

Destiny Newsletter

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“THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS NATION”



July 2003

The fate of a nation--that is a very serious subject!

The nation, especially our nation, that lives and grows in freedom, is a marvelous thing. When committed to moral values and the affording of Christian opportunity, that nation can move into broad sunlit uplands of prosperity and privilege and even leadership among the nations of the world. It can bring those same blessings to its people in the form of secure homes, safe streets, economic opportunity and a sense of well-being which is increasingly hard to find in our troubled world. A nation that is living and growing, which is handling well the adventure of life in our times, is the object of the pride and happy participation of its grateful citizens.

Conversely, a nation which is dying faces a fate which is a horror to contemplate. The death of a nation is not a mere sociological phenomenon. No, indeed. It is revolution, arson, pillage, rape, murder and wholesale destruction.

It is citizens looting hospitals, carting off priceless antiquities, robbing the future and the past from their own people, as was seen in post-war Iraq.

It is dictators attempting to hold the free world hostage at nuclear missile-point in the hope of extorting aid, food, and economic trade to shore up a collapsing economy, as was seen in recent threats by North Korea.

It is the betrayal of former allies, with nations attempting to conceal their infidelities and bolster what remains of their economies, as was seen in the attempts of the French to form a new axis to compete with NATO and the United States.

It is one desperate act after another, with little regard as to possible outcome. The most dangerous people in the world are those who feel they have nothing to lose.

For a nation which is dying, it is darkness at noon and the expiration of a culture.

What, then, makes the difference between life and death in a culture? What determines the fate of a nation? We can be thankful that we have the answer to that vital question in the Word of God. *“Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34).* The quality which is, therefore, of the greatest importance in determining the fate of a nation is national righteousness. Above and beyond all the human

viewpoints which are so freely available in our time, the voice of God, the divine direction must be made known. The Psalmist David said, *“The Lord brings the counsel of the heathen to nothing: He makes the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the Lord stands for ever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations” (Ps. 33:10,11).* Therefore, the solution to the difficulties faced by any nation lies in the admonition, *“Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him” (Ps. 33:8).*

In the last analysis, therefore, **the fate of a nation has to do with its relationship to God.** The life or the death of the culture is finally determined by the presence or the absence of the blessing of God. *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,”* the Bible says (Ps. 33:12). Conversely, *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Ps. 9:17).*

In the light of this inescapable truth, we do well to face the question of the posture and activity of Christians and of the Church in a world like this. Considering the teaching of the Word of God, what should be the activity of Christian leaders

and of individual believers as relates to their nation in such a time as this? Thank God that in the United States, we can still intelligently discuss this question. The sobering fact is that the question of Christian activity is a dead issue in many of the nations of the world. The ability of believers in these enslaved cultures is a minimal and dangerous thing at best. We can rejoice that the contrast, the spiritual opportunity, is still available to us in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

What, then, should be the course of action, the “external activity” of the believing community, vis-a-vis the world? There can be no doubt that there are a number of most necessary activities on the part of believers if the nation is to avoid anarchy and desolation.

We must continue to bring to the external world the knowledge of God. Without a doubt, the first form of this activity is in the preaching of the Word of God in our churches. Our pulpits must never leave, indeed they must return again to the over-arching themes of Christian theology. Who is God? What is man? What is sin? From where comes redemption? These themes must always and ever be lifted from Christian pulpits.

But beyond this, the message of the knowledge of God and the righteousness that exalts a nation must be projected out from our church buildings into the minds and hearts of people in society at large. Christians meeting on Sunday

morning are not the end-all of spiritual activity. Indeed, these meetings are the means to the end, the equipping of the Church to make its impact upon the world.

The external activity of the Church, however, is complicated by the need for the cooperation of government. The reaching out of Christians inevitably demands the use of the airwaves, cooperation with the postal service, passports, visas, licenses, contracts, easements, and a hundred other government related activities. They demand the purchase of equipment, the hiring of people, permits, taxes, etc. All external activity by the Church in the performance of its mission demands interaction with society. Another word for this interaction ...is politics.

Politics should not be thought of, therefore, as something isolated from life, religion or any other activity. Politics is simply the way people interact with one another on some kind of an official basis. It might be possible to imagine a world without politics if that world contained only one person (and perhaps, his loving wife, but even this is not certain). Beyond that, forget it. More than two people produce something called “society” and society must be organized. The organization of society—that’s politics.

