

Destiny Newsletter

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“Our little systems have their day
They have their day and cease to be.
They are but broken lights of thee
And thou, oh Lord, art more than they.”
(Tennyson, “In Memorium”)

In our generation, we have said “goodbye” to dozens of nations. They have dropped into the dust bin of history.

This now common expression is more and more often used to refer to well-known nations of the past and present. They were once prosperous, influential, happy and apparently moving without serious problems through the untroubled course of their history. These nations are now gone. Many never sensed the turning of THE HINGE OF FATE which brought them down.

Mighty empires have been formed under the leadership of vaunted, self-assertive personalities. These empires and these personalities have now been swept away, leaving hardly a trace. Formerly proud emperors are now but statues, trunkless legs of stone standing in the desert, from which pedestal the lone and level sands stretch far away.

Certainly, the minimal lesson in this is that *nations live and nations die*.

As a standard variant, some retain their names but are devastated by invasion or revolution so that they are the same nation of yesterday in name only. So it sadly now is with scores of countries in our time. Frequently nations, overwhelmed by new powers, become the scene of unspeakable carnage where vast areas are laid waste, turned into graveyards

THE FATE OF A NATION

and crematoriums. It is apparent that no nation of our world is safe from these dreadful possibilities, as many from Korea to Kampuchea would testify. The death of a nation is a sad thing to behold.

We do well, therefore, to consider the question of the fate of a nation. Nations live and nations die. What really makes the difference? What can be known that will give us better authority than mere theory on this important matter of the fate of nations? Every person who lives in any nation in our time is wise to pay attention to such questions as if his life depends on it—because it does.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In order to understand what it is that produces national survival and viability, we must first face the question of the essence of a nation. What, after all, is a nation? To discover the answer, we must look back to the pages of earth’s most reliable history book. It is the Bible!

The Bible is really the only dependable source book available, given to man to explain the origin of things such as the universe, the earth, life, peoples, nations and humanity itself. No person, unfamiliar with the Bible, could spend time in a more valuable way than to examine the writing which tells us of these origins—the book of Genesis. In these opening pages of Scripture, we are told of the origin of all created things, especially man. Man, the Bible says, was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26,27). Man and woman, male and female, were created by God (what an inspiring thing to know about ourselves!) and were placed in a beautiful garden called Eden.

Adam and Eve, the father and mother of us all, were created in perfection, albeit in innocence. They were given a commission to subdue the

earth, to become its masters. They were beings of divine destiny, made to fulfill a great purpose. They chose, however, to turn from that purpose. They took to designing their own lives, rejecting the path which God had clearly set out for them. They believed the Satanically inspired proposition that destiny was resident in themselves, not in the God who made them. This was the mistake which led to all others.

The result is well-known to us all. Sin entered the world! Beginning with Adam, the race of men became affected in each successive generation by the continued and progressive infection of sin. This awful malignancy all too quickly grew in the hearts of men (and women, we speak generically) to the place where the Lord Himself made AN AWESOME DECISION. . . . “*And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repents Me that I have made them*” (Genesis 6:5-7).

To the pure eyes of God, the sight of depraved humanity must have been an awful scene to behold. The Bible says, “*The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth*” (Genesis 6:11,12).

Here, God in His infinite wisdom, made a decision. The earth, for the sake of future generations, must

be cleansed. So a flood was sent upon the earth for the destruction of the corrupt majority of humanity. One man was the exception to that corruption! Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. The result was that he and his family, because they were faithful to God and obeyed Him in the building of an ark, were spared the watery grave which came upon their vile, violent and unrepentant neighbors. After the flood, the day came when Noah and his family looked out upon THE SECOND DAWN OF HUMAN HISTORY. As God had previously commanded Adam and Eve, He now commissioned Noah's family to "be fruitful and multiply" and fill the earth. Here God choose to "restart history" (a popular "new age" concept) with the generations of Noah.

Along with that regeneration of humankind, God instituted a plan to retard, to frustrate the rapid growth of sin. He made it much more difficult for evil to be so quickly propagated across the world. Until the flood, mankind had been a single human unity. The world was "unitized" until the day of Noah.

