Destiny Newsletter

PUBLISHED BY CHRISTIAN DESTINY

HILLSBORO, KANSAS 67063 PHONE 620-947-2345 FAX 620-947-5560

July 2005

THE BELIEVER'S DESTINY

We have a very wonderful set of promises given to us in the New Testament. We who believe the Gospel have before us a bright future indeed. It could surely be said that the Christian is a person of destiny.

Again and again in the Scriptures, we have the marvelous hope which belongs to the Christian described for us. One of those passages is the Apostle Paul's careful treatise on the return of Christ found in his letter to the Thessalonicans. As a marvelous source of confidence and reassurance concerning the future, Paul writes to us all saying, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the

"RISING FIRST"

Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thess. 4:13-17). Confidence in Christ is a great gift from God and it comes by paying attention to what God has said to us in the flawless Scriptures of the New Testament. Several points of confidence are readily found in this portion of the Word of God.

1. Christ will come again. The reader should never doubt ever again that the Lord Jesus is coming back one day.

When we think of it, this promise lends courage to face every other consideration in life. The Christian may speak of pain, problems, loneliness, despair, poverty, desertion, and dozens of other things which may take place in this human life. None of them, however, is serious and ought never to be the object of human despair. Why? Because Jesus is coming again. Nothing will prevent His return and He will wipe away all tears and erase forever any cause for anxiety.

We should note that a person who believes the Gospel has a very wonderful privilege going for him. He can make a claim about himself that the world cannot. He can say, "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 John 3:2). When we think for even a moment what Christ was like, we are thrilled and humbled at this promise which states the nature of a Christian. Jesus Christ was marvelous in thought, word, and

deed. He was certainly the most beautiful and marvelous human being who ever lived. He possessed the power to move the universe and the wisdom whereby He could become the master of everything.

The astonishing fact that now emerges from the Bible is that Jesus Christ gives that wisdom and that power to each one of us who believe in Him. "We shall be like Him" (I John 3:2) is a blessing and capability beyond our imaginations.

When we anticipate the return of Christ, let us remember also that:

- 2. Christ will bring past believers with Him. We will see Mom and Dad again. We will greet long departed friends, loved acquaintances, neighbors, and meet many for the first time. Yes, we will greet the Apostle Paul, Peter, James, John, and great numbers of others who have believed the Gospel. Long have we wondered what earlier members of the body of Christ were like. Soon, we shall know! But remember, they will know about us as well. We will learn that separation is never permanent for the Christian. There will be reunions aplenty and banquets galore when together He takes us to heaven.
- 3. We, therefore, will not sorrow for those who have gone before. The human sorrow, when one Christian leaves for heaven and another stays behind awaiting the resurrection, will be past. We

may leave behind many disappointments in this world only to learn that they were God's appointments. Then shall we know, even as we are known. Who can describe such an experience? The promised joys of heaven are certainly one of the reasons why we should rejoice while yet we live in this disappointing world. Disappointments do not exist in heaven.

But rather, it is the place of total joy, perfect happiness--and nothing will be able to catch our attention except the will and the pronouncements of God. Heaven will always present the perfect harmony between what is and what ought to be. So marvelous is this that the Scripture promises that the perfect fulfillment of every desire and every wish will be the reality that we face in heaven. A little reminder here is appropriate. Some people speak of Christians and say, "He is so heavenly--minded that he is of no earthly good." It is well to never listen to gross and presumptuous people such as that. Probably more than 90 percent of the Christians of our world are in just the opposite condition. They think so much about earth that heaven almost escapes them. They may have dropped already into the level of being merely a nominal Christian because they have thought too little about heaven. "What will heaven be like?" is a fair and expected question for every believer. The answer is, "It will be wonderful beyond description."

