



Bible Student's NotebookTM Weekly

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

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Issue 488

The Current Era Is Limitless

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

... the era is limited ... (I Corinthians 7:29, CV).

Paul said that the previous era¹ was limited. However, this current era, which began when he revealed the pinnacle of his revelation found in his latter epistles, is limitless. Limitless is defined as “vast”² and “seemingly boundless.”³ These are appropriate descriptions of unadulterated grace. The very nature of pure grace makes it so. After all, “where sin abounds grace does much more abound.” The sin of Israel’s fall ushered in the expansive reign of God’s grace.



The Law spanned just over 1,500 years. If the Law which caused sin to increase lasted some 15 centuries, does it not make divine sense that Grace would abound long past such a period? Grace now stands at nearly 20 centuries. Is it nearly over? Is Grace about to cease by our appearing with Christ in Glory? Or, has Grace another 5 centuries? Or, perhaps another 10 centuries to double the duration of the Law? Or, even well beyond that? What kind of show will God make of this great attribute of His? None of us should dare to be so presumptuous as to estimate the end of the era of His Grace!

While Paul anticipated the era of the Acts period to wrap up quickly with the Coming of Jesus Christ, “the hope of Israel” was placed in abeyance, superseded by a previously unrevealed immensity of unparalleled grace. The Coming of Christ graciously has continued to remain in abeyance for centuries now.

Prophetic prognosticators⁴ are ignorant of God’s current unprophesied dealings with man. They use Scriptures addressed to Israel, as well as Paul’s earlier epistles, to promote the idea of an “imminent” coming of Christ (or “Rapture”). As a result, their hearers are encouraged to adjust their lifestyles unnaturally for this impending event. One passage from Paul’s Acts-period letters that is sometimes used to advocate such an adjustment is:

(see ERA, page 4307)

IS TIME REALLY SHORT?

What an economy Grace has been! What else would we expect from the pure grace of God? It has, indeed, been vast and seemingly boundless. It has spanned nearly two millennia, which pales in comparison to Paul’s previous profession that “time is short” (I Corinthians 7:29).

4. e.g. Hal Lindsey (*The Late, Great Planet Earth*), Tim LaHaye (*Left Behind*), Jack Van Impe (*Perhaps Today*), Harold Camping (*Are You Ready?*), Ernest Angley (*Raptured*), Salem Kirban (*I Predict*), Todd Strandberg (*Rapture Ready*)

1. “A period of time that has a particular quality or character” (*MacMillan*).
“A long and distinct period with a particular feature or characteristic” (*Oxford*).
“A period of time considered as being of a distinctive character” (*Collins*).
2. *Webster’s New World College Dictionary*.
3. *MacMillan Dictionary*.

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Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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This free weekly electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - union in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6);
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

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ABBREVIATION KEY

Scripture Versions

(Unless otherwise noted all Scripture quotations are taken from the Bible Student's Version).

- CV: Concordant Literal Version
- DAR: Darby Translation
- DT: Dabhar Translation
- FF: Ferrar Fenton Bible
- KJV: King James Version
- RE: Rotterdam's Emphasized Bible
- WT: Weymouth Translation
- YLT; Young's Literal Translation

Reference Sources

- AA: Analytical Analysis (Welch)
- BDB: Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon
- CB: Companion Bible Notes & Appendixes (Bullinger)
- CC: Concordant Commentary (Knoch)
- CKC: Concordant Keyword

- Concordance (Knoch)
- CL: A Critical Lexicon and Concordance (Bullinger)
- CWS: Complete Word Study Dictionary (Zodhiates)
- FoS: Figures of Speech (Bullinger)
- SEC: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
- TGL: Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon
- UR: Unsearchable Riches
- VED: Vine's Expository Dictionary
- YAC: Young's Analytical Concordance

Reference Notations

- cf. – compare
- e.g. – for example
- et al. – and others
- etc. – et cetera (and so on)
- ff. – and the following
- i.e., – that is

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ERA (continued from front page)

This I say, brethren, **the time⁵ is short**: it remains, that both they that have wives be as though they had none (I Corinthians 7:29).

