Destiny Newsletter

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O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM

From the Writings of Dave Breese

Undoubtedly you have watched the mounting bloodshed in the Holy Land with horror, as have we, and wondered where it all will end. Even now, things there are changing so quickly that we hesitate to comment on them, knowing that by the time this letter reaches you, they are almost certain to have changed again. The Holy Land remains a smoldering powder keg, awaiting the spark that could ignite a regional, and perhaps even global, conflagration.

It is, however, most interesting that, when things heat up in Israel (as they are doing now), people turn to us with pointed questions as to what the Bible foretells about the future and how Israel will be involved. People seem to realize that the Middle East is where it all began, and it is where it's all going to end.

But also of great

We must warn the Gentile world...Israel's rejection of Christ the Messiah brought devastation.

concern is the question that is raised as to how we really feel about the nation of Israel. Some of our Arab friends feel we side automatically with the Israelis, giving them carte blanche to do whatever they want, not only with impunity, but also with our unconditional support. They claim that we love Israel indiscriminately and, perhaps, far too much.

On the other hand, there are those Jews who accuse us of not going far enough. Some even suggest that we hate the Jews – that we blame them for killing the Savior and for rejecting the Kingdom of Heaven.

The truth is, we do love the people of God--although we know that they are by no means perfect. And while the Bible is a record of the special nature of the nation of Israel, it also contains the account of Israel's many mistakes and failures (and consequently, her discipline by God for those failures).

Looking at the strife that centers around Jerusalem and now threatens the security of the whole world, we think back upon the day nearly 2,000 years ago when the voice of Jesus Christ was lifted at the Mount of Olives in a most plaintive cry. He said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets, and stonethem which are sent unto you, how often would I have gathered your

children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate" (Matthew 23:37-38).

These are some of the most moving words that have been spoken in all of history. And were it not for the balance of the whole counsel of Scripture, one might be able to assume that God was forever finished with the people of Israel.

But thank God, that desolation is not to be forever. Rather, God will send upon Israel during the Tribulation, "the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zechariah 12:10).

Yes, the Bible teaches that Israel will be converted. "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness" (Zechariah 13:1). That great conversion, however, will not come until the final years of that awful period of time called "The Great Tribulation." For Israel, what a day that will be! It will also be a great day for the rest of the world, "For

if the casting away of them (Israel) be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" (Romans 11:15).

The historical fact is that out of the rejection of Jesus by Israel came that greatest of all acts of murder, the death of Christ. Yet out of His death on the cross came the wonderful offer of full and free salvation, made to all the people of the world, not just the Jews. Out of that unspeakable tragedy came the most wonderful blessing the world has ever known. There is no doubt about it, all men everywhere are now invited, yes commanded, to change their mind about God and believe the Gospel of the Grace of Jesus Christ.

Remember that Israel will have a fountain of cleansing opened for it during the days of the Tribulation. Will a special fountain of cleansing be opened for the Gentiles as well? The answer is that a fountain of cleansing has already been opened. It flows with the shed blood of Jesus Christ from Calvary's cross. Indeed, the hymn writer put it well in saying,

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners, plunged beneath that flood. lose all their guilty stains.

God's gracious offer of forgiveness and cleansing is extended to the whole world. All who believe in Jesus Christ are forgiven of every sin and Of course! The Bible says,

made a member of the Church. which is His Body. Let us remember, however, that the offer of salvation by grace will not be forever. Soon the season of rescue will be over. Soon we will be taken to heaven in that marvelous event called the Rapture of the Church. At that point, the Church, the Body of Christ, is complete and the Gospel of the Grace of God will be replaced by the Tribulation message of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Knowing this, we can easily picture Christ in these days, standing above the nations of the world and saying, "O Los Angeles! O New York! O Paris! London! Johannesburg! How often would I have gathered **vou!**"

The world i s preoccupied with so many things--not the least of which is the threat of mushrooming war in the Middle East--that it still neglects the tender invitation of Christ. Soon, the door of grace will be closed and desolation will come upon the world. Soon, the Church will be taken and the days of the vengeance of God will break upon the world.

What then shall we do? We must warn the Gentile world that it must not make the same mistake that Israel did. Therefore, the message of the Church in our time should be one of invitation and also warning. Christ invites the world to believe in Him, but at the same time warns of devastating judgment soon to come. How soon? Sooner than ever before!