4. Living Christians will join with the resurrected saints. When describing Christians, the Apostle Paul notes that some are alive and some have fallen asleep in Christ. No matter, for we will be caught up together and meet the departed saints in the clouds. From that meeting we will together go to meet God and ever be with Him. Note that Christians who have died will rise first. God is, therefore, reminding us that the dead are not forgotten and His first act upon

His return will be to look after them. He, therefore, demonstrates to all that death is not the end of everything. No indeed, it is the simple and joyous transition from this world to the world to come. Christ, who can do anything, has chosen to arrange it this way.

In fact, Christ spoke of this very thing when he said, "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 unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3). Many human arrangements are marvelous indeed. If this be true, what must be the splendor that is being arranged for us when we get to heaven. As the song says, I have "a mansion just over the hilltop" and this is wonderfully true. There are no tar paper shacks in heaven, but rather a living environment that is splendid beyond description. Inevitably connected with our going to heaven is a marvelous place to live, beautiful quisine to eat, great fellowship to enjoy and a hundred other beautiful things that defy description. Surely the result in each one of our lives should be bright expectation.

5. This begins eternity with Christ. From this point on, there is no separation of any kind between the believer and His Lord. To be with Jesus even for a moment is ecstasy beyond description. That being the case, what it must be to be with the Lord Jesus forever? Think of the experience of the disciples when they met the Lord Jesus and walked with Him on the road to Emmaus. This Scripture says, "their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us. while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:31-32). The Christian is well-advised to waste little time on other things and spend as much as possible

being with Jesus Christ and listening to Him open the Scriptures. Not to know what the Bible says about the return of Christ, the Scripture calls ignorance. Time spent with the one who possesses all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge is a worthy investment.

If Jesus is coming again, which He is, perhaps we should cancel a few more of our earthly involvements in order to hear what He has to say. Concerning our attitude in times like these, the Scripture tells us that we should be constantly looking up awaiting the Savior.

How do we prepare for that marvelous transition to heaven? The first and greatest step is to be sure that we know Jesus Christ as personal Savior. If you doubt that you are a Christian, remember that the Scripture with earnest simplicity says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Everlasting life and a home in heaven comes from believing in the When we are a Lord Jesus. Christian, we begin to anticipate with joy that which is largely indescribable--the wonderful thing of being with Christ. We love His appearing, we look for Him. We wait for Him. We watch for Him. None of these attitudes are a waste of time but rather the custodians of our admiration of the Lord Jesus.

One word of advice then. Because Jesus Christ may come at any time to take His own home to be with Himself, every one of us should be ready. Do the things now you will be proud of when Christ comes again. Live the life today that will be to your credit when you arrive at eternity. Being with Christ-what a day that will be!

From the writings of Dave Breese

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

"THE BATTLE OVER THE AGE OF THE EARTH is not a battle between science and religion or between the facts and some people's beliefs. Rather it is a worldview conflict that started 200 years ago, when the idea of millions of years became popular. It is a battle between anti-Christian philosophical assumptions and the Bible's clear teaching about the creation and history of the world.

Put another way, it is a battle over the authority of Scripture. That is, will we believe the words of scientists who don't know everything, were not there at the beginning, make mistakes (which is why they have to rewrite their textbooks so often) and who are in rebellion against their Creator, trying to explain the world without God so they do not have to feel morally accountable to God? Or will we believe the Word of God, who does know everything, was there at the beginning, always tells the truth and inspired men to write the Scriptures without error so that we would have a clear and trustworthy history of how we and the world reached our present condition?"

"WHO IS ABU MAZEN? Abu Mazen (also called Mahmoud Abbas) is the author of the Palestinian Liberation Organizations's 'Plan for the Destruction of Israel.' He denies that the Holocaust ever happened.

Dr. Terry Mortenson, National Liberty Journal

[...]

He argues that terrorism is the harm done to the Palestinian people. He fully justifies the attacks against Israel and refers to it as part of the 'armed struggle' against the invaders, aggressors, and occupiers (referring to Israel). He was also the mastermind behind the murder of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. [...] He is now the President of the Palestinian Authority." David Hocking, Israel Watch

"SOME OF THE NATIONS' top English teachers say the Bible should be part of any high school class covering the finest works of Western literature, according to a new report issued by the Bible

Literacy Project. The Bible is 'one of the basic pieces of literature that in Western civilization has influenced laws, morals, politics and other literature.' [...]