This I am averring, brethren, **the era is limited**; that, furthermore, those also having wives may be as not having them (CV).

We have dealt previously in the *Bible Student's Notebook* with the dispensational context of I Corinthians.⁶ An approach to life based on this passage from a previous economy would be a dishonor to God and contrary to His present purpose as revealed through Paul's further advanced revelations found in his latter epistles. As a result, it will also wreak unnecessary havoc in one's personal and domestic life, bringing added sorrow to the heart and disgrace to the message of His Grace. A husband who erroneously attempts to conduct his life today as though he had no wife, most likely will find himself *actually* not having one!

OUR FOCUS DURING THIS ERA

Ephesians represents the pinnacle of Paul's revelation. Here he lays forth the Secret Economy in which we now live today. In this epistle, rather than prompting singleness and a weaning of domestic life as he had done previously in I Corinthians 7, he tell us that domestic life now has a paramount place in spirituality.

5. The word translated "time" (KJV, Young) and "era" (CV) is *καιρός* (*kairos*). It is defined by A.E. Knoch as "a distinct portion of time having special characteristics" (*Concordant Keyword Concordance*). The *Concordant Version* translates it by four different English words in Paul's epistles. Here are those words along with a verse example:

- "era" (I Corinthians 7:29);
- "occasion" (Galatians 6:10);
- "season" (Galatians 4:10);
- "period" (I Corinthians 7:5).

6. *Rightly Dividing Paul's Epistles: The Distinctive Messages of the Prison and Pre-prison Epistles* (D.L. McCroskey; BSN #10; BSN #197); *Paul's Perfection Epistles* (A.E. Knoch; BSN #310); *The Chronological Order of Paul's Letters: Their Dispensational Significance* (Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.; BSN #319); *Paul's Post-Acts Ministry* (R.B. Shiflet; BSN #346); *The "Lord's Supper" Brief Thoughts on Israel's Passover* (Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.; BSN #382); *Paul's Five Ministries* (Edward H. Clayton; BSN #484); *The Dispensational Place of Marriage in I Corinthians 7* (Charles H. Welch; BSN #485); *The Hope of Israel in Paul's Early Epistles vs "That Blessed Hope" in Paul's Latter Epistles* (Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.; BSN #485); *The Lord's Coming in the Early Epistles* (Charles H. Welch; #486); *Right Division Includes Paul* (Stephen Hill; BSN #487).

In the last two chapters of this unparalleled revelation, we are entreated not to be "foolish" in our domestic lives by making the mistake of thinking that these heavenly truths should somehow make us distant or disassociated from domestic life. He desired that we should understand what the Lord's will is for us today,⁷ and he leaves no doubts as to what that will is:

- (1) that we are filled full with His spirit (5:18)⁸ and,
- (2) that we become focused on and dedicated to domestic life.

In Ephesians 5:17-6:9 Paul plainly lays forth what it means to be filled with God's spirit:

- It enables us, from melodious hearts, to be an encouragement to ourselves and others (5:19).
- It enables us be to be thankful always for all things (5:20).
- It enables wives to be better wives (5:22-24, 33).
- It enables husbands to be better husbands (5:25-33).
- It enables children to be better children (6:1-3).
- It enables fathers to be better fathers (6:4)
- It enables servants to be better servants (6:5-8)
- It enables masters to be better masters (6:9)

Religion has its own list of what it suggests are the effects of a spirit-filled life; but here Paul lets us see exactly what spiritual life looks like in our day. Unlike Paul's earlier instruction,⁹ domestic life has now moved front-and-center. The focus of our era is marriage, parenting and employment, all done from melodious hearts always giving thanks for all things.

(see *ERA*, page 4311)

7. Ephesians 5:17:

"Wherefore be ye not **unwise**, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (KJV).

"Therefore do not become **imprudent**, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (CV).

"For this cause, do not become **foolish**, but have discernment as to what is the will of the Lord" (Rotherham).

