

Destiny Newsletter

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“THE LIGHT THAT SHINES”

by
Dave Breese

MOVING TO THE PERFECT DAY!

Two remarkable things are in the process of happening in our present age which are bound to make things most interesting in the days immediately before us. These things are the simultaneous rise of good and evil in most obvious fashion in the same world. Light and darkness move with mounting impact upon our bewildered world; a conflict between Christ and Satan appears to be intensifying with every day that passes.

On the evil side, the world seems increasingly to be filled with violence. Terrorism is a fearful thing and the professional terrorist appears to be the man of this present hour. Believing in nothing except anarchy, the criminal terrorist is bringing the law of the gun and the knife to the fore in most of the nations of the West. Willing to die if only he can kill some and intimidate many, the

professional anarchist is a very dangerous person indeed. Uncontained terrorism can bring down a government and thereby destroying civil authority issuing in anarchy, revolution and death. No nation is immune and no ruler is invulnerable. Like a time bomb ticking in the darkness, the heart of the terrorist longs for the day he can explode, felling in the process another wall of “the establishment.”

Who can doubt that Satan, knowing his time is short, is working frantically to unleash the irrational passions which work like a coiled serpent in the heart of every child of Adam's race who has not been touched by the grace of Jesus Christ. *His Infernal Majesty* is surely working overtime in our age to inflame the base nature of the intemperate and irrational among us. Evil appears to be working in cumulative effort in our society, reminding us that *“In the last days perilous times shall come”* (II Tim. 3:1).

Our world is attempting to operate in what the Bible calls, *“a dark place”* (II Pet. 1:19) and the results are obvious; it is disoriented, bewildered, injured and angry with itself.

So we see that the Scriptures confirm the fact that the world is, and will be more so, a dark place. Great anxiety is moving across the land as people sense that the darkness seems to be closing in on us all.

On the good side, a marvelous outgrowth of all of this is that people have become suddenly more spiritual, suddenly more aware that life has a spiritual component that extends far beyond the visible and reaches out into the wideness of eternity.

“The wheat and the tares will grow together until the end of time,” is the message of Christ. Surely in fulfillment of this prophecy of our Lord, the harvest is tall and ripe in our time. This then is the day for reaping, for the evangelization of millions for whom Christ died. Soon the Lord of the harvests will return to gather His own unto Himself. What an exciting day in which to be alive! It is a day indeed in which we must be looking out to the harvest and looking up for redemption that draws nigh.

Seeing this, we must take note of the words of the Apostle Peter, *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed, as to a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts”* (II Pet. 1:19).

But wait, we have in this verse a great and reassuring promise. It is that there is a shining light, a bright illumination available to us. What is that light? It is *“a more sure word of prophecy.”* It is the Word of God and especially His Word about the

“He that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

future. A person, therefore, that pays due attention to the Word of God need never stumble, never be confused, never be afraid of the darkness. Never!

Jesus said, *"he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"* (Jn. 8:12). Yes, there is a light that shines most beautifully in the world. It is that sure Word of prophecy given to us who have elected to believe in and to follow Christ. What is there about the prophetic Word that can bring that promised reassurance today? Many things . . .

1. The prophetic Word tells us that God presides. He controls the future; *"These things says He that is holy, He that is true, He that has the key of David, He that opens, and no man shuts; and shuts, and no man opens"* (Rev. 3:7). God has not, will not, lose control.

2. The prophetic Word assures us of the value of faith in a fading world. It says, *"And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides forever"* (1 Jn. 2:17). Yes, the world will pass-but not you and I who are *"in Christ."*

3. The prophetic Word tells us that the Devil is a defeated foe, a doomed being. It informs us that Christ partook of death, *"that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil"* (Heb. 2:14). Finally, it says, *"and the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever"* (Rev. 20:10). We would not know the startling facts of the future apart

from the prophecy found in all the Scripture.

4. The prophetic Word tells us that heaven awaits us who believe in Christ. Jesus said, *"Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also"* (Jn. 14:1-3).

How grand it is to be reassured that this world is but a temporary dwelling place. Our real home is in heaven.

5. The prophetic Word tells us that Christ will come for us, to take us home to be with Him. His promise is a marvelous and reassuring one in which He says, *"I will come again."* When we remember that wonderful promise, there is no hour so dark, no situation so complicated, no danger so great as to make us forget that promise that Christ awaits us at the end of our lives and that there is a generation that is coming, perhaps this one, to which He will specifically come to take us to heaven.