Christians, because they are not yet living in heaven, are living in a human society. Therefore, like it or not, they must eat food, arrange for water and sewers, and interact with their neighbors. To say, therefore, that a Christian is not or should not be involved in politics is a simple

absurdity. It is to live in a dream world and not the real world. Christians have occasionally attempted to deny this by moving to the desert, starting a commune or establishing an isolated community off in the hills somewhere. These attempts have always come to nothing. Such fantasies are an embarrassment to all.

Back to the real world, Christians must lift a voice against specific inequities in society. Unfortunately, however, this is the age of “generalized Christianity.” Christians are generally against general sin and for general goodness. Lest we should offend the world, we have become Christian generalists. No wonder our revivals close far fewer saloons than they did in the days of D. L. Moody.

The prophets and the preachers of the past did not think this way. Who can fail to remember the telling conversation between the prophet Nathan and King David? Moving from the general to the specific, Nathan, with fire in his eyes, said to David, “*You are the man!*” (II Sam. 12:7). Nathan continued by saying, “*Wherefore have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.*”

The same kind of courage and conviction was certainly the case with John the Baptist when

(Continued on page 7)

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

COMMENT ON CHRISTIAN 'VALUES' SPURS CONTROVERSY-- "In April, Education Secretary Rod Paige suggested that America's public schools might be better off if they embraced Judeo-Christian values.

Baptist Press quoted Secretary Paige...as saying, 'I would prefer to have a child in a school that has a strong appreciation for the values of the Christian community, where a child is taught to have a strong faith.'

He added that Christian schools and Christian universities are growing as a result of a 'strong value system...'

Predictably, leftist organizations were quick to condemn the pro-faith statement...

In the Baptist Press interview, Mr. Paige was asked if schools should embrace religious values. He answered, 'Absolutely.'" National Liberty Journal

DR. JACK CUOZZO, RESEARCH ORTHODONTIST and head of the orthodontic section of Mountainside Hospital, Montclair, N.J., was the first scientist to take "cephalometric (orthodontic) radiographs" of the fossilized remains of humans that were first uncovered in France and Western Europe. These remains are collectively known in the scientific community by the term 'Neanderthal' and are in all probability the remains of people who lived before the great worldwide flood of Noah's day.

Cuozzo, who is a creationist, writes that in his "study of fossil man in Europe..." he found that these people "lived longer lives than we do today."

He also believes that they lived much more recently than "previously supposed and not 200 thousand to 30 thousand years ago."

Cuozzo shares that through his "anatomical studies and a series of standardized radiographs similar to the ones utilized by orthodontists across the world," he was able to calculate their life span to have been "between 250 and 300 years..."

"The Bible speaks of the early men in our history who lived hundreds of years..." Cuozzo hopes that "knowing the remains of such people actually exist" will help people realize that **we can trust the Bible**. Quotes taken from the book, **In Six Days--Why 50 Scientists Choose to Believe in Creation**. Available from the ministry of Christian Destiny.

"YES, AMERICANS HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY PRAYING for the safe return of U.S. troops deployed in Iraq. And yes, May 1 was the annual National Day of Prayer..."

But don't be fooled, one congressman says: God, or at least his name, is slowly disappearing from the public venue.

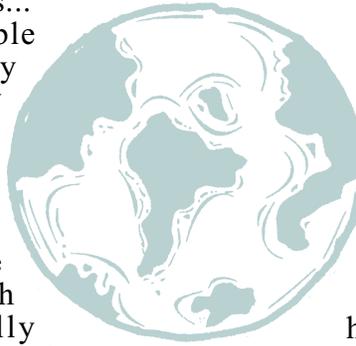
'Even though the Founding Fathers spoke of 'nature's God' and of the 'Creator' in the Declaration of Independence, the federal courts are increasingly trying to drive every vestige of faith from public life,' says Rep. Walter B. Jones--North Carolina Republican...

He cites a recent decision by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, barring the Virginia Military Institute 'from writing and reciting a prayer before cadets eat their evening meals.'

Similar story at The Citadel

in South Carolina...at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, where the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland has called on the academy to review its practices of leading cadets in prayer."by John McCaslin--

The Washington Times



"PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY SOCCER TOURNAMENT HONORS TERRORIST--The

notorious Palestinian terrorist who blew himself up at a Netanya hotel during a Passover seder last year, killing twenty-nine Israelis, including children, now has a soccer tournament named in his honor."

