

Destiny Newsletter

PUBLISHED BY CHRISTIAN DESTINY

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January 2001

by
Dave Breese

THE BASIS OF EVERYTHING

There is a universally applicable statement which cannot be ignored. It was given to us to apply to all cases of all things at all times in all circumstances. It is the simple, profound and universal truth that is found in the first verse of the Word of God. That statement is, *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (Gen. 1:1). Proper attention to this statement and proper application of its principle to the circumstances of life has made a vital difference in the lives of millions and could make a decisive difference in the lives of all who live. The truth that everything was originated by God brings great understanding when believed. Conversely, it is fatal to ignore.

There is no realm of thought, no study, no discipline that can be anything but a failure which ignores the first principle, "In the beginning God." The world of science, for instance, could have

*In the beginning
God created the
heavens and the
earth.*

saved itself billions of dollars and millions of man hours in totally futile research if it had learned at the beginning that God created it all. Instead, the world of so-called science has desperately labored for 100 years to obscure, cover, deny the priority of God in all things. Instead, it has invented a huge package of nonsense called, "the evolutionary process," as a substitute for God. Strangely, the scientist who demands measureable, provable accuracy in other things has nevertheless built his cosmology on a collection of the most absurd notions imaginable. The truth that man was made in the image of God fills the mind of the secular scientist with horror. What will become of such a mind?

In the realm of philosophy it is the same. The majority of philosophers are atheists. Consequently, they have labored long to discover some kind of a first principle on which they can anchor their thinking. There is, of course, no first principle except God Himself. Therefore, modern thought is forever frantically flapping its wings, attempting--like a hummingbird--to stay in some fixed position in mid-air. Philosophy is no longer the love of wisdom; it is perverted affection for the delusionary. The philosophers who educate our children in today's world are humanists, existentialists, secularists. The light that is in

them has become darkness.

Philosophy has been totally unable to add any ethical content to modern thought and action. Indeed, via Freud, Kierkegaard, Keynes and others, it has turned our generation into a vast milieu where rational thought and proper understanding is lost. Our generation is now reaping a fearful harvest from the fatal irrationality that has been preached to us by the so-called intellectuals.

Provably, therefore, the Bible properly describes the nature of atheism when it says, *"The fool has said in his heart, There is no God"* (Psa. 14:1). It then predicts such people will do abominable works. To embrace atheism is to move into the fever swamps of unreality where insanity holds sway.

Tragically, insanity does hold sway today. In the world of business, government, education, philosophy, where can we find even the mention of God? In His absence, the elements of our modern life are attempting to build themselves on untruth after untruth, on strong delusion in every realm of life.

Can we, therefore, predict the consequences of these things? Indeed we can, for the Scripture says, *"Evil men and seducers shall become worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived"* (II Tim. 3:13). In fact, what more perfect description can be rendered of our time than Paul's description, *"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that*

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they should believe a lie: that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (II Thess. 2:11,12). Any system of thought, any cause, any program, any process that does not begin with God is finally delusion. Such delusion prevails in the secular culture of our time.

The vast mistake of omitting God as the first principle of life is seen in the normal events of life as well. Approximately two million couples each year in America stand at an altar and are united in holy matrimony. They promise to love, honor and cherish "until death do us part." Tragically, one million of those marriages end up in divorce. Why is this the case? It is the case because in the majority of times, such marriages did not begin with God. Leaving God out of that most sacred of unions is to miss the great mucilage which holds marriages together, namely God.

Many a young man goes to the university and then moves out into an anticipated professional life of success and popularity. How many of these lives end in disappointment, depression and even disaster? Too many aspiring young people end up failures in life. Why? The answer is that God was not there at the beginning. Lives can even appear to be successful, but alas, that success is but a charade without God at the beginning and in the center of things.

We, therefore, insist that a slogan that is appropriate at all times in life is, "in all beginnings - God." God made us all in the first place. In Him we live and move and have our being. We cannot reason, breathe or take a step without His personal empowerment. The very ability to think, to plan, to feel, to love, to hate, to labor comes from God. Without Him we can do nothing whatsoever. He is before all things and by Him all things consist. When He is for us, nothing whatsoever can be against us. It is His blessing, therefore, that makes rich and, most of all, it is His love, His forgiveness, His cleansing, His empowerment that will bring us through a wonderful life and into the glory of heaven. The man is therefore a fool who attempts to live his life with significance, unless he begins with God and walks with Him every day.

