Destiny Newsletter

PUBLISHED BY CHRISTIAN DESTINY

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THE FUTURE OF AMERICA--A CALL TO REVIVAL

Part 1

July 2008

The Decline of Culture

We live in a time of the decline of culture. It is a decline of such magnitude, that the only answer to the problems of our world is a vast, spiritual revival. The problem is not simply that individual people are becoming wandering, leaderless, irreverent, and uncommitted. It goes much deeper than that. The very nations of the world themselves are committed to godless policies and Christless activities. Murder, rape, pillage, and various other forms of utter dishonesty, are practiced in the name of government today. The only hope for a culture which finds itself in the midst of circumstances such as these, is spiritual revival.

Nations Rise and Fall

Let's remind ourselves, as we think about the need for spiritual revival, that nations do rise and they do fall. I was thinking recently of the history of our world in terms of great nations that once were, and now amount to very little.

There was the nation of Babylon, of which the Prophet Daniel spoke to Nebuchadnezzar, and said, "You are this head of gold" (Daniel 2:38). Where is Babylon today? It is buried beneath the sands of Iraq. There was the Media-Persian culture, which was the culture that conquered Babylon. Where is it now? Gone. There was the Grecian-Macedonian empire, which grew under Alexander the Great. What has happened to that? Very quickly, it dissipated, and came apart.

There was the Roman culture. Rome ran the world, once upon a time. But all of those who write about ancient Rome, talk about how decadence and gross immorality entered at the highest levels. Raving homosexuals ran the country, until Rome was nibbled to death and finally conquered by the barbarians who surrounded it.

We ought not to read history as a static thing. Consider what God said concerning the Old Testament: "Now these things were our examples" (1 Corinthians 10:6). We are to search history for examples, by which to govern our lives today. Look at modern times. The Holy Koman Empire is gone. The Turks once ran the entire Middle East. What happened to France since Napoleon? And what about Spain? Spain was once a most significant nation. Now it is nearly irrelevant. Britain, that empire which used to go around the world, is virtually gone. Japan has severe problems. And even the United States of America should be looked upon with great concern by decent, culturally oriented people. America is in a state of decline. This matter of national decline is not going to be solved by clever economic theories and the rest of it. There must be a new heart, a new spiritual content, a new sense of purpose built into the life of our nation. We must have spiritual revival.

We are reminded by many that America was born out of spiritual concern. The first settlers came here because they wanted individual freedom to worship God, to believe in Christ, and to be a witness for Him. That was to be guaranteed.

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7).

The Prophet Isaiah tells us that the decline of a nation has something to do with wickedness and unrighteousness. It is not just the lack of military prowess. It is not just the lack of good plans for the culture--new streets, and homes, and palaces, and the rest of it. It is not a mechanical thing.

The basis of life is moral. If something comes apart morally, it is not going to be put together again, apart from a resuscitation of its moral content. That kind of rebirth can only come through spiritual revival. Therefore, we need to cry with the prophet, "revive Your work in the midst of the years" (Habakkuk 3:2). Unless we have spiritual revival, we will find ourselves in a more desperate condition tomorrow than we are in today. It will continue that way until, finally, it all comes apart.

Oncoming Judgment

The writers of the Bible extended a call to be right with God. They warned, "By lack of commitment to the God who made the world, and who keeps things together, you are risking the death of your nation." They didn't say that things would be merely inconvenient in days to come. They said, "Every one of you will die, and your nation will become a desert, unless there is a real return to God."

No nation, however it excuses itself for what it does, can survive without God. This oncoming judgment is easy to demonstrate. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). What is it that keeps sin from taking over the world, pervading society, and destroying everything? Well, God has said: "He who now restrains will continue to restrain until He be taken out of the way" (2 Thessalonians 2:7).

There are four things that hinder the rise of evil. One is individual responsibility. You as an individual are supposed to do right until the stars fall. Secondly is marriage, ordained of God, not only for the propagation of the race, but also to maintain civil authority within society. When marriage goes by the board, this is a sign of Divine judgment. When marriage goes, it's very difficult for anything else to hold together. Third is the family, also ordained of God. Mother, father, and children are given a perfect description in the Bible of how they are supposed to relate to one another, and what they are supposed to do. The fourth quality that keeps sin from taking over the world is civil authority. "The powers that be are ordained of God" (Romans 13:1). The ruler is to be God's minister (Romans 13:4).