Israel MyGlory

THE CENTER OF THE EARTH--For centuries, men have believed that Jerusalem is located at the center of the earth. "Thus says the Lord God; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her" (Ezekiel 5:5). If you look at the map of the world and draw a circle around the earth's landmass, you'd find that Jerusalem is at the center of the circle!

Jerusalem is and always has been at the center of the world's conflicts, intrigues and political machinations. It's not just Jerusalem, but Israel and the entire Middle East that hold such remarkable influence over the other nations of the world. Even though efforts are underway to establish a free and representative government in Iraq, the eyes of the world are still focused on the Middle East as though it were "The Center of the Earth!"

HAVING HEARD THE CALL



**“I’ll meet the mark,” the dreamer said
 “But first I need a vision
 Tell of the glories yet ahead
 Then I’ll make my decision”**

**“We must,” the thinker then declared
 “Bring faith to all the nations”
 Then to his books he then repaired
 To count the implications**

**The contemplator said, “I see
 The challenge is auspicious
 But thoughtfully it seems to me
 The time is not propitious”**

**The timid soul said, “Yes, we must
 Give this our reflection
 But in this danger, crime and lust
 We must have more protection”**

**The pragmatist said, “On we go
 But first we count the pencils
 Before us is a mighty flow
 But we must have utensils”**

**The sturdy Christian then averred
 “We have our marching orders
 No longer shall they be deferred
 It’s time to leave our quarters”**

**A thousand reasons may delay
 The call to God’s great battle
 But all that the detractors say
 Amounts to useless prattle**

**The call is clear the time is now
 The challenge is before us
 Each heart must now fulfill its vow
 To Him who rules o’er us**

by Dave Breese

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Thank you for the continued flow of relevant materials particularly the update reminder of world events as relating to end time wars. I agree—if time was short in Bible times—for sure it is very short now to get the Word of Life out. May God continue to give you and your staff the strength and wisdom to carry on!” – Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

“I have also ordered your study of Isaiah. This book has been a blessing to me as God spoke to me from Isaiah 54 to the end of the book during the time of my marriage separation-divorce and also, during the time of my son’s death. God gave me peace and hope through Isaiah and I praise Him. Because of Jesus, I can spend eternity with my son and my parents!” – Westerville, OH

“The May issue was outstanding about the end times. So very important. I read it several times and passed it on to friends. Enclosed is a contribution to help where it is needed. May God richly bless all of you for sending these letters out so many can easily understand what is happening in these times and prepare themselves.” – Morton, IL

“Carol, I’ve known without a shadow of a doubt that God is continuously caring for you in everything. I cherish having you and Dave on my list of ‘special’ friends and my sister and brother in Christ. Perhaps soon the Rapture of the saints will be God’s plan for all His very own believers and we will be together forever with God and our loved ones.”
– Ottawa, KS

“To Carol and the Christian Destiny family: For the past year, you have been on my mind and in my heart.” – Des Moines, IA

The following are responses to Dave’s article “**Danger**” printed in the Grace Evangelical Society newsletter:

“Amen!! I loved Dave and his theology. I hope this is not the last article by him on GES!! God bless you all.” – Concord, NC

“One of the best articles I have ever read on this subject. I am linking to it on my web site.” – Fargo, ND

“With respect to your newsletter that I received on 4-5-03, the article by Dave Breese, said so many things that I have been saying for years. I attend doctrinal Bible church where salvation by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ is preached.”
– Huntsville, AL

WORTH QUOTING

“The man who gives up accomplishes nothing and is only a hindrance. The man who does not give up can move mountains.”— Ernest Hello

“The great thing and the hard thing is to stick to things when you have outlived the first interest, and not yet got the second which comes with a sort of mastery.”
— Janet Erskine Stuart

“For me at least there came moments when faith wavered. But there is the great lesson and the great triumph if you keep the fire burning until, by and by, out of the mass of sordid details there comes some result, be it some new generalization or be it a transcending spiritual repose.”
— Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

“He that cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he must pass himself for every man has need to be forgiven.”
—Lord Herbert

“I go walking and the hills alone above me, range upon range, one against another. I cannot tell where one begins and another leaves off. But when I talk with God, He lifts me up where I can see clearly, where everything has a distinct contour.”
—Mme. Chiang Kai-shek

*But especially,
“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14).*

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q: How can we be sure we will not be overwhelmed by the tide of evil about us?

