

SEVEN SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN

■ *by Dr. John DeBrine* ■

Jesus Christ said, "I will come again" (John 14:3). Was His departure to Heaven literal? Yes! Then according to John 14:3 His return must be literal. I have been conducting weekend prophecy conferences and introducing the message with segments from the video, "The Seven Signs of Christ's Return". They are as follows:

1. The return to the Holy Land of the Jewish people (accomplished)
2. The welding of Western Europe into a super power.
3. The rise of a dictator known as the anti-christ.
4. The world-wide dominance of a new religion under the direction of the unholy trinity.
5. The building of the third Temple of Jerusalem.
6. The invasion of Israel by the armies from the North.
7. Armageddon.

We see the potential (note I said "**potential**") for everyone of these signs now. However, as you note the fact that at least 25% of the Bible is devoted to prophecy, you note a contrast as it relates to the return of Jesus Christ. For example, whereas Revelation 1:7 states that "every eye will see Him" – in contrast, Hebrews

9:28 states, "To those who look for Him will He appear". There are many such contrasts in the Bible which brings us to the conclusion that the return of Jesus Christ is one drama in two separate acts. Namely, the Coming of Christ for the church (John 14) and the Coming of Christ with the Church to establish an earthly rule (Revelation 19). Here is the point: when I see Macy's getting Christmas decorations ready, I know that Thanksgiving is coming! Now when I see the potential for these seven signs as props now on the prophetic stage, I look with eagerness to Titus 2:13 - "Looking for the Blessed Hope and Glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ".

You may wish to have one of the brief Songtime USA weekend conferences in your church because this doctrine is a great motivator for soul-winning and holiness (compare I Thess. 2:19-20 with I John 3:2-3). Call or write and schedule this for your church.

Revelation 22:12 states "I am coming quickly and my reward is with me." This introduces the entire subject of the Judgment Seat of Christ – II Corinthians 5:10.

In the current newsletter and also next month we will observe the following:

1. What the text cannot mean.
2. The People involved in the text.
3. What the text does mean (an extensive study of the word "bad" as stated in the text). In other words, what "bad" factors will I face in Eternity Future?

I. WHAT THE TEXT CANNOT MEAN

This is a text that cannot lessen the Gospel of God. I have heard messages that say something like this: "Remember that time at 8 years of age when you stole that candy bar from the store? At the Judgment Seat of Christ that will be shown on the eternal screen." Needless to say, the response to the invitation was huge! We can all think of skeletons! You mean we'll face them again?

If you have applied the Gospel, the answer is a resounding NO! Read the words of I Cor. 15:1-3 "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures."

Get a good concordance and find the Bible verses relating to those great truths. A great summary text is Psalm 103:11-12 "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

Here is an illustration of this truth from the life of a missionary from Holland after World War II: [Continued on Next Page](#)

YOU'RE INVITED!

Time is running out to get tickets to Songtime's 35th Anniversary Banquet. Here are the details....

Place: **Lantana's Restaurant in Randolph, MA**
 Date: **Friday, June 25**
 Time: **7:00 pm**
 Cost: **\$25 per person**

The evening will include music by John Starnes and prophecy teaching from Dr. Jimmy DeYoung. Seating is limited. Get your reservation in today, the deadline is May 15!

"It was 1947 I had come from Holland to defeated Germany with the message that God forgives. It was the truth they needed most to hear in that bitter, bombed-out land, and I gave them my favorite mental picture. Maybe because the sea is never far from a Hollander's mind, I like to think that that's where forgiven sins are thrown. When we confess our sins, " I said, "God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever...then God places a sign out there that says, NO FISHING ALLOWED!"

There's a wonderful old hymn by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889) which states:

I lay my sins on Jesus the spotless Lamb of God.

He bears them all and frees us from every guilty load.

I bring my guilt to Jesus to wash my crimson stains –

While in His blood most Precious, 'til not a spot remains.

Many of the hymns by Bonar were written for the use of Mr. Sankey when he and Mr. Moody were holding evangelistic meetings in Scotland. It is also known that he had the habit of writing them while traveling on railroad trains. "I lay my sins on Jesus" was written when Bonar was a young man – not yet the pastor of a church but serving as assistant to a minister in Leith, Scotland. It was written for the children of the Sunday School. The idea is this: your sins are either on you or on Jesus. If you have doubts about this, make sure. Pray this prayer:

"O God, I am a sinner. I need a Saviour. I acknowledge that Jesus Christ is my only Saviour and right now I lay my sins on Jesus. I receive Him as my Lord

Though it's early, our **Tour to Oberammergau Germany, Austria & Switzerland June 4-15, 2000** is filling up. Cost includes: airfare from Boston, 1st class hotels, meals per itinerary, motorcoach, English-speaking guide and admission to the Passion Play. **A \$300 deposit is due by June 1st** for this trip. Travel insurance is optional, but recommended (\$83 pp) which covers any problems with Y2K in Germany. Don't miss this Great Passion Play at Oberammergau – an event that happens only once every 10 years.

and Saviour. Forsaking all....I trust Him. Amen"

Let me know you have said that prayer so I can send you a cassette of assurance called *Explaining Christianity*. Now share this truth with an unbeliever by giving them the cassette, *Decision Determines Destiny*. Give us the name of that unbeliever so we can pray for them with you.