Yes, in the beginning God made the heavens and the earth. Finally, He will wrap it all up like a used coat and it will be cast away. Ultimate reality of life is not, therefore, in anything that is in the world. Rather, ultimate reality resides in the One who made the worlds in the first place and who walks with us in that world. His plan is hence prior to all things. Our labor to fulfill that plan is the essence of life.

In everything, therefore, we must never forget, "in all beginnings - God."

WHAT CHRISTIANS MUST NOW DO

Dramatic changes are now under way!

This is a time in which people and nations are altering their courses in many ways. Obviously this is true in the American political structure. It is true also on a global level with a "new world order" again being promoted by those who are tired of what they call "the old order." In these days, new leaders have also been chosen for Christian organizations and large churches while at the same time new movements are coming to the fore. What must Christians do in times like these? We present a few suggestions. Christians would do well to...

1) Re-examine the world. It is now populated by 6 billion people. They are reachable with the new technology, thereby expanding the challenge of global Christian outreach.

2) Re-evaluate the times. Volatility has certainly set in in our world and a measure of hostility toward Christianity. At the same time, spiritual curiosity is everywhere, including the public press.

3) Re-state the vision. What is the purpose of the Church in the world, especially in this generation? Old institutions need to ask this question anew.

4) Re-atomize the Body of Christ. Millions of Christian individuals have limited their potential by exercising entirely too much confidence in "organized religion."

(continued on page 8)

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

REGARDLESS OF HOW WE MAY FEEL about the unfortunate developments on the political scene, there is an important overarching lesson to be learned in all of this. Human laws may be subject to change or interpretation—especially in today’s post-modern climate of relativism. One judge may see the law one way, while another, higher court may see it altogether differently. That is not the way it is with God’s law, however. God’s law is immutable, that is, it is absolutely unchangeable. It is not subject to debate or contradiction. So although one judge may have approved the counting of “dimpled chads” while another saw that practice as being unfair and potentially illegal, you can count on the fact that the Bible remains true and will not change. Thus, we must pay close attention to the Word of God.

THE UNITED NATIONS is in the process of establishing “The International Criminal Court” as an entity that will be set above the courts of once sovereign nations.

On November 25th, Barbara Crossette reported for the *Sydney Morning Herald*:

“The court would be the first such permanent body set up to try individuals accused of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.”

“U. S. government officials have said they support an international court. The Secretary of State, Dr. Madeleine Albright, was instrumental in establishing ad-hoc tribunals for the Balkans and Rwanda, which are seen as precursors of a permanent body.”

This International Criminal Court would have jurisdiction over American citizens, especially in the nebulous area described as “crimes against humanity.” You see, to the

atheists, it is a crime of intolerance for us to assert the truth of the Bible that says, “*He that believes on the Son has everlasting life: and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him*” (John 3:36). They insist that spreading the teachings of Scripture regarding Hell produces stress upon non-Christians and is a form of intolerance. Therefore, they want us to stop all forms of evangelism that include the teaching of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ alone, or of facing the Judgment of God when you die.

It remains to be seen how the United States will react to the International Criminal Court. One hundred fifteen nations have already signed the treaty establishing this court. Senator Jesse Helms has warned the Executive Branch of Government not to bring ratification of such a treaty to the Senate, because he will do all that he can to assure that the treaty is not ratified by the United States.

THE DUTCH LEGALIZED EUTHANASIA on November 28, 2000. The new law would permit doctors to assist in the suicide of aging or terminally ill patients. We must remember that the Netherlands is now part of the European Union – a burgeoning collection of nations working together economically, legally and militarily to wrest influence over the world from the hands of the Americans. It is also quite possibly the beginning of a worldwide union that will ultimately be led by the Antichrist.

NOW COMES WORD that the members of the European Union have begun contributions to a new, expanded E.U. military. On November 20, the AFP reported:

The European Union, moving

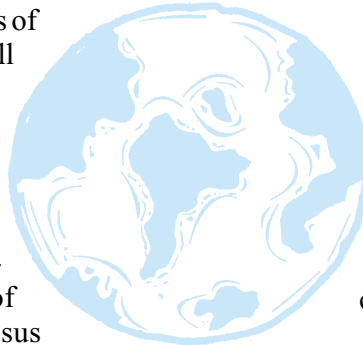
seriously into the defense business, put its money where its mouth is. . . pledging a total of 100,000 troops, some 400 warplanes and 100 warships to an E. U. rapid reaction force.”