The prophetic Word tells us much more. Therefore, we are told that we *"do well"* to take heed to its true and faithful admonitions. We will do well, that is a promise! The Scriptures faithfully promise that the person that pays due attention to Bible prophecy will profit, will be advantaged, will do very well. There is great spiritual gain to attending and heeding the Word of God. Discouragement turns to bright

hope when we read the Word. Many despair of tomorrow, but that despair turns to bright anticipation when we listen to what the Bible has to say. We are creatures of hope when we know the Word.

Finally, how long must we hope? The Scripture says that the day star will arise. Yes, a new day will dawn when faith will give way to sight. Yes, there will come the dawn of a new age. Yes, the Scripture clearly promises that the night is not forever, the day will surely come.

Well, let us say quite emphatically that God did not inspire those evil men to strike against innocent people in our cities. But obviously, God did not prevent it through Divine intervention either. So why did He allow it to happen? Perhaps it is that the Lord has allowed such a tragedy as this so that we, as messengers of the love of God, might touch the hearts of a wounded generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Until then, the light shines clearly, leading more and more unto a perfect day. Therefore, let us strengthen the hands that hang down. Let us look up for our redemption that draws nigh. Let us be filled with anticipation because one of these days, perhaps very soon, Christ will come to take us home to be with Himself. Until then, Scriptures continue to be the light that shines and we who believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ are the bearers of that light. The Christian, therefore, is the person that the world cannot do without.

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

is a very fascinating thing to watch in this remarkable hour in the history of our troubled planet. In the midst of it all, the Christian, untroubled and confident, walks with the assurance that God is still master of the affairs of men and that He will not allow His own to be touched beyond the extent of His precise and perfect will. "The things which happened to me have fallen out rather to the furtherance of the gospel" (Phil. 1:12) said the Apostle Paul from the comfort and safety of his prison cell. Paul is now in Heaven after his life of glorious spiritual adventure--now it is your turn and mine to further the Gospel.

WHAT IS IT that these terrorists so hate about America? It is our freedom to come and go as we please. It is our freedom to worship in the manner that we see fit. It is the freedom to speak freely without fear of government oppression. It is the freedom to work hard in an environment of bright possibility, so that we might secure financial freedom for ourselves and for our families. They hate Western civilization itself, and especially, the way we have supported their avowed enemy, the nation of Israel.

If we are to be victorious over terrorism, we must not submit to the tyranny of terror. We must not allow our precious freedoms to be abridged. We must not give in to the temptation to despair and live in fear. They call it "TERRORISM" because the goal of terrorists is to strike terror in the hearts of their victims. They want to traumatize our society and paralyze our economy by making people afraid to continue living their daily lives in freedom.

" IN THE [TIME] SINCE TERRORISTS STRUCK AMERICA, the most surprising public appearance hasn't been made by a political leader, or a grieving celebrity or a foreign dignitary,' Wall Street Journal columnist Gerald F. Seib writes.

"The most striking appearance on the national stage has been made by God," Mr. Seib said.

"Just one year after a presidential campaign in which the question of whether religious beliefs should be mingled with public life was heatedly debated, Americans have accepted virtually without question a very public turn to religion by their nation and its leaders in a time of grief.

"The most remarkable thing about this development is how unremarkable it has been. Howls of protest aren't being heard. There is no suggestion of a constitutional crisis. The nation seems relieved by the turn to religion. All told, it's clear that America can handle more religion in public life than cynics and critics contend." (Reprinted from the Washington Times)

ACROSS OUR PRESENT WORLD, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being lifted as never before. Global radio and television are now reaching millions. Faithful missionaries continue to labor effectively and evangelism grows in marvelous fashion. The result is that tens of thousands of people are being won to faith in Jesus Christ every day. It is surely true that THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST is still the most viable institution on

the face of the earth. Indeed, it is not an institution, it is an organism, the Body of Christ. I congratulate you for being a Christian! We who name the name of Christ are still the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

WHY SHOULD HEALTHY PEOPLE whose blood is "Clean" donate blood?

"Of all the people who are eligible to donate blood, only 5% do. If you're eligible to donate, I encourage you to do so, along with all your eligible family and friends, in hopes that donations will go up and the FDA, at their next vote on donor restrictions, won't drop the current safety precautions.