What is happening to these qualities that God has instituted to keep society together? What about individual responsibility? In fact, we are teaching people with the theory of evolution to say, "I am just an animal, like the animals of the field. So what I do is just the product of natural selection, rather than my own individual, responsible choice." Let me tell you something: the loss of individual responsibility could by itself cause the ruin of society. Never say, "I am not responsible." You are responsible.

What's happening to the family? Well, young people don't relate to their parents any more. In fact, it is commonly agreed by sociologists, that the average adult couple is afraid of their children, because their children rule over them. Isaiah Chapter 3 tells us that one of the signs of the dissolution of a culture is that children and women rule (Isaiah 3:12).

Then, what about civil authority? The loss of prestige by the government is not just a sociological phenomenon. It has a very real impact. It means that pretty soon, lawless streets will become the order of the day. What other possible result could there be, when our culture decays to the point that it cannot enforce any kind of decency upon people? When government and its responsibility goes by the boards, then you have nothing by way of good sinews with which to hold society together.

So, when the things that God has ordained for the preservation of

society begin to disappear, it is a sign of oncoming judgment. It may be done away with immediately simply by an invading army that comes in and takes it over. You and I have seen too many tragic illustrations in our time of a weak nation overwhelmed by a slightly more powerful one, with millions dying. Is that an illustration of the great wars soon to take place? Let me suggest that it is. We are moving into a time in which we are seeing signs of Divine judgment. In what direction shall we go?

A Call to Repentance

In answer to that question, we have a word that appears again and again in Holy Scripture. In the Old Testament, the prophets announced to the people of Israel, "Repent, and you will be right with God once again." When Jesus stepped onto the scene, during the days of His earthly ministry, He announced to Israel: "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). The Apostle Paul said that he preached "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). So, may we suggest that the best to revivel may we suggest that the key to revival is for each one of us to respond affirmatively to a call to repentance. We need to have a new day, in which expositors of the Word of God stand in pulpits, and say, "You are wrong, because you have a false idea of God. of Christ, of the way of salvation. You need to repent."

Think about that word "repentance" for just a moment. The word used in Scripture is "metanoia." "Meta" is a "change"; "noia" means "themind." So "metanoia" inits original sense means "a change of mind." "You need to change your mind about reality" is what the Bible says to a wicked and adulterous generation. But the warning I wouldlike to liftis, that when many people talk about repentance, they mean a great emotional thing. They mean people who are sorry about the past, and feel bad about it. They mean people who will turn their lives into another direction.

These things do have their place under certain circumstances, but that's not what repentance means! A lot of people have cried about things, but they have not changed their minds. A lot of people have said, "I'm going to do differently," but the mind is still the same.

I would like to call for a more

profound kind of repentance than is popularly understood by the use of this word. It doesn't mean to pay back, or to do penance, which is what the English word means. It means, "you must have a fundamental change of mind concerning what life is all about." When Paul said, "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21), he put it well.

Who is God? God is that holy and absolutely impeccable Individual who presides above the universe. He's the One whose holiness must not be offended. We should fear the Lord, the Bible says, and that word "fear" means "fear." We should be terribly afraid of what God in His perfect holiness might do, if we persist in living lives of offense towards Him. When one changes his mind about God, he realizes that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that He has sent His Son, so that we, by faith in Him, might have everlasting life.

When we change our mind about God, we should also repent, that is, change our mind, about ourselves. When a person has sinned, he is in a state of being out of fellowship with God. He is living a life that is an offense to his Heavenly Father. If he doesn't change his mind about this, he will go on in sin. A person needs to repent about what he is, and what he has been. With a change of mind, coupled with forgiveness from God, he can move on in stately victory from there.