It's evident that at least one of the young men captured by the enemy in Yugoslavia is a believer. Pray for us and support Songtime USA as we attempt to get these cassettes to a maximum number in the service of our country. There could be many casualties and we must get the Gospel to them.

Next month: The meaning of II Corinthians 5:10 and the people involved.

DEADLINE for Songtime's Tour to Branson, MO from October 21-27, 1999 is JUNE 1st!!

This tour includes airfare from either Boston or Philadelphia, 12 meals, baggage handling, hotel, motorcoach, and admissions to music shows per itinerary.

Cost is \$1199 pp/dbl occ. Single is \$1399. (plus optional travel insurance \$83pp) \$300 deposit due June 1st. Call Songtime for a brochure or reservations.

A "HYMNSTORY"

■ *Bill Dagle* ■

Each month this section of the newsletter contains a story behind the hymn – but if you would allow me I would like to stray a little bit because of a phone call I received recently at midnight. My son, Billy, called with the announcement that I was a new grandfather and that he was the proud father of a baby boy. Linda and I had visited Natasha and Billy in Texas this past February in anticipation of this blessed event and now little Ethan has finally arrived!

During our visit to Texas, I took the opportunity to locate another birthplace – that is the home town of Frances Smith (you know her better by her stage name of Dale Evans). Born in Italy, Texas in 1912 this little girl would grow up to impact the lives of millions with her partnership with Roy Rogers. Through movies, television, rodeos and music, this all-American couple have left a deep impression on the hearts and minds of many who have memories of the "King of the Cowboys" and "Queen of the Silver Screen". This in itself would be enough but because of a genuine faith in Christ as personal Saviour, they also have set an example of what a Christian should be especially when heartache and sadness enter our daily walk with the Lord.

Dale and Roy knew of the excitement a new baby brings to a house. God gave them little Robin and with her entrance to this world, the test of a life time. She was a Downs syndrome child and would only stay here for two short years. Through this trial they exercised the faith of Romans 8:28 and Hebrews 13:2 which resulted in the writing of a book and a song with the same title, "Angel Unaware". Letters poured in them which told of similar stories identifying with their sorrow – as others, too, have suffered loss on this side of heaven and have found comfort in the Rogers' testimony and the words that Dale would pen.

"Be not forgetful to entertain a stranger, For thereby some have entertained an angel unaware. Don't see a difference – just warmly give your welcome. The hand you clasp may be the hand of an angel unaware."

The story doesn't end here for there is lots more to hear and see. If you'd like to see the multi-media slide presentation and hear the voices and music of Roy and Dale once again, contact us at Songtime and we'll bring the Roy Rogers Story to your local church, civic group or school and you too will say, "Happy trails ...til we meet again."

Freedom from Envy

Pastor Steve Butts - MILLERSVILLE BIBLE CHURCH

One of the more important things parents should teach their children is to be happy for others when they are honored or blessed. What makes this difficult is the fact that it is human nature to covet and envy the good fortune of others. Children instinctively recognize inequalities and demand an equal portion with their siblings. Some parents actually reinforce this natural tendency by trying to make sure that each child in the family receives the same as the others. In doing this, however, parents teach their children to expect what life doesn't normally deliver. Do we always get an equal portion with those around us? No. Life simply doesn't work that way, and since we will always find others with greater blessings, we would be wise to learn the secret of being happy for people when they are blessed. Yet this is easier said than done. It is our nature to covet what others have and – even worse – failed covetousness will often lead to envy.

“To covet”, writes Cornelius Plantinga, “is to want somebody else’s good so strongly that one is tempted to steal it. To envy is to resent somebody else’s good so much that one is tempted to destroy it. The coveter has empty hands and wants to fill them with somebody else’s goods. The

envier has empty hands and therefore wants to empty the hands of the envied. If the envier can come away with another’s goods, so much the better, but that is an incidental advantage. What the envier really wants is to spoil something – or someone. Envy is a nastier sin than mere covetousness.”

Envy is not a new problem. The history of envy began with the first human family. The younger brother, Abel, was accepted by God; the older brother, Cain, was rebuked. Was Cain happy for Abel? The answer to this question is found in Genesis chapter 4 and it is a tragic story. Cain allowed his soul to be poisoned with an envy that, the New Testament tells us, led to the murder of his brother (I John 3:12). As the biblical narrative unfolds, we find that the account of Cain and Abel is not unique. The history of blessing and envy is found in Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, Leah and Rachel, Saul and David, Herod and Jesus. Why did the religious leaders hand Jesus over to be crucified? The gospel account tells us it was because of their envy.

Envy is not only an ugly sin, it is a motive for uglier sins. *“This is a motive that prompts people to slice up other people’s reputations, to disparage their*

achievements, to minimize their virtues, to question their motives, to challenge their integrity, and, failing other ways of bringing them down, to kill them.”