A: God allows evil upon occasion to be in the apparent ascendancy. But this is for His purposes and what would move beyond that purpose will be prevented. The Psalmist says, *“Surely the wrath of man shall praise You: the remainder of wrath shall You restrain”* (Ps. 76:10).

Q: I’m anxious about the future, what shall I do?

A: You are speaking about a common problem of our time, about which we need to think. A person who is not a Christian has great cause for anxiety as he or she should be desperately afraid of the future. The Scripture says that *“God is angry with the wicked every day”* (Psalm 7:11). The proper attitude for a sinner is anxiety and this will continue until he or she believes the Gospel and comes to Christ.

One who is a Christian, however, is told, *“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). For the Christian then, the solution to anxiety is earnest prayer that is followed by thanksgiving for divine deliverance. This, to the committed Christian, will produce *“the peace of God”* and this is wonderful beyond description. It is a mistake to try

to solve any problem without God. It is the beginning of wisdom to trust God and look for His guidance into a solution for you.

Q: I sometimes get so tired of the world and even the repetitious Christian practices. What advice would you give me about retaining Christian enthusiasm?

A: You have pointed up a common condition in the Church of our time. So the Bible says, *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”* (I Cor. 15:58). That very chapter tells us to keep on keeping on because of the Gospel, because of the continuing grace of Christ, because of the resurrection of Christ, because of the glory of our own resurrection, and because of the Rapture of the Church (v. 51). It is easy to retain enthusiasm when we think of the glory that is soon to be revealed in us.

Q: What day shall I observe as the Sabbath?

A: For Christians, every day is the Sabbath. The Bible says, *“How turn you again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain”* (Gal. 4:9-11).

Q: Why doesn’t God just send fire from heaven and consume these wicked people who do so much terrible things in our world?

A: The answer is that this is the

day of grace. An indication of the program of God since the cross is, *“For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved”* (John 3:17). This is the time in which God extends His forgiving grace to a sinful mankind. The purpose of God at this time is not condemnation, but salvation. The Apostle Peter tells us, *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise [the promise of His return], as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (II Peter 3:9).

However, the Bible is quick to say, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night”* (II Peter 3:10). The Day of the Lord is that period following the day of grace which God will (because the Church is taken out of the world) work His judgment upon all the wickedness of mankind. In the meantime, wicked people survive (and sometimes appear to thrive) in today’s world. If, however, they neglect to receive Christ, they will be lost for eternity. The reminder is that we are to work for the salvation of men. If we do, we will fulfill the primary purpose of God for this era of time.

This, therefore, is the day of great spiritual adventure. Think of it! We have the great opportunity of conducting a program of spiritual conquest for Christ. Such a program will know His primary blessing. More than in any age, we should sing in these days,

*“The sons of God go forth to war
A kingly crown to gain!”*

THINKING TOGETHER

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS NATION

(Continued from page 2)

he stood before Herod the king. Referring to the king's illicit marriage to Herodius, he pointedly addressed the sovereign saying, *"It is not lawful for you to have her"* (Matt. 14:4).

Because all men have not faith, these wrongs and shames will not be ameliorated only by the preaching of the Word. For those who are not believers, God has ordained another method for the preservation of a level of righteousness within society. That other method is civil authority. Civil authority, the government, must, therefore, have the moral message which can only come from the Bible in order to properly conduct itself. Even Abraham Lincoln agreed that it was impossible to govern apart from the Bible. The influence of Christians in calling for this kind of righteousness in a nation is, therefore, imperative. This influence does well to also take the form of Christians, themselves, becoming involved in the very machinery of government decisions.

Believers are to insist on just actions and attitudes on the part of government leaders. In the Word of God, this activity included Christians insisting on their rights as citizens and demanding that the government properly respect those rights.

In the days of the early Church, the Apostle Paul was thrown into prison in Philippi. This was done in violation of his

rights as a Roman citizen and it functioned as a limitation to his spiritual opportunity. Before the episode was finished, the Apostle Paul expressed an attitude which, in our time, would be seen as an exception to Christian humility. Paul had no such view. The magistrates became frightened at the rumor of Paul's Roman citizenship and they sent someone to free Paul, hoping that he would go in peace. Here the Word says, *"But Paul said to them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out"* (Acts 16:37).

One smiles at this story, imagining the scene that followed. But let us note that here, the Apostle Paul openly demanded proper conduct on the part of the government and even humble activity on the part of its leaders. This certainly would be called "political manipulation" on the part of many in our time. Who can doubt that the Apostle Paul would instantly answer, "So be it."