National repentance is also called for in Scripture. God spoke to Israel and said, "Repent. Change your mind. Come back to the place where you used to live and walk with God. Your mind has given you over to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, the worship of pagan idols, and adultery. You've got to change how you understand life, or there is no hope for you." God said that to the nation of Israel, but He said it to the other nations of the world as well. Quite a number of times in the Old Testament, He addressed all the nations. Every nation in the world, not just Israel, is under an obligation to do the will of the God who stands behind it all. The fact is, that in our present world, most of the nations of the world have given themselves over to the worship of some false religion, some pagan god, some invented deity that doesn't even exist.

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, a new Sanhedrin arose after an absence of more than 1,400 years. Staffed by Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox rabbis who want Israeli life to conform to the Torah and rabbinical law, the Sanhedrin has been a great indicator that the stage is being set for the last days, as foretold in Bible prophecy.

The new court supports rebuilding the Temple, reinstating the priesthood, and resuming sacrifices and opposes giving biblical Jewish land to the Arabs." Jimmy DeYoung, Israel My Glory

"MUSLIMS OUTNUMBER CATHOLICS--Islam has surpassed Roman Catholicism as the world's largest religion. 'For the first time in history, we are no longer at the top: Muslims have overtaken us,' Monsignor Vittorio Fomenti said...He said that Catholics accounted for 17.4 percent of the world population--a stable percentage--while Muslims were at 19.2 percent." Copyright 2008

The Associated Press

"A SHORTAGE OF AVIATION FUEL or 'av gas' has grounded missionary pilots of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), a faith-based, nonprofit ministry that serves missions and isolated people around the world with aviation, communications and learning technologies...Some 150 air strips currently are without service...In response to the crisis, MAF is embarking on an aggressive 10-year plan to acquire 20 of the new Kodiak 100 aircraft, manufactured by Quest Aircraft...Not only does the Kodiak use jet fuel, which is more readily available and cheaper, the plane also is larger, flies faster and can still get in and out of small air strips." The Chronicle

"APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT

of the world's population is nineteen or younger. The number of children and youth alive today exceeds the entire world's population in 1950...The

multiplied millions of young people will drastically influence the shape of world culture as it emerges over the next ten years."

George Gallup, Jr. <u>The Next American Spirituality:</u>
<u>Finding God in the 21st Century</u>

"THE IDEA OF A
MEDITERRANEAN UNION is not a completely new one it was floated by Mr. Sarkozy the leader during the French presidential campaign in spring

of this year.

Under the plans, the group should tie southern Europe with North Africa as well as Israel and its Arab neighbors and tackle topical issues such as counter-terrorism, immigration, energy, trade, water and sustainable development...

There are fears that France's proposal would try to bypass the 12-year old Barcelona process, designed to foster dialogue between the EU bloc and the ten countries on the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean."

"IS ALLAH THE GOD OF THE BIBLE?...While many sincere and well-meaning Christians...have argued that the word 'Allah' is simply the Arabic word for 'God,' the facts are something quite different. Even among Islamic scholars there is general agreement that the term 'Allah' refers to a pagan deity before Islam came into existence...

The correct Arabic name for 'God' is the word 'Al-ilah.' It became a generic title for whatever god was considered the highest god...Historians have said that 'Allah' was the chief of the 360 gods that

were worshipped in Arabia at the time that Mohammed came to prominence... 'Allah' is not a common name in Arabic for 'God.'"

David Hocking, Prophecy Watch

Ariel Sharon gave the Gaza Stripto the Palestinians. The terroristorganization Hamas soon took control and began a war of genocide against Israel that continues to this day. The record shows that when Israel evacuated Gaza, American businessmen (mostly Jewish) poured millions of dollars into Gaza to help the Palestinians purchase lucrative agricultural businesses—with a crop output of \$75 million annually... Today nearly 70 percent of those greenhouses have been destroyed. The Palestinian Company for

"IN 2005, AS A GESTURE OF

GOOD WILL, then Prime Minister

Ironically, for their willingness to surrender portions of their birthright, Israel gets vilified."

Economic Development complained

that these facilities would have

provided a source of income for some

4,500 Palestinian families.