Do we love the Jews?

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee" (Psalm 122:6). It says of Israel "for he that touches you touches the apple of His (God's) eve" (Zechariah 2:8).

The Bible is very clear that conditions around Jerusalem will continue to deteriorate until the end of the Church Age. Oh, there will be negotiations, treaties and promises of peace. But in the end, all that these efforts will produce will be "sudden destruction." And it could well be that what we are seeing in Israel today is a sign that time is running out.

That's why it's so important for us to work together to take the saving message of the Gospel to the world while there is yet time. Time may indeed be running out, and we have much yet to do before the Lord comes for His Church.

CONCERNING THE FUTURE...

The Apostle Paul says, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after; if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12-14).

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

2007 IS MOVING ALONG with problems, opportunities and challenges. The privilege of living for Christ in a time such as this is a great one indeed. Let us never forget the promise, "Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it" (Rev. 3:8). This means that spiritual opportunity will never fail us as long as our hearts are right with Jesus Christ.

"IT WAS NOT THAT LONG

AGO when the United States of America was solely considered a mission 'sending nation'[...]. Not anymore! With the three unstoppable trends of globalization, international migration, and growth of the 'Third Church' (the church outside of Western countries) galloping across the worldwide landscape, America has become as much a mission field as any other country in the world. [...]

Many immigrants are those whom mission experts classify as the 'least reached people' of the world.
[...] Now God has given the American church the extraordinary opportunity to reach these people groups right here in our own communities! [...]

Now, domestic missionaries and local churches can reach across town to evangelize these least reached, culturally different people. [...] For this reason, the United States of America is a mission field."

AMF, by Marvin J. Newell, Moody Graduate School, Chicago

"THE PRINTED PAGE NEVER FLINCHES, it never shows cowardice; it is never tempted to compromise. The printed page never gets tired; it never gets disheartened.

The printed page travels cheaply--you can be a missionary for the price of a stamp. It requires no buildings in which to operate.

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discussion. And it works when you are gone from the scene. [...]

Samuel Zwemmer said, 'No other agency can penetrate so deeply, witness so daringly, abide so persistently and influence so irresistibly as the printed

page.' [...]

'The Lord gave the word; great was the company of those that published it' (Psalm 68:11)."

Every Christian A Publisher! Earnest C. Reisinger

"WHENTHEPILGRIMS ARRIVED IN AMERICA IN

1620, they brought along supplies, a bright hope for the future, and the Word of God. Clearly, their most precious cargo was the Bible. Have vou ever wondered what version of the Bible the Pilgrims brought to America on the Mayflower? Believe it or not, it was not the King James Version of 1611. It was actually the 1599 Geneva Bible [...]. The Geneva Bible, printed over 200 times between 1560 and 1644, was the most widely read and influential English Bible of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This superb translation was the product of the best Protestant scholars of the day and became the Bible of choice for many of the greatest writers, thinkers, and historical figures of that time. Men such as Shakespeare, John Bunyan, and John Milton used the Geneva Bible, and it was reflected in their writings. [...]

The Geneva Bible [...] was the first Bible to use chapters and numbered verses and became the most popular version of its time because of the extensive marginal notes. [...] It was truly a Bible by the people and for the people."

Tolle Lege Press

"THE PROMISES THAT GOD

MADE TO ISRAEL, like the promises He made to followers of Jesus, are irrevocable. [...] If God had taken away the election from Israel, if His promises no longer applied to the literal people

who descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Jewish people would have long since been wiped from the face of the earth by numerous enemies. There can be no doubt that the people of Israel exist today because of the

sheltering hand of God, and that in His providence, He has a purpose for Israel--the Jewish people--to survive. There is the hope that the nation of Israel will eventually fulfill their God-given destiny."

Moishe Rosen, Jews For Jesus

"HOW OLD IS LIFE? [...]

Mutations in existing [genetic] codes, while they do not speak to the *origin* of the code, can tell us something about how old life can be. Most mutations are only slightly harmful, but others are acutely harmful. Most of these harmful mutations, whether mild or acute, pass on to the next generation, thus each succeeding generation is more 'mutant.' Today, the codes mutate at rates much higher than evolution would predict. [...]

Mutations are leading, not to evolutionary advancement, but to extinction!

One obvious conclusion we can reach from the observed rate of deterioration is that mankind (or any species on Earth) cannot have been here for millions of years--or it would have already gone extinct. Instead, life appears to have been recently created and cannot last for millions of years into the future."