The next day, the Associated Press offered additional information:

“The pool of military forces pledged to the European Union’s new rapid reaction corps swelled by several thousand. . . as non-E. U. member countries added their contributions to the continent-wide effort.”

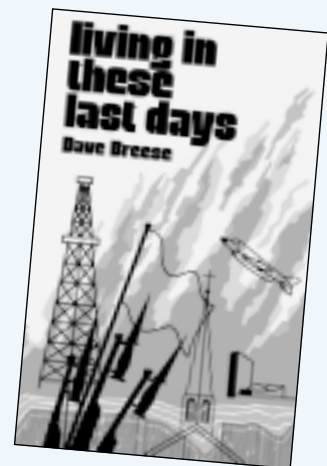
“Creation of the E. U. force has caused some consternation at NATO.”

“NATO Secretary- General Lord Robertson warned. . . that any rivalry between the established trans-Atlantic alliance and the nascent European-only reaction force could be disastrous for both.”



LIVING IN THESE LAST DAYS

by Dave Breese



This newly revised booklet is now available for \$1 each. See the enclosed order form. Quantity discounts are also available.

HE IS NEAR



*I know not when the Lord will come,
Or at what hour He may appear,
Whether at midnight or at morn,
Or at what season of the year.*

*I know not what of time remains,
To run its course in this low sphere,
Or what awaits of calm or storm,
Of joy or grief, of hope or fear.*

*I know not what is yet to run
Of spring or summer, green or sere,
Of death or life, of pain or peace,
Of shade or shine, of song or tear.*

*The centuries have come and gone,
Dark centuries of absence drear;
I dare not chide the long delay,
Nor ask when I His voice shall hear.*

*I do not think it can be long,
'Till in His glory He appear;
And yet I dare not name the day,
Nor fix the solemn advent year.*

*I only know that He is near,
And that His voice I soon shall hear;
I only know that He is near,
And that His voice I soon shall hear.*

-- Horatius Bonar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“At this time of year I tend to reminisce and will never forget that my wife and I accepted Christ into our hearts at a crusade that you conducted at the First Baptist Church in Troy, Ohio. It was 1977.” – Effingham, IL

“My wholehearted desire is to continue my life with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. With the special ministries of Christian Destiny, Inc. being a part of that desire, I feel very blest.” – Kansas City, KS

“I wanted to thank you for sending me **Destiny Newsletter** and to tell you what a blessing it is to me. Your teaching is so true to the Word of God and I’ve loved the Word for many years.” – Gilmer, TX

“As usual, the newsletter is simply wonderful! Such good reminders of ‘Better Thinking, Better Living.’ What a blessing to have you to keep us informed. I read it from cover to cover, and too, surely do enjoy your poetry.” – Hoyt, KS

“The letters are always so timely and informative. I wait for each printing. I thank God for the influence you have had on my life. I always ask Him to bless you every day of your life.” – Colorado Springs, CO

“Thank you for continuing to be a light on the hill to guide all to the One who offers abundant love and hope for eternity ahead. We are the blessed ones to give as He prospers and directs our hearts and who love you both dearly.” – Seal Beach, CA

“You are blessed and are a blessing to so many. Truly, you are glorifying and honoring Our Lord God. . . and carrying out His GREAT COMMISSION!!” – Tucson, AZ



WORTH QUOTING

“He always goes before, and they who hold His will do not hold it in vain. The Lord is my banner; obey His orders and do not take anybody else’s; nor, above all, these suggestions of that impatient, talkative heart of yours, instead of His commandments.”
—*Alexander Maclaren*

“Life is never what one dreamed, it is seldom what one desired; yet for the vital spirit and the eager mind, the future will always hold the search for buried treasure and the possibilities of high adventure.”—*Ellen Glasgow*

“When men no longer have the least fear of saying something untrue, they very soon have no fear whatsoever of doing something unjust.” —*Theodore Haecke*

“Is life so wretched? Isn’t it rather your hands which are too small, your vision which is muddled? You are the one who must grow up.” —*Dag Hammarskjold*

“The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.” —*Vincent Van Gogh*

“Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the week.” —*Spanish proverb*

“You think about people, but God thinks about you.” —*Leo Tolstoy*

“It is a mistake to suppose that God is only or even chiefly, concerned with religion.”—*William Temple*

But especially,

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again in the yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q. What did Jesus mean when He said, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand?"