...Studies have shown that men who donate blood on a regular basis (2-3 times/year) have far less occurrences of heart attack, stroke, and other serious conditions. This is because most men have a little too much hemoglobin (iron), and periodically giving some of it away is very beneficial." (Reprinted from The Issachar File)

H A P P Y THANKSGIVING TO YOU AND YOURS! May the blessed holiday season into which we are now moving be a most wonderful one for you! "In everything...with thanksgiving," says the Word of God and that formula will not fail to bring encouragement and blessing to any heart. Even in a world like this one, we Christians can truly sing...

"Count your many blessings,
name them one by one,
And it will surprise you,
what the Lord hath done."

CALVARY'S LOVE



*Shall ever I forget the day
When grace my soul enthralled?
When Calvary's love became my hope
And all my guilt absolved.
This grand, eternal life is mine,
By grace through faith alone,
Since on the cross my Savior bled
For all men to atone.*

*Hence this "So Great Salvation" is
Now fully, freely mine,
By virtue of that finished work
Which love and grace combine,
Purchased by that priceless blood
Which coursed from Jesus' veins,
To wash me now and evermore
From sin's malignant stains.*

*So now, with Christ forever mine,
I never shall be lost.
But what shall I then give to Him?
Can I repay the cost?
To this I hear Him say, "My son,
Thou dost not understand.
Repay the cost? Of Calvary's love?
What hast thou in thine hand?"*

*With tears I see that naught I have
Of proper recompense,
My childish prayers, my feeble works,
My speech of little sense.
But yes, I have but one small gift—
Myself I have to give.
This then I do my Lord, my God,
For You I now shall live.*

*Living then for Thee I find
I have not lost but gained.
My life has been returned to me
With every grace entrained.
Hence all is mine that I shall need
And serve Him well I will.
We'll live the great adventure here
And meet on Zion's hill.*

*Redemption's awesome mystery then
Shall have my highest mind.
His purpose moves from age to age,
His grace to all mankind.
The love that flowed from Calvary's mount
My single theme shall be
For loss, for gain, for life, for death,
For all eternity.*

by Dave Breese

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"I want to tell you that for years you have given me clarity and strength. You look directly at cults and show the errors without attacking people. You look directly at our world's scary future and give hope."

— San Antonio, TX

"Thank you for the Zechariah video series. What a treasure! We also enjoy the Revelation series, too. We pray for you and your team each day. We praise the Lord that you are improving. Thank you for all you have done in the name of our loving God. We love you dearly."

— Rolling Meadows, IL

"I do pray for your health and ministry. I also pray for God to send more men who will study the Bible as you have and help the rest of us to understand—not forgetting the lost who need help so desperately. Reading your Bible questions and answers, I learn answers to questions I never thought of asking. Yes, I am helped more than you can know. May God bless and keep you forever." — Salisbury, NC

"I thank and praise God so very much for bringing Dave Breese and Christian Destiny Ministries into my life. I can't help but feel more educated and more alive in my spiritual walk and worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the feeling of the Holy Spirit being within me." — Kansas City, KS

"I'd like to write you a few lines to let you know you are doing a fine job to win the lost to Jesus. We enjoy the half hour television once a week and all the good books and tapes. I pray for you and all the staff. We know the coming of Jesus is soon. Then we'll be with the Lord forever."

— North Port, FL

"I take this opportunity to tell you just how much I appreciate the materials that I receive from you. I have quite a bit of your other literature and I must say that I do get much enjoyment and enlightenment from that literature. I pray that you will continue in the future as you have in the past."

— Ratliff City, OK

"Your newsletters are so filled with truth and wisdom. I commend your close walk with our Lord, and so look forward to meeting you and your wonderful wife, Carol, in glory. Because He lives! Maranatha!"

— Clearwater, FL



WORTH QUOTING

"Menaced by collectivist trends, we must seek revival of our strength in these spiritual foundations which are the bedrock of our republic. Democracy is the outgrowth of the religious conviction of the sacredness of every human life. On the religious side, its highest embodiment is The Bible; on the political side, the Constitution." — 1943 Joint Statement by President Herbert Hoover, along with Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Mrs. William H. Taft, Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, Mrs. Grover Cleveland, Alfred Smith, Alfred Landon, James M. Cox and John W. Davis.

"The whole inspiration of our civilization springs from the teachings of Christ and the lessons of the prophets. To read the Bible for these fundamentals is a necessity of American life." — Herbert Hoover

"I am a firm believer in the Divine teaching, perfect example, and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. I believe also in the Holy Scriptures as the revealed Word of God to the world for its enlightenment and salvation." — Rutherford B. Hayes

"I have a tender reliance on the mercy of the Almighty, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a sinner. I look to Him for mercy; pray for me." — dying words of Alexander Hamilton

"My advice to Sunday schools, no matter what their denomination, is: Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties; write its precepts in your hearts, and practice them in your lives.