THE NEW PLAN

What then was instituted was DIVISION. God, Himself, divided the world into a whole set of new political entities which He called *nations*. Speaking of one segment of the family of Noah, the Bible says, "By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue; after their families, in their nations" (Genesis 10:5). "These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations" (Genesis 10:20). The summation of the new plan to divide the peoples of the world is then found in Scripture, "These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood" (Genesis 10:32).

So a new word is introduced into the language...NATIONS. These new and remarkable units, the nations of the world, were then segmented one from another by divine design. We see, then, that God is against uniting nations, against a politically united world, but INDIVIDUALLY ORDAINED BY GOD, these entities have now become

"the powers that be" which bring ruling order to segments of mankind and divide the world into many diverse groups.

What, then, is a nation? It is a *political, economic and generic entity which claims a certain area of the world and is normally characterized by differences which are racial and linguistic*. The initial array of nations on earth were, in fact, the *families* of Noah after their generations.

The world, the families of men, were divided into nations. While it was the divine plan, it was soon resented by men. Somehow, the natural man, motivated by human weakness and the perversity of sin, constantly disposes himself to build a communal society. Man prefers to be disconnected from God, depending rather on multiples of his own kind (society), thereby imagining himself powerful because of his numbers. With this perverse disposition going strong, the human race engaged again in self-evaluation and decided it must make a name for itself. It instituted, therefore, a plan for uniting once again and proceeded to organize itself "internationally" in disobedience to the will of God. Conferring together, these foolish fathers of humanity said, "Come, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach to heaven; and LET US MAKE US A NAME, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:4).

"Let us make us a name!" How often in history has this cry been repeated! (Our English word for it is "denominate.") Men decided that it was, in fact, possible to build some strong human base, some earthly anchor to which they could hold, so as to brace themselves against the winds of the resented divine plan. Because man is a sinner, the divine plan was that he be scattered across the face of the earth. This would make it difficult for man, in his iniquity, to organize himself on an international political basis. Whenever man attempts to do this, his organization tends to become an anti-God thing. It becomes, in the process, a very anti-human, cruel thing, as well.

The world's plan for a new society was soon frustrated, however, for who can withstand the will of God? Man, with his feeble schemes and little

systems, is no match for THE POWERFUL WILL OF GOD working in the lives of nations. So God said, "Come, let Us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from there upon the face of all the earth: and they left off building the city" (Genesis 11:7,8).

The lesson then is clear. Individual nations in multiple numbers are the political units of the world which are ordained of God. Coercive combinations of nations, large international councils where kings and parliaments lend their authority to one another, these movements quickly tend to be satanic rather than divine. It is the devil who would organize a communal world. He then sets it against God (as indeed, one day he will-- Rev. 13). It is God who divides sinful men from one another. He does this for a most important purpose, that of preventing man from foolishly trusting himself and forcing him to trust the God in whom, alone, is strength. Men and nations, however organized and interdependent, cannot succeed when they posture themselves in an attitude of rebellion against the will of the Eternal God.

Having taught us that plural nations are the divine design, the Bible, we would expect, must surely give us that basis on which THE BLESSING OF GOD comes upon a nation. It must, we would certainly assume, give us the opportunity to know the policies which make for national greatness and conversely, the false principles which cause nations to fail. The fate of a nation; on what does it depend? Does the Bible tell us these things? Yes, it does!

We must not forget the first, the paramount principle that, according to the Bible, produces the fate of a nation. This quality, stated in the Word of God, says, "Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). The quality which is of the greatest importance in determining the fate of a nation is, therefore, NATIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS.

There is a second quality which is closely tied to the fate of a nation, and that quality is INTELLIGENT, MORAL LEADERSHIP.

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

“The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me, HE THAT RULES OVER MEN MUST BE JUST, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun rises, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain” (II Samuel 23:2-4).

Jesus Christ spoke on a significant occasion to His disciples and their friends, addressing the issue of their influence in this world. His words are full of present application and prophetic import. He said, *“You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is therefore good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. You are the light of the world. A CITY THAT IS SET ON A HILL cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it gives light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-18).*

A PROMISED BLESSING

This remarkable, indeed unbelievable promise of national survival and prospering to nations who are friends of Israel began in the pages of the Old Testament:

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:1-3).

The Word of God clearly promises a blessing on those who bless Jerusalem and delivers the frightening threat of a curse upon those who lift a hand against her. Our generation should know by personal experience how true this is. From the Writings of Dave Breese

“THE LOSS OF PURPOSE... The fatal flaw of the humanist viewpoint...is based on an assumption that man is basically good and can therefore be trusted.