Researchers

spoke with 41 teachers in 10 states, from both religious and nonreligious backgrounds, who are regarded as outstanding by colleagues. [...] Nine out of 10 teachers who participated argued that knowledge of the Bible is crucial for a good education; 40 of the 41 teachers

advantage. [...]

Incorporating the Bible in a public school curriculum is not unconstitutional, writes Chuck Stetson, founder of the Bible Literacy Project and former vice president of the National Bible Association.

said Bible literacy is an educational

'The great authors of literature made an assumption that the general population understood the basic themes of the Bible,' he writes. 'Yet, our study reveals that we are losing this knowledge and raising a generation that teachers say is "clueless" about the context for some of the most basic phrases in our common language."

Amy Doolittle, The Washington Times

"WITH A FINAL BLAST through mountain granite, Swiss engineers linked Europe's north and south by completing drilling [...] for the world's longest overland tunnel—a cavernous shaft that burrows under the Swiss Alps [...]. The 21-mile Loetschberg tunnel is the latest in a string of engineering feats—from the Channel Tunnel linking France to England, to a bridge connecting Sweden and Denmark—that are

breaking down natural barriers in an increasingly borderless Europe. The Loetschberg, set to open to trains in 2007, will be longer than the current overland record-holder-Japan's 16.4

> mile Hakkoda tunnel and will come third overall behind the underwater 33.5 mile Seikan Tunnel, also in Japan, and the 31.3 mile Channel Tunnel. [...]"

> > Bradley S. Klapper, Associated Press

UNIVERSITY OF
DESTRUCTION
Your Game Plan for Spiritual
Victory on Campus
by David Wheaton



Young people entering college often encounter overwhelming temptations while being forcefed godless philosophies--and the results can be spiritually catastrophic. University of Destruction outlines essential practical and biblical principles that will equip students for the inevitable spiritual battle they will face on campus.

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THE HIGHLANDS

Speak to me, oh ye mountains
And tell me, what would you say
At the thought that you are not that massive,
But only papier-mache'?
That you were merely put there
In a moment of finite time
To be the instructive backdrop
For a play with a plot most sublime?

In fact, are you not the product
Of a skyquake unspeakably great,
Which came in a past day of judgment,
When a culture repented too late?
Is your breathless height not now a witness,
With your deep crevasses as well,
Of the power of the Lord of the cosmos,
The realness of heaven and hell?

We shall learn from your jagged protrusions
The serious nature of things;
How the God of the vales and the summits
Is more than "The Lord of the Rings."
We therefore shall serve the Creator
Who sustains all He ever has made;
Then we'll meet in the highlands of heaven
Where towering joys never fade.

Dave Breese

THINKING TOGETHER

THE GREATEST MESSAGE

The greatest presentation of that marvelous message called "the Gospel" is found in the Apostle's Epistle to the Romans. That most astonishing book says, "Now we know that what things soever the law says, it says to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ to all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood. todeclare righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God" (Romans 3:19-25).

To Be Born-Again

Anyone who hears and heeds what God has said in this part of His Word has become a born-again Christian. Sadly, anyone who believes any other message than this Gospel of the grace of God is still a lost sinner. To any reader of these pages, therefore, we would extend a most earnest invitation to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. Believing is to be convinced that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Faith in this message brings the certainty of life eternal.

There are many people in the world who live their lives under constant doubt as to their salvation. This despite the fact that the Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, and your house" (Acts 16:31). To any such, we invite you to believe on Christ today and receive the gift of God which is eternal life.

