookstores or newsstands.'

Countries 11-20 are as follows: Libya, Swaziland, Eritrea, Belarus, Cuba, Syria, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Laos, and Vietnam."

Carol H. Blair, The Issachar File

"GOOD NEWS IN CANADA! [...] The new Prime Minister is an evangelical Christian, and there are several others in the new government. One of the most exciting turn of events was the immediate announcement of the new Prime Minister that relations with Israel will be restored and business with Israel will become a major commitment of the new government!"

David Hocking, Hope For Today Newsletter

"THE PURSUIT OF GRATIFI-CATION [...] Frank Furedi, a British sociologist, says society sends a message that the pursuit of happiness is more important than work ethic, and that creates problems. 'Happiness has become the buzz word of our times' [...].

John Stuart Mill famously observed that happiness is the wrong goal: 'Ask yourself whether you are happy, and you cease to be so '

are happy, and you cease to be so.' A sense of entitlement is a little like happiness--and unearned emotion-which is why it often coincides with the breakdown of the work ethic. 'Happiness' is more easily achieved through hard work. The opposite of hard work is sloth, and lazybones can't be happy because he spends so much time trying to avoid what he doesn't want to do. Instant gratification is an addiction, casting the seeker of instant gratification in the thrall of demanding more, more, more."

Suzanne Fields, The Washington Times

"THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

is difficult to solve, but it is among the simplest conflicts in history to understand.

The Arab and other Muslim enemies of Israel ([...]this does not mean every Arab or every Muslim) want Israel destroyed. That is why there is a Middle East conflict. Everything else is commentary.

Those who deny this and ascribe the conflict to other reasons, such as 'Israeli occupation,' 'Jewish settlements,' a 'cycle of violence,' 'the Zionist lobby' and the like, do so despite the fact that Israel's enemies regularly announce the reason for the conflict. The Iranian regime, Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestinians [...] --as well as their Muslim supporters around the world, all want the Jewish state annihilated."

Dennis Prager, The Washington Times

"UP, UP, AND AWAY!-- 'Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth' (Rev. 3:10).

The language of this verse makes it clear that the church will not go into the Tribulation. This *hour of trial* will be a time when God's wrath will be poured out upon the world. Several things verify this fact. 1. The preposition *from* (Greek, *ek*) means 'out of,' that is, 'out of the midst of,' a clear indication that the church will not go through any portion of the Tribulation. If the writer meant to say that the church was going *through* the Tribulation, he could have used a

different Greek preposition, dia.

2. This is not just any trial, but *the hour of trial*, a specific season of Tribulation that is coming.

3. Christ promised to 'keep' (protect or preserve) the church, not *in*, but *from* this season of trial.

4. Protection is granted to all believers, not just the Philadelphia church, because this time of Tribulation will come 'upon all the world.'

5. The phrase to try them that

dwell upon the earth refers not to the church but to unbelievers who will be settled into the world's system during the Tribulation." David M. Levy,

> *Revelation: Hearing the Last Word* Used by permission from Friends of Israel

"THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

of Genesis 15 establishes Israel's title deed to the promised land [...]. In the words of John Hagee, 'Israel is the only nation created by a sovereign act of God.' It is an unconditional covenant that will be fulfilled literally through the preservation, conversion and restoration of Israel." Jagged Edge



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. What will heaven be like?

A. We must say that heaven will be a thousand times more wonderful than any joys that we know in this world. And so it is that 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" (I Cor. 2:9). One of the touching descriptions of heaven is, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death. neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4). The last few chapters of the Book of The Revelation gives a description of heaven which cannot be surpassed by any human commentary.

Q. Can we Christians really change the world?

A. The answer is yes and no. Christ did pronounce believers to be very special people when He said, "Ye are the salt of the earth . . . Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" (Matt. 5:13,14). The Bible teaches and history confirms that Christians have definitely changed the probable course of history, at given times and in given places. Our human activity should, therefore, be invested for the basic purpose of preserving our spiritual opportunity. Ultimately, however, "evil men and seducers shall worse and worse. wax deceiving, and being deceived' (II Timothy 3:13). The final state of society will not be a utopia, but rather the Great Tribulation.

So, we will not <u>finally</u> change the prophesied end of history, but both the great local and global changes have already been produced by consecrated Christian activity.

Q. What can I do to have God work through me?

A. It is not, strictly speaking, true that God works "through" us. That would make us simple conduits or even automatons. Rather, the Scripture says, "For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). The results externally come then as a result of cooperation between the will of man and the will of God. God works in us and it's our responsibility to pursue that inward leading and strengthening so as to accomplish a result "on the outside" to the glory of God. By the same token, it is not correct to say that God "controls" us, but rather He "leads" us by His Spirit (Rom. 8:14).

Q. Many people are talking about success in life. What is the key to success?

A. We must first of all properly define the word "success." If this means fame, fortune, popularity, possessions - then the question is irrelevant; for these things are not success. All efforts intended to produce these things are vain. (Don't buy the touted cassettes, books and programs that offer us success.) But, if success is defined as properly doing the will of God, then there is a great key. Christians must consecrate their lives to Christ and then success can be theirs. What is success? It is to be enabled of God to so live so that one day I can stand before Christ and hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21).

Q. I have been the object of child abuse and I hate my parents. What shall I do?

A. Concerning every problem or resentment of the past, the Bible tells us to forget "those things which are behind." and to reach "forth unto those things which are before." Whatever may be the burdens we carry, we are to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13,14). The past cannot be changed, but the future can still be marvelous for the Lord. So don't hate your parents, yourself or anybody else. Rather, commit yourself to be constrained by the love of Christ to be a good witness for Him.

Q. I have committed many bad sins in my lifetime; what must I do to be saved?

A. We can be very happy that the Bible says, "But God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). Every person is a sinner — "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. "But eternal life is available to anyone who will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank God that salvation is by grace and no matter how terrible a sinner anyone may be, he is cleansed whiter than the snow when he believes that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for our sins on the Cross of Calvary. Almost all religions believe in salvation by some kind of works. Do not believe this-but remember, the salvation that Jesus gives comes to us by grace alone.

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