John D. Morris, Back To Genesis

Y OUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. Does God have a will, a plan for my life?

A. The Apostle Paul gave his testimony in this regard when he said toward the end of his life, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:7). By saying this, Paul declared that he knew the "course" which God had prepared for him. He also testified that he had "finished" that course. He brought to completion the plan of God for his life.

Again and again the Bible speaks of the will of God and declares that we are to know the will that God has for us. Therefore, we can be sure that God has a plan for our personal lives. The fulfillment of that plan means that we will receive "a crown of righteousness" (vs. 8). Paul says that this crown is "not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing" (vs. 8).

Q. How can I know the will of God for my life?

A. The Bible says, "Wherefore, be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17). Here the word "unwise" means "mindless" or "empty-headed." So a person is mindless who does not know and do the will of God.

God declares His will for all. To know His will I must:

- 1. Be a Christian (II Pet.3:9).
- 2. Be committed to Christ (Rom. 12:1).
- 3. Know the Word (II Tim. 2:15).
- 4. Pray for His leading (Luke 18:1).

There are other considerations. I assure you that the pursuit of the will of God is the great adventure of life.

Q. How can I best bring others to Christ?

A. That concern is very commendable because it is the opportunity and duty of every Christian. First of all, you must know that you yourself are saved. Secondly, learn the Word of God and thoroughly understand the Gospel of the grace of God. And, thirdly, live a godly life so that others will see your faith. Earnest prayer for that person is also imperative.

Finally, be sure that you want to bring others "to Christ" rather than simply into some institution. If your sincere concern is the salvation of others, there will be no limit to the spiritual opportunity before you.

Q. If I commit a sin as a Christian, am I lost?

The Apostle Paul accused the Corinthian church of 19 separate sins. Nevertheless, he said they were saints and they were also sanctified (I Cor. 1:2). A Christian, through failure, does not lose his salvation, but he may lose his sense of warm, personal fellowship with God. Therefore, God has made a wonderful provision for sin in the life of a Christian saying, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

Salvation is gained and kept, not because of your personal conduct, but because of the conduct of Christ on the cross. There He died and rose again and became the author of eternal salvation for all who believe.

Q. Can you cite a Bible chapter and verse that frees Jew and Gentile Christians alike from Mosaic laws?

A. Certainly. "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us" (Gal. 3:13). "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:2). "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Rom. 3:28). "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight" (Rom 3:20).

Q. I have committed my life to Christ, can I now expect to go to heaven?

A. Sure, you can go to heaven, but not because you have "made a commitment to Christ." It is inexact, misleading preaching that says, come and make your commitment and you will be saved.

The fact is that we are not saved by our commitment to Christ, but by His death on the cross for us. The precise way in which we are saved is that we are saved by faith in His blood. In salvation we receive a free gift of life eternal.

Now, to the saved, an invitation is extended for a commitment. Paul says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). The people who were invited to present their bodies were already brethren. We need millions of committed Christians in today's world, but first we must trust in Christ and the finished work of the cross in order to be born again. The Gospel is not what we can do for God, but what Christ has done for us by His death. His burial and resurrection.

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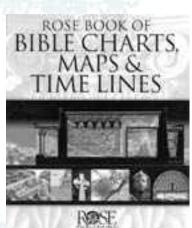
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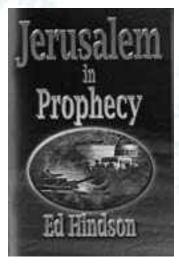
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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

However long, however short, However tinged with pain, Though rich or poor, the Christian life Is never loss, but gain.

It may be lived at towering heights Or in the valley dim. No matter, for the child of God Is linked at last to Him.

The life of faith considers not The ambiance of time. For it, the trials, the joys, the tears, Are equally sublime.

With mind acutely conscious of The wonder of it all, The Christian oft is mystified That life should ever pall.

He little cares for lesser things That do not fit the plan, He knows the best of everything God gives to mortal man.

So with a bright'ning hope he lives In thrall of that great day. When Christ the Author of his life Will catch the Church away

To that bright land where golden dreams And earnest hopes come true. Where all for which he will have lived Is vindicated, too.

Each trusting soul or trembling saint Will bid this world farewell, To move to that celestial home Where all is well, is well.