When we consider the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we wonder! wonder why it is that billions of people still live their lives in conjunction with satanic activity and pursue their efforts to that fatal destination which is hell. Before any lost sinner, there is the unavoidable and awful consequence of being lost. The Book of Life is still open. The Scripture says, "This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:14-15). To move into eternity apart from your name being in the Book of Life is a fearful consequence indeed. Because there are so many millions of men, women, and children in this condition, a mighty program of evangelism needs to be conducted once more in the life of America. The most necessary thing in the life of a person is to know Jesus Christ as the saving Son of God. Sadly, of the 6 billion people in today's world, one would be fortunate to find a true indication that a billion of the confused religionists in today's world are truly Frankly, we should even distrust that figure because it is highly doubtful that there are a billion believing Christians in the world today. There are many nominal Christians, of course, but the real thing is what counts. When we think of vital Christian evidences, we can rejoice that there

are some of them in today's world.

Special for These Times

The world continues to see unusual phenomena in our time. It comes in the form of small but devastating wars, famine, pestilence, a moral warp in society, youth rebellion, and a hundred other forms of teenage apostasy that is come upon our time. Does God know? But of course! A detailed, but carefully recorded, record is being kept even now concerning the life of every person who lives. There is no escape from judgment on the part of anybody in our time. Whatever you intend to do, therefore, be prepared to answer to God one day, perhaps soon, concerning your activity. Remember that God presides above the world and His clear kingship will be obvious soon. Therefore, live for Christ today and every day.

From the writings of Dave Breese

MY HIGHEST MIND--POETRY BOOK by Dave Breese



Dr. Breese's most precious and intimate work--a book of original poetry. This 64-page **book** is bound in a glossy hardcover and contains 28 moving poetic works.

For any contribution

Y OUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. Why is Babylon such a big question in the Bible?

Babylon is, in fact, greatly emphasized in Scripture. It is mentioned over two-hundred times in the Bible which makes it the second of history's famous cities. The first is, of course, Jerusalem-but Babylon was the biggest, best, and most beautiful city of its time. It had great wealth and prestige and was the master of everything. Before the Bible is finished, however, it tells us of the total destruction of Babylon--both in its religious and commercial forms. The best that earth could produce became a disaster. One more time will Babylon be presented in Scripture after which it will be destroyed totally and completely. Surely the world is supposed to learn from this that our human plans, however promising, without God, amount to nothing. Every aspiring human being should remember this. Total destruction is finally what will happen to the world itself.

Q. Is tithing presented in Scripture?

A. Tithing was a requirement under Old Testament law. It is not the law of the New Testament, however, but rather believers are admonished to give "as God has prospered" (I Cor. 16:2).

Q. What books should I read?

A. Most importantly, read the Bible. It tells us of all that pertains to life and godliness. Beyond that, Christian books abound in our time. C. S. Lewis,

for instance, is a great author and his book Mere Christianity should be read by all. Everyone should also read Pilgrim's Progress, the world's most widely read Christian book. Because there are so many more, we recommend that you stop at your Christian bookstore and talk to the proprietor about what is available. Don't miss Discover Your Destiny.

Q. Should I become a prophetic scholar?

A. The Scripture says, "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 Peter 1:19). The Bible, therefore, says that learning prophecy will be of tremendous value. Bible prophecy is the only way we can know the future and is, therefore, very valuable at retaining our sanity in the present. Reading and knowing the prophetic Word will be a constant reminder to you that God presides above it all and will not forget us.

Q. Is there only one way of salvation?

A. The Scripture says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Q. Can a Christian go to heaven without receiving the Holy Spirit?

A. We would have to answer

by saying that, without receiving the Holy Spirit, a person is not a Christian. But in saying this, we must also point out that receiving the Holy Spirit is not a separate experience from becoming a Christian. When a person comes to Christ as Savior, he is automatically indwelt by the Holy Spirit. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (I Cor. 6:19). "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit" (I John 4:13).

By reading these and other Scriptures, it is evident that anyone who has truly accepted Christ as personal Savior has the indwelling Holy Spirit, and will go to heaven.

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?

by Mark Hitchcock



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