The biblical view is just the opposite. It teaches that Man is born with a flawed sin nature and cannot be trusted. Consider the words of *Jeremiah (17:5,7 & 9): ‘Cursed be the man that trusts in man...Blessed is the man that trusts in the Lord...The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?’* The genius of the American founding fathers is that they recognized the truth of what the Bible teaches about the sinful nature of Man. They trusted no one, not even themselves. They therefore crafted a unique form of government that was filled with checks and balances. It was a government based upon a realistic assessment of Man’s nature.”

Dr. David Reagan, The Lamplighter

“THE WORD IS OUT that [Syria]--labeled as a state sponsor of terrorism--will cease its support for terror organizations, join the global fight against terror, and cut ties with Hezbollah if Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights...

...Syria has no intention of reforming and joining the civilized world; it is interested only in regaining the Golan Heights to use as a base, as in the past, from which to attack Israel. Lying to get what you want is the hallmark of the philosophy of the times...

...Biblically, we understand there is only one answer for the lies, distortions, and hate-mongering going on today. It is inspired by Satan. There can be no other rational explanation...”

William Sutter, The Friends of Israel



“THE WAR AGAINST CHRISTIANITY. The war is [on] against those who regard the Bible to be God’s revelation to humanity and the Ten Commandments to be His set of rules for all time. Phase one in this war is to make Christianity...socially unacceptable. Something only foolish, poor, and ugly people could turn to...

...Without a vibrant and vital Christianity, America is doomed, and without America, the West is doomed.”

Rabbi Daniel Lapin, Worldnetdaily.com

“CREATIONISTS OPEN \$27 MILLION MUSEUM--Petersburg, KY...Despite the showmanship behind the \$27 million museum... the evangelists who put it together contend that none of the gleaming exhibits are allegorical. God did create the universe in six days, they say, and the Earth is about 6,000 years old...The Creation museum, a project of the religious organization Answers in Genesis, mocks evolutionary science and invites visitors to find faith and truth in God...” Peter Slevin, Washington Post

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WORTH QUOTING

“Economic and military power can be developed under the spur of laws and appropriations. But moral power does not derive from any act of Congress. It depends on the relations of a people to their God. It is the churches to which we must look to develop the resources for the great moral offensive that is required to make human rights secure, and to win a just and lasting peace.”

--John Foster Dulles

“The spirit of man is more important than mere physical strength, and the spiritual fiber of a nation than its wealth.”

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

But especially, “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q: Will the nations of the world finally turn to God?

A: No, they will not. Rather, the nations will go to war against God (Psalm 2), saying, let us “cast away their cords from us.” The human heart is desperately wicked and that final rebellion against God will demonstrate this. Finally, of course, God will impose His will upon the nations of the world and Christ will reign for 1000 years from the city of Jerusalem.

In the meantime, no individual needs join a rebellious nation. Rather, he can believe the Gospel and be saved by the grace of God. Then, in the divine economy, he is no longer seen as a child of this world but rather as a child of God.

Q: The Bible says, “To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, [God will give] eternal life” (Rom. 2:7). Doesn’t this teach salvation by good works?

A: Indeed it does. In fact, it teaches salvation by *perfect* works. The suggestion is that God will give eternal life to those who invariably, without exception, live righteous lives. Unfortunately, all have failed to do this. “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). Therefore, no one has achieved the possibility of salvation by perfection, which is what this verse teaches. Being bankrupt before God, each person must now receive salvation by the only other way possible, that is grace. Therefore, “by grace are ye 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).

Q: Are there other gods in the world, the universe?

A: I presume that you mean, “Are there other gods beside the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?” One would be tempted to believe that there are many real, but lesser, gods when he reads of them being worshipped by other people and especially other nations. But, the Scripture says, “For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens” (Psa. 96:5). So, the so-called “other gods” are idols of wood and stone, carved by man.

The Bible also indicates that by worshipping these “other gods,” pagans may be worshipping demons. “And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk” (Rev. 9:20). Here is an indication that the worship of demons and idols will grow in the time of the Tribulation.

Q: I’m afraid to die. Can you help me?