People of good character who have been the object of someone else’s envy knows that, *“being envied is an awkward sorrow. Why so? To be envied is to have something venomous aimed at you for which it’s surprisingly hard to find the right anti-venom. If you do well, you will be resented. If you ignore the envier, you nick his pride. If you try to be nice to the envier, you may be thought patronizing.”*

Obviously, making friends with an envious person is risky business. *“Envious people backbite. They deliver congratulations with a smile that, in another light, might be taken for a sneer...the envier gossips. He saves up bad news of others and passes it around like an appetizer at happy hour. The envier grumbles. He murmurs. He complains that all the wrong people are getting ahead. Spite, bitterness, ‘discord which undoes all friendship’, accusation, malignity – all these things flow from envy and together turn friendship and good fellowship into a rancorous shambles.”* (from Not the Way it’s Supposed to Be, Cornelius Plantinga Jr)

Parents who desire to protect their children from the devastating effects of envy and to teach them to be happy for the good fortune of others, must set the example themselves. Envy is by no means a child’s problem. If parents harbor envy, they can expect their children to do the same. Beyond setting the right example, parents would also be wise to teach their children to be happy for their siblings or friends when they get something special. The apostle Paul’s words about the way things ought to be in the church are equally applicable to the family. He wrote, *“If one member is honored all the other members rejoice with it”* (I Cor. 12:26). God is able to help us overcome the natural desires of covetousness and envy.

Ultimately, freedom from envy is found in contentment. The scripture commands Christians to *“...be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘never will I leave you; never will I forsake you’* (Hebrews 13:5)

Songtime on the Road

May 6-9 - Saturday, May 8 -	Songtime bus tour to Vermont Open Bible Baptist Church in Cambridge, NY 7 PM “The Roy Rogers Story” with Bill Dagle.
May 8-9 -	Valley Christian Church Main Street, (Conway Elementary School) Conway Village, NH. Saturday at 7:00 PM and Sunday service at 10:00 AM with Dr. John DeBrine.
Saturday, May 15 -	Gaither Homecoming Concert at the Worcester Centrum in MA. Begins at 6:00 PM. Call us if interested in taking a bus from Cape Cod. Cost \$35.00
May 15-16 -	Friedens United Church of Christ in Lenhartsville, PA. Saturday at 5:30 PM and Sunday meetings at 9:00 AM & 10:00 AM with Dr. John DeBrine.
Friday, June 25 -	35th Anniversary Banquet in Randolph, MA at Lantana’s Restaurant. Music by John Starnes and teaching from Dr. Jimmy DeYoung. Tickets are still available through Songtime for \$25 per person. Concert is at 7 PM – then banquet – followed by a message by Prophecy Today’s host, Jimmy DeYoung.

■ Questions & Answers ■

Dr. Bob Burrelli - GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

Q: 2 Corinthians 6:14 says that I should not be yoked together with unbelievers. Is Paul talking about unbelieving business associates?

A: The phrase “yoked together” is really one word in Greek. It appears in Leviticus 19:19, where God prohibits the sexual union of animals that are of different kinds, and in Deuteronomy 22:10, where the union goes beyond the sexual: “Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together.” Paul takes this concept of unequal unions and brings it over into the Christian life with the idea that no Christian is to join with non-Christians in the area of spiritual service and worship. There was a rash of false teachers in the Corinthian church, from whom Paul called true believers to remain separate. They preached a false gospel and their interests were different from God’s. In fact, the way this verse is worded, the command is to those in the church already in such an estranged union. We might better understand Paul to be saying, “Stop being yoked together with unbelievers”. Hence, the reason for his Old Testament quotation in verse 17, “Therefore come out from them and be separate”.

Such a valuable principle that helps maintain purity in our worship and service to the Lord has two important implications. The first one is this: all believers must avoid associations with other religions, faiths, and false systems of belief when it comes to worship and ministry. This cannot be stressed enough. I often hear of believers who remain in the particular false religion out of which they have

been saved, in order to, as they put it, “make a difference”. One popular but unbiblical line of reasoning is expressed in the line, “I believe God wants me to stay here [in this false church] and be a witness”. But according to this passage, we know beyond any doubt that God does not want us there and calls us to be separate. Those of you who are worshiping and ministering with people of different faiths, religions, and ideologies, must stop immediately. God desires your worship to be pure and practiced with others of like-mind. If you are attending a church that follows a different book than the Bible, God commands you to get out! This does not mean that you have to stop being a witness to this group of unbelievers, only that you must not worship and minister with them.

The second implication of this principle is this: all believers may maintain healthy associations with unbelievers in all other areas. Secular enterprise is where believers become salt and light. Certainly, be up front with your unbelieving business associate as to your Christian morals-that you are not interested in running a shady operation-and Christian work ethic. But do not think for a moment that the Lord prohibits such unions. Exercise discretion and be a witness.

Where does marriage fit in? Mar-

riage is a spiritual union, and there are plenty of passages that call believers to marry in the Lord only (1 Corinthians 7:39). This passage would certainly be one. Do not unite yourself to someone in holy matrimony who is not a Christian. For those who are already married, Paul has other instructions for the believer who has an unbelieving spouse (1 Corinthians 7:12-16).

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Tours and Events...

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