A. It was with that statement that Christ began His earthly ministry. *"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17).* After that occasion, *"Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (Matt. 9:35).* The message, therefore, of *"the kingdom of heaven"* offered by Jesus Christ is the core of *"the gospel of the kingdom."*

The kingdom of heaven is defined by Christ in the disciple's prayer. They were instructed to pray, *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10).* The Gospel of the kingdom offered heaven on earth for all who would repent and believe the Good News of Christ's offer of the kingdom. Alas, the Jews did not receive that offer and so the offer of the kingdom was lifted. Therefore, it was necessary for Christ to pronounce desolation upon the House of Israel (Matt. 23:38). The Jews ultimately crucified their King. This was a tragedy, but out of it came the Gospel of the grace of God and the amazing offer of Gentile salvation.

Q. Is there a different way of salvation for Jews as distinct from Gentiles?

A. Not in this present age. All, Jew and Gentile, are offered the Gospel of the grace of God. Any person of any race can join the family of God by believing in the finished work of the cross and being saved by grace.

However, when the Tribulation comes, *"the gospel of the kingdom"* will be preached and the kingdom will be offered anew to believing Jews and Gentiles. Salvation will always be by faith, but the results of salvation after the Church Age will be different from now. Believers, Jews and Gentile proselyte believers, will inherit a redeemed earth. By contrast, the Body of Christ will rule the universe in eternity. Christians will inherit *"all things" (I Cor. 3:21).*

Q. I have two friends who attend different churches, but both say "We are the true church!" Which one is right?

A. Neither of your friends is right. There is but one true Church, which in neither an organization, an ecclesiastical structure nor a building. The true Church is the Body of Christ and it is not to be confused or finally identified with any form of religious structure in this world. All local churches should attempt to be a reflection of the Body of Christ, but none can claim that they are the true Church or that they perfectly reflect the Body of Christ.

Q. Is the Bible our authority? If so, how can human beings claim final authority in matters of doctrine or control of people?

A. They cannot. To claim to speak with an authority comparable to Scripture is cultic. It is "extra Biblical revelation" which is a presumptuous pretense. There is no human authority on earth that can speak with finality in matters of faith or practice. This is reserved for God alone and what He's given us in His Word. Religious hierarchies are forbidden in Scripture and the believer is enjoined to flee from such bondage (Gal. 5:1).

Q. Will we know our friends in heaven?

A. Certainly. The Apostle Paul, speaking about this day and that day said, *"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (I Cor. 13:12).* The Bible teaches that in heaven we will have perfect knowledge. We think that there will be many a reunion in heaven in which friends shall see friends once again.

Q. When will Christ come again?

A. The answer to that question is nicely stated in the poem in this issue of Destiny Newsletter. The answer is that we don't know. We should be ready every day to meet Christ because He could come for His own before this day is done. He promises the Church, *"Behold, I come quickly" (Rev. 3:11).* This means "all of a sudden, without warning." Each of us is constrained to be ready.

THINKING TOGETHER

THE MAGIC ISLAND

There are many lovely places in our world - countries, cities, villages which are beautiful, bordering on the exotic. For many people, the list of attractive scenes could not be completed apart from some of the nicest places of all, the islands. Islands are special things.

Jamaica, for instance, is one of our favorites. It has the ocean and the mountains with incredible greenery in between. For similar reasons, Trinidad is a lovely place to be. The islands of the Caribbean are close to paradises, with Aruba on the south and the Bahamas and Bermuda to the north. Across the world there is Taiwan, Quemoi, Matsu. Europe has the islands of the Mediterranean and even Britain itself is properly known as the British Isles. Iceland dots the North Atlantic and Greenland looms large. Manhattan is itself an island and Hilton Head a more exotic one. California gives us Catalina - the list could go on and on. Islands are lovely and stately things - standing isolated in the sea that cannot overwhelm them. In these islands and many more, we have had the opportunity to minister. The melody lingers on.

Above all these memorable places, there is a greater island yet. It is so important, so exotic and so critical that it can well be called, "The Magic Island." This island exists; it is there. Where? It is in the core of the human personality. It is called by many names, the most descriptive of which may well be "autonomy." It is the island where functions that most important

thing, the human will. It is the place where we choose, where we decide! Decisions are there made for which we alone are responsible. It stands amid the seas of life that are sometimes calm but are more than often stormy. That magic island is the inner being of man. It is the matrix of the human soul. It is the place where the soul shaping decisions of life are made, where is made life's greatest decision. What is that? It is . . .

"Choose you this day whom you will serve."

The human will is the essence of life, living within the personalities of all who claim to be human beings. It is a marvelous place but, strangely enough, it is resented by many. Yes, the truth that man is a choosing, willing being is an anathema to many. In their resentment of man's responsibility to choose, most people have invented schemes to do away with the free will of man.