"Because of this become not **fools**, but understanding what is the will of the Lord" (Young).

8. Ephesians 5:18:

"be filled with the Spirit" (KJV).

"be filled full with spirit" (CV).

"be getting filled in Spirit" (Rotherham).

"be filled in the Spirit" (Young).

9. This instruction was based on his at-that-time expectation of the Lord's coming.

Examples of Prophetic Prognostications

Date	Event	Date	Event
53	Before all the books of the Bible were written, there were some who taught that Christ had already returned. The Thessalonian believers were worried when they heard this error.	989	Halley's Comet appears, thought to mark the end of the world. ⁴
400	Hippolytus "calculated that 5,500 years separated Adam and Christ and that the life of the world was 6,000 six full 'days' of years until the seventh the day of rest." His calculations in 234 indicated there were still two centuries left. ¹	990	Aelfric and Wulfstan linked the year 1000 to the unleashing of Antichrist. ⁵
435	Judah ha-Nasi (135-220) believed Messiah would come 365 years after Temple destroyed in 70. ²	994	Various "signs:" famines, plagues and mortality in Saxony, referred to as the biblical "tria iudicia pessima." ⁶
470	Hanina thought Messiah would come 400 years after Temple Destruction. ²	1000	One of the most pronounced states of hysteria over the return of Christ. The magical number 1000 was primarily the sole reason for the expectation. During December 999 many sold their possessions, swarms of pilgrims headed to Jerusalem, buildings went unrepaired, crops were left unplanted, and criminals were set free from jails. ⁷
500	Some theologians in the second and third centuries, predicted Christ would return in A.D. 500, based on the dimensions of Noah's ark.	1005	Terrible famine throughout Europe, associated with the Apocalypse. ⁸
500	Lactantius (250-330) said 500 would be the time for the second coming of Christ. ²	1006	New star sighted in heavens (Super Nova).
950	"Treatise on the Antichrist" by Adso of Montier-en-Der, was a response to a variety of crises at mid-century that provoked widespread apocalyptic disquiet, and rapidly become a central text in the European eschatological literature. ³	1009	Apocalyptic reaction to the destruction in Jerusalem of the Holy Sepulcher by the chiliastic Moslem caliph Al Hakim. ⁹
950	A solar eclipse was mistaken as a sign of the end of the world.	1012	Various natural disasters lead some to believe that the world was "returning to its original chaos." ¹⁰
987	When the last Carolingian dynasty fell with the death of King Louis V in 987, many saw this event as a precursor to the arrival of the Antichrist.	1183	The Calabrian monk, Joachim of Fiore stands out as a key figure in medieval apocalypticism. His writings influenced a wide range of medieval events. ¹¹
		1186	The "Letter of Toledo" warned everyone to hide in the caves and mountains. The world would be destroyed and only a few would be spared.

1. A History of the End of the World, Rubinsky and Wiseman, 1982.
 2. Date Setters, Guardian of Truth, 1994.
 3. C. Carozzi, La fin des temps: Terreurs et prophéties au Moyen Age (Paris: Stock, 1982), pp.186-94.
 4. P. Moore and J. Mason, The Return of Halley's Comet (Cambridge, 1984), p. 46.
 5. Gatch, Milton McC., Preaching and Theology in Anglo-Saxon England: Aelfric and Wulfstan, Toronto, U. Press, 1977.
 6. *Annales Quedlinburgenses*, MGH SS, III p.94; also Thietmar IV, 17; *Annales Augustani*, MGH SS III, 124.
 7. *Historiarum*, II, 22-23; ed. France, p.88-93.
 8. *Annales Sangallienses by Hepidannus* "Ecce fames qua per secula non saevior ulla" (MGH SS 1.81); *Annales Leodinienses and Lau-*

bienses, MGH SS IV, p.18; *Annales Quedlinburgenses ad an. 1009* MGH SS 3.80; *Annales Hildesheimenses, ad an.1006*); Glaber, *Quinque libri*, 2.9 (5 years ca. 1001-1006); Hugh of Flavigny (based on Glaber); *Chronicon Turonensis ad an. 1006*; Sigebert of Gembloux ad an. 1006).
 9. Glaber, Ademar, *Annales Lemovicenses, ad an. 1010*; *Annales Beneventani, ad an. 1010*, MGH SS III, p.177.
 10. *Annales Quedlinburgenses*, MGH SS, III p.82-3.
 11. Paul Boyer, *When Time Shall Be No More: Prophecy Belief in Modern American Culture*, Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press, Harvard University, 1992, p. 53-55.