"To the influence of this Book, are we indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this must we look as our guide in the future. 'Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.'" — Ulysses S. Grant

But especially,

"Wherefore be you not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17).

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q. Why do we have prophecy in the Bible?

A. It is because a gracious God does not want to keep us in the dark about the future. The only way we can know the

future is through the prophetic Word in the Bible. Fulfilled prophecy is also the great evidence that the Bible is the Word of God and that God presides above history.

Q. Is the Antichrist alive today?

A. It is true that a dreadful world ruler will appear "who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (II Thess. 2:4). Many related signs of the end time indicate the strong possibility that we face the consummation of history. With this in mind, it is entirely possible that the Antichrist is now alive. Indeed, we are moving from the possible to the probable.

Q. Who is the "false prophet" ?

A. He is the one described in Scripture as "another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. And he exercises all the power of the first beast (the Antichrist) before him, and causes the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed" (Rev. 13:11,12). The false prophet will help the Antichrist bring together a global religion, a vast, ecumenical "church." His ultimate fate is that he, with the Antichrist, will be "cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev. 19:20).

Q. What is reconstructionism?

A. It is generally the view that the mandate of the Church is to "reconstruct" the social structure and bring

to pass a greatly improved world. It will be a world fit to be the one to which Jesus Christ returns.

Reconstructionists, being, in effect, utopians, are certainly troubled by such verses as "but evil men and seducers shall become worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (II Tim. 3:13). The world will not be reconstructed, it will be destroyed by fire (II Pet. 3:10). This will then make way for the promised "and I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea" (Rev. 21:1).

Q. Is liberation theology still around?

A. Liberation theology is Marxism disguised as Christianity. With the fall of the Soviet Union, it became essentially passe. Liberation theology is virtually gone, but remnants of this absurdity still live in the minds of some myopic liberal religionists.

Q. What is the mission of the Church?

A. In whatever else the Church may involve itself, its core mission must be to bring to the world the "hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Tit. 1:2).

Q. Why are there so many cults?

A. The basic reason is because there are so many cult promoters and so many weak, acquiescent people who will believe anything.

Even churches and denominations can move from Christian to cultic. Many have! The way of protection against the cults is to read and believe the Bible. We invite anyone to write for **The Marks Of A Cult** from Christian Destiny.

Q. I hear that we will one day receive new bodies. Is this true?

A. Yes, thank God, it is true. The Scripture says, "For our citizenship is in heaven; from where also we look

for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like to His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things to Himself" (Phil. 3:20-21). What will these bodies be like? The Scripture says, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is" (I Jn. 3:2).

Heaven will be a place which is wonderful beyond description. When we go to heaven, we will be given glorified, magnificent bodies so that we can properly appreciate the magnificent joys which will be ours when we arrive at our heavenly home.

Q. Many Christians have many moral shortcomings in their lives. How can this be changed?

A. This can be changed when the Church begins to preach on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Speaking about His appearing, the Scripture says, "And every man that has this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure" (I Jn. 3:3). When we believe that Christ may come at any moment, we will be very careful about what we say, do, believe and with whom we associate. We need to quit singing "Kum Bah Yah" and sing again "Jesus May Come Today."

Q. I have a very troubled heart, what can I do?

A. Begin by trusting the Scripture, which says, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). When we are truly saved, then we can avail ourselves of the promise, "Be anxious for nothing; but in every thing, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7).

THINKING TOGETHER

WAITING FOR THE ADOPTION

One of the important pieces of knowledge for the Christian is to have a proper understanding of the order of things. Much mischief has been wrought by teachers who produce in the minds of people a hopeless jumble as to an understanding of the Word of God. Many believers, therefore, have a general sense that they are Christians, but are nearly devoid of specific knowledge as to the way of salvation, the developing Christian life and the promises of God for the future. Some, in both the pulpit and the pew, therefore reflect the warning of the Apostle Paul who said, *"Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is passed already; and overthrow the faith of some" (II Tim. 2:18)*. He was speaking, of course, about false teachers and vulnerable saints.

Paul gave us this description of some immediately after he had said, *"Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15)*. Paul even expanded on this by saying, *"But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase to more ungodliness" (II Tim. 2:16)*. As a result of this spiritual confusion, there were those who fell into error, particularly concerning the resurrection. They said that the resurrection was passed already. Can we learn something from this for our time? Are there those within the Christian cause who also say that the promised resurrection has already

happened, it is passed already?