One response to man's free will, one scheme, is denial. In their denial, many have invented every sort of determinism to do away with the will of man, with human responsibility. The Darwinians say that we are determined, not by our own choices, but by natural selection. The Marxists insist that we are economically determined. Freud taught that we become what we are by sexual expression or lack thereof. The Behaviorists say that we are helpless victims of the chemistry of the brain. The Humanists insist that we are totally the product of the culture.

by Dave Breese

There are even Religionists who deny the human will by insisting that the sovereignty of God cancels all free action. Therefore, Jesus did not mean it when He said, "Whosoever will."

Other Religionists (sometimes a nasty bunch) admit to the existence of the human will, but then say it is depraved to the place where it has ceased to function. Total depravity is a muscular thought, but it is subtly untrue. Adam, newly dead in sin, could still respond affirmatively to God.

There are some who even abdicate away their will. One of the sad phenomena of our time comes in the form of the millions of individuals who turn over the leadership of their lives to another. This happens, of course, in politics. How can one explain the myriad of bad ideas that come down from government except to say that there are bosses (we almost said leaders) and pitiful psychopants.

Spiritual psychopants highly populate our churches as well. They have long since abdicated the free exercise of their will to a robed religionist who will then make all the decisions. Religious hierarchies are in a state-of-war with the image of God in life, the human will.

Yes, to abandon, weaken or destroy the human will is ipso facto, destroying the image of God in the life of an individual. To the extent that we are controlled by anything other than the responsible exercise of our will, to that extent we cease to be humans. To that extent we allow ourselves to become natural

brute beasts. The Bible indicates that such beings are *“to be taken and destroyed.”*

But happily, the magic island, the human will is placed solidly in the midst of the troubled sea of humanity. It still keeps its lighthouse shining. That wonderful beacon continues to rotate regularly through the entire 360 degrees of its influence. In so doing, it persists in reminding us all that the human will, choosing in a manner consonant with the will of God, is the essence of life and reality. Despite all protestations to the contrary, man is what he is to the degree that he has decided, chosen in favor of the will of God. Every unhappiness of lost humanity has occurred to the degree that that principle - man freely choosing, affirming the divine will - has been violated or forgotten.

There are many in today’s world who need to visit that magic island once again. This is surely true about a world which has lost its moorings and, therefore, respects not the will of man and regards not such a distant thing as the will of God.

Many a Christian, however, needs also to visit that magic island. Too many have been rendered impotent in today’s world by reason of their belief in a theological construct or a doctrinal system that denies human responsibility. Volition, for them, is therefore dead or dying as they move like puppets under the groundless authority of a religious hierarchy. For them, a short vacation on the magic island would make life come together again. Failing this, there lies ahead only a spiritual debtor’s prison, for the price of having sacrificed their will can never be paid.

(continued from page 2)

5) Revive the fainthearted.

There are those who are victimized by spiritual exhaustion. They even attend seminars to solve the problem of “burn-out.” For many, spiritual revival is long overdue.

6) Re-assume the initiative.

It will not be enough for the Church to be simply a respondent to the issues of life. The initiative in thought and in action will force the world to be a respondent, which is the way it should be.

7) Re-establish the primacy of Scripture.

The Word of God, properly understood and preached, is still the “core methodology” which God has ordained.

Yes, dramatic changes are coming upon the culture of our time. In no way should this produce fear and retreat on the part of Christians, but rather a new excitement and the privilege of living in the adventure of bringing the Gospel to a desperately questioning world.

FINALLY



Dear Special Friend of Christian Destiny,

Once again, this is the time of year when we look forward to the future. The new year is a time of resolutions for some, hope for others and, we trust, bright anticipation for us all. Concerning the future, the Apostle Paul advised us well when he said, *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13,14).* So, there are things which lie before! Yes, ahead lies the privilege of living for Christ in an exciting world for, indeed, these could be the last days.

In the ministry of Christian Destiny, we look forward to the great challenge of the year to come. I wish to thank you for your prayers and your contributions which have brought us to this hour. We trust that you will be a part of helping the ministry of Christian Destiny meet the great challenge for the days ahead. Let’s labor together in this year to come and always remember that our work may be interrupted by the return of our glorious Lord.

Carol and I wish to thank you for the joy of laboring together with that bright anticipation.

Faithfully yours,

David W. Breese, President
Christian Destiny, Inc.