We are told in the Scriptures that the ruler of a nation is *"the minister of God to you for good"* (Rom. 13:4). Because of this, the Christian is to pay his taxes, to support the customs of government and to even sponsor an honor dinner for the magistrate if he deserves it (Rom. 13:7).

We have a most interesting

promise which is given to us in the Word of God. This promises that the diligent individual will be actually rewarded by God with an opportunity to consort with the leaders of government and influence its policies. So it is that the Word says, *"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before obscure men"* (Prov. 22:29).

The privilege of interaction with and influence upon the leaders of our society is not given to many. There are millions of Christians in America who pray for their leaders as, indeed, we are admonished to do. The actual influence upon those leaders is, however, limited to a small number of diligent Christian leaders who have been given that opportunity. We may rejoice that in our time there are those who have been enabled of God to stand before the "kings" of our nation and of other nations with an earnest and faithful Christian witness. Too often, these distinguished men and women are the object of foolish criticism on the part of others for exercising what the Bible teaches is an opportunity and reward from God.

There can be no doubt that this just God who presides above the destinies of nations, as said Thomas Jefferson, will work His will in the world. There can also be no doubt that He will use diligent human instrumentality to bring that

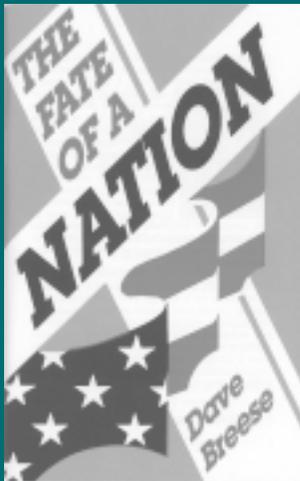
will to pass. There is no question but that the greatest and most immediate instrument which God has in our world is the Church, its people, its leaders, its articulate spokesmen, its diligent princes. If we affirm the doctrine of human instrumentality, and who but the supra-lapsarians would deny it, then let us hold that the Church and its people are a great instrument for God in today's world. Having preached that God presides above the nations, let us act in the name of that conviction.

What shall we do? We must do "what we can." Thank God that in America, we can do very much. Having been given the opportunity to do much, shall not this be required of us?

From the writings of Dave Breese
with Dave Weeden

**THE FATE
OF A NATION**

By Dave Breese



Please call or write for your free copy of this 80-page booklet.

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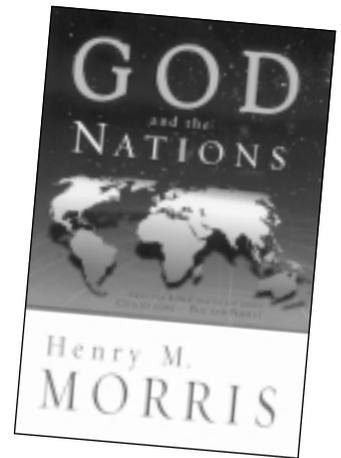
We are offering the book *God and the Nations--What the Bible Has to Say About Civilizations--Past and Present* by Henry M. Morris.

Secular anthropologists spend a great deal of time studying civilizations. They probe historical sources and plunge spades into the earth to uncover the secrets of past cultures.

Sadly, the most reliable sourcebook is rarely used, but the Bible has proven repeatedly that it is the real secret to "the nations" and their births and deaths. From the discovery of city states like Nineveh, to future plans for Egypt, those who dig through the past are routinely shocked by the accuracy of the Bible's geography and history.

Morris explores God's plan for individual countries:

- * **To what regions did the sons of Noah migrate and develop nations?**
- * **Why did God choose Israel as His elect nation?**
- * **Does any nation today truly seek God?**
- * **Are the prophecies about God's wrath on the nations literal or figurative?**
- * **How does Islam factor into these "latter days"?**



This book is listed on the enclosed order form.

FINALLY



Dear Friend of Christian Destiny,

This has been a most wonderful year so far in the ministry of Christian Destiny. God is giving us the opportunity of reaching out in His name across the hemisphere. We are surely seeing fulfilled the promise of Christ to the Church of our time when He says, "*Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it*" (Rev. 3:8).

That open door continues and with your help we shall step through in these days and weeks to come. A thirsty world is looking for the Savior and this produces wonderful spiritual opportunity for us.

Please continue to pray for Christian Destiny and the ongoing of the Gospel through this significant outreach for Christ.

Sincerely,

Carol Breese
Christian Destiny, Inc.