A: Yes, a thousand times yes! You must become a Christian because when you are saved you will not be afraid to die. The Christian, in fact, does not die. Jesus promises us, “Whosoever lives and believes in Me shall never die” (John 11:26). Christ “has abolished death, and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (II Tim.

1:10). Christ by His death came to “deliver them who through the fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Heb. 2:15). Far from being worried, the Apostle Paul said that he was “earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven” (II Cor. 5:2).

Q: Considering the terrible things going on in our world, why does God allow war?

A: First of all, remember that God is not the cause of war. “From where come wars and fightings among you? come they not here, even of your lusts that war in your members? You lust, and have not: you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet you have not, because you ask not. You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts” (James 4:1-3).

But we wonder why God does not intervene in these bloody conflicts. He does not because this is not the time of divine intervention. Man is given the power of choice, and human volition is greatly respected by God. Choice would be a charade if there were not consequences to that choice. Above all, remember that the universe is not a charade but a very serious thing with God. Therefore, God will allow human volition to run its course, for a man uses that same volition to accept Christ and to commit himself to God. Finally, remember that there is coming a day when God will intervene. Remember then however, that, as C. S. Lewis has said, “When the playwright walks onto the stage, then the play’s over.”

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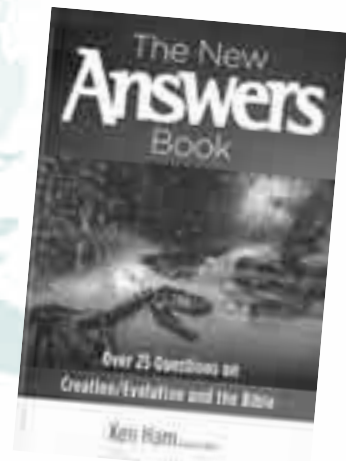


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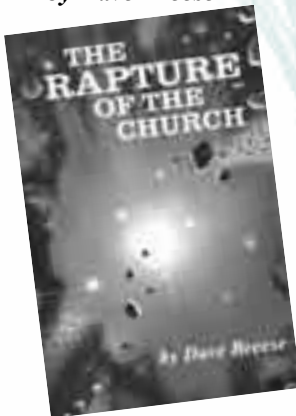
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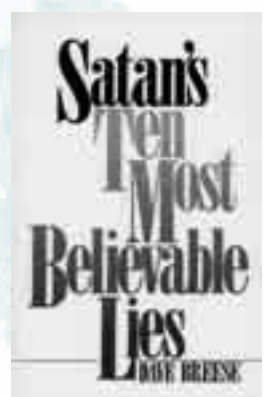
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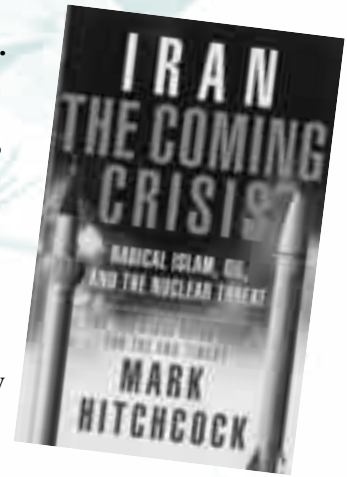
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THE SOLDIER

*With careful hands we propped him
Behind the sheltering wall,
While round us the explosions
Wrought terror in us all.
We asked how he was wounded.
He answered undismayed,
"The orders of our Captain
Must always be obeyed."*

*With fading strength he whispered
How he had joined the corps,
Called by his nation's Sovereign
To serve in peace or war.
It mattered not the issue,
Nor did he count the cost—
He would be a faithful soldier
Or the kingdom might be lost.*

*The victories had been narrow,
The carnage wide and large,
But, ah, the foe was vanquished
In many a glorious charge.
He served our valiant Captain
In battles small and great;
Hence the beloved homeland
Was spared a grievous fate.*



*Now this, his final battle,
He said with closing eyes,
Despite its sombre outcome
Would bring the victor's prize.
Then with his life's last breathing
Those gripping words relayed,
"The orders of our Captain
Must always be obeyed."*

*Those words still shine before me,
Their meaning sharp and fine—
To be a Christian soldier
Means life is on the line.
We press our Sovereign's battle
With choice already made,
The orders of our Captain
Will always be obeyed!*
— Dave Breese