To answer this, let us consider what happens on the occasion of the resurrection. Paul is referring, of course, to what is called in Scripture, *"the first resurrection."* The first resurrection consists of a number of stages, one of which we call "the Rapture of the Church." On that occasion, Paul says, *"the dead in Christ shall rise first" (I Thess. 4:16)*. There are a number of things that will happen in connection with this resurrection. One is that we will receive a glorified body. Speaking of Jesus Christ, the Scripture says, *"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like to His glorious body" (Phil. 3:21)*. About this, Paul says, *"We shall all be changed" (I Cor. 15:51)*.

The resurrection, therefore, means that we will be in a mode of existence, a glorified body that is no longer subject to pain, disease, sickness or death. What a wonderful condition that will be! However, out of this promise grows one of the errors in our churches today.

We have in our world those who say that the Christian even now should never be subject to pain, sickness or death. They are in effect saying that the resurrection is passed already and the post-resurrection conditions apply to us today. They are overthrowing the faith of some.

We should beware of a second error that comes from this untimely view

by Dave Breese

of the resurrection. Following the resurrection, the Bible additionally says that we, the saints, shall live and reign with Christ (Rev. 20:4). We will be imbued with kingdom authority when we live in our glorified bodies.

With this in mind, let us note regretfully that there is a strong "kingdom now" theology running in the Church of our time. It promises kingdom authority to those who are Christians. They are then promised that they can heal the sick, raise the dead and cure any disease. How sad that this theology, alleging that the resurrection has passed already, should be believed by so many undiscerning Christians.

There is a third error that grows out of this as well. Following the first resurrection will also come to pass on earth a condition in which the Devil is bound and prevented from doing his dreadful work in the world (Rev. 20:2). Until then, Satan will be most active.

However, even in our time there are those who say that they can bind Satan with their prayers and render his activity virtually nonexistent. With this groundless presumption, they forget to *"be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Pet. 5:8)*. To think that satanic activity can be neutralized with our present

"authority" is grossly presumptuous. The capabilities of the kingdom are not yet. God's great gift to us is not kingdom authority, it is a lovely provision called, "sufficient grace" (II Cor. 12:9).

What is the problem in all of this? The problem is the failure to distinguish between salvation of the soul and salvation of the body. The soul is saved the instant I believe the Gospel of Christ. In a soulish sense, I become a new creature and old things are passed away.

This is not, however, true about the body. Paul says, *"The creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now...waiting for the adoption, that is, the redemption of our body"* (Rom. 8:21-23).

So, we see that we Christians are waiting for the adoption, we are anticipating the coming resurrection. Because this has not yet taken place, we are saved by hope, by patience, by anticipation in these constricting days.

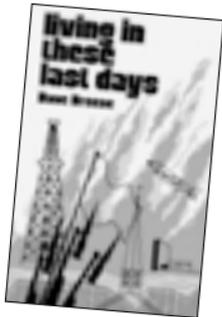
In these days before the redemption of the body, we must, therefore, walk by faith and not by sight. There is, however, coming a glorious day, the day of the adoption, the resurrection of the body. In the light of that day, we can live these days with bright anticipation.

LIVING IN THESE LAST DAYS

By Dave Breese

"How shall we understand these times in the light of the prophetic Word?...This concern of our world makes it imperative that every thinking person consider the question of 'Are these the last days?' and 'How shall I live in an age like this?'"

This *newly revised* 48-page booklet is now available. See the enclosed order form. Call for quantity discounts.



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FINALLY



Dear Special Friend of Christian Destiny,

Serving Christ is a great adventure! It is the adventure of running the great race, participating in the narrow contest, wrestling against stronger forces than mere flesh and blood. Living for Christ is the adventure that reaches out into eternity.

Because you have enabled Carol and me to be involved in that great adventure, we wish to thank you. You have prayed and God has answered in hundreds of wonderful ways. You have contributed to this ministry and your gifts have enabled us to step through great doors of opportunity. Together, we have shared the great adventure.

This thrilling ministry continues to grow. Therefore, I must thank you for your continued support and your prayers in these days and months to come. With your continued help, we will persist in our engagement in the great battle, at the conclusion of which are the palms of victory which all of us can receive from our blessed Lord. Thank you for the joy of laboring together with you and with the Lord.

Faithfully yours,

David W. Breese, President
Christian Destiny, Inc.