William E. Sutter, The Friends of Israel

But Especially,
"To Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, And has made us kings and priests to God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever Amen" (Revelation 1:5-6).

Y OUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. I heard a statement made recently to the effect that, since Satan does not know the exact time of Christ's return, he must have a potential candidate for the Antichrist ready at all times. Is this true?

A. "But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Matt. 24:36).

The Bible says that there are "many antichrists" (1 John 2:18), meaning that even in biblical times, when those words were written, that spirit, which will be operative in its fullness in the one and only Antichrist, was present. But with the Church not yet raptured, it could not, and still cannot, be so operative (see 2 Thess. 2:7-12).

As we have said many times, the Antichrist could very well be alive somewhere on earth today. Should the Lord call His Church home soon, it is clear that Satan will have a man of his choosing, ready, willing and able to pilot the world to its dismal destiny from there. Let us be sure that we and our loved ones have trusted Christ as personal Savior, in order to be a part of the Rapture of the Church and be delivered from the wrath to come.

Q. I have heard that it is necessary for us to fear God. I thought that, as Christians, we were in God's family and, therefore, we need not fear a loving God. Could you comment?

A. The answer to this question hinges upon how we define "fear." *Proverbs 1:7* says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge," indicating that it is a wise thing to fear God. But the Hebrew word for "fear" in the passage means "reverence." Throughout the Bible, when the word "fear" is used in conjunction with our relationship with the Lord, this is most often the meaning. This holds true in both the Old and the New Testaments. Moreover, in 1 John 4:18, where we are told, "perfect love"

(such as that which God has for us) "casts out fear," "fear" in that case is the Greek word "phobeo" meaning "terror," and "being exceedingly afraid."

There is one case that comes to mind of this same word, "phobeo," being used for fear in conjunction with God, occurring in Matthew's Gospel. It does not apply to the Christian, but should definitely cause the unsaved to stop and think.

EMERGENCE

I see more clearly now,

The mists of morn have lifted,
Revealing here the path of life
From which my heart had drifted.
For vision, indistinct in youth,
Grows clearer with the years
If subject to the press of life
And washed by time and tears.

I love more purely now,
 'Tis more than mere emotion.
For feeling is to real love
 As mountain stream to ocean.
And love invades the intellect
 And love empow'rs the will
The heart endowing with a voice
 That time can never still.

I move more surely now
My life has found its reason.
A holy purpose now pervades
Each day and every season,
For God has made me like Himself
I see this now, as never;
Perceiving this, I see in Him
My Destiny, forever.

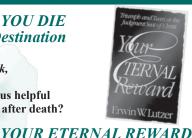
by Dave Breese

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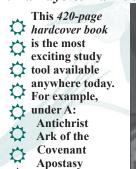
indeed determine our status in heaven for all eternity.

(2 Corinthians 5:10). How well or poorly we do here might

have emptied it of its meaning. Although Christians

THE POPULAR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BIBLE PROPHECY

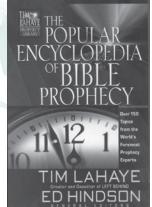
Tim LaHaye & Ed Hindson, General Editors



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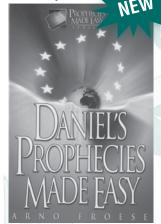
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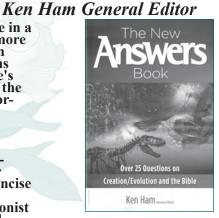
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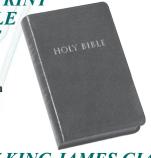
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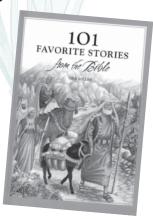
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July 2008

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Surveying the Evidence for the Truth of Christianity Ed Hindson and Ergun Caner, General Editors

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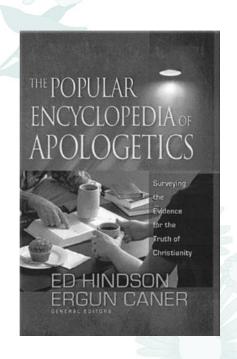
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