1229	Many believed that Frederick was the “Emperor of the Last Days” who would usher in the new Millennium. The myth gained force when Frederick seized Jerusalem in 1229. When he died in 1250, a new myth started that Frederick would return from the dead. ¹¹	1953	David Davidson wrote a book titled “ <i>The Great Pyramid, Its Divine Message</i> ”. In it, he predicted that the world would end in 1953.
1415	The Taborites, founded in A.D. 1415, also looked back to Joachim for their prophetic beliefs. They believed that once their persecutors were defeated, Christ would return and rule the world from Mount Tabor, a mountain they had renamed south of Prague. ¹¹	1960	Piazzzi Smyth, a past astronomer royal of Scotland, wrote a book circa 1860 titled “ <i>Our Inheritance in the Great Pyramid</i> .” He concluded from his research in the calculations of the pyramid that the millennium would start before the end of 1960.
1524	Muntzer, a leader of German peasants, announced that the return of Christ was near.	1970	<i>The True Light Church of Christ</i> forecasted the return of Jesus. A number of church members quit their livelihoods ahead of the promised advent.
1533	Michael Stiefel (1486-1567) predicted that Christ’s Coming and Judgment would be at 8:00 a.m. Oct. 19, 1533. ²	1975	Moses David (formerly David Berg), founder of <i>The Children of God</i> , predicted that a comet would hit the earth, probably in the mid 1970’s, and destroy all life in the United States.
1572	Benedictus Aretius of Berne (1505-1547) calculated that 1260 years added to the year Constantine made Christianity the official religion (312+1260=1572) should be the year. ²	1975	Some computed this year as the 6000th anniversary of the creation of Adam in the Garden of Eden.
1666	A bubonic plague outbreak killed 100,000 and the Great Fire of London struck the same year. The world seemed at an end to most Londoners. The fact that the year ended with the Beast’s number (666), didn’t help matters. ²	1979	Walter M. Simmons predicted the end on Sept. 10, 1979. ¹³
1715	William Whiston predicted the coming of Christ. ²	1981	Lindsey declared that the rapture would occur before December 31, 1981.
1836	Millenium begins according to John Wesley, founder of Methodism. ²	1981	Return of Christ date set by Bill Maupin & <i>The Lighthouse Gospel Tract Foundation</i> ¹⁴
1843-1844	William Miller was the founder of an end-times movement so prominent it received its own name – Millerism. Miller determined that the second coming would happen sometime between 1843-1844.	1982	The end of the world is predicted. ¹⁵
1859	Thomas Parker, a Massachusetts Minister, looked for the millennium to start about 1859.	1982	The Tara Centers placed full-page advertisements in many major newspapers for the weekend of April 24-25, 1982, announced: “The Christ is Now Here!” and predicted that he was to make himself known “within the next two months.”
1874	Watchtower’s date for the return of Christ. Then Charles Taze Russell predicted the rapture in 1910, followed by end of the world in 1914. Later interpreted as an “invisible” return of Christ. ¹²	1984	The Jehovah’s Witnesses predicted the end.
1910	The return of Haley’s comet was, for many, an indication of the Second Coming.	1986	Moses David of <i>The Children of God</i> predicted that the Battle of Armageddon would take place in 1986.
1914	In 1914 Charles Russell predicted the return of Jesus Christ.	1988	Edgar Whisenaunt’s book <i>88 Reasons Why the Rapture is in 1988</i> came out only a few months before the event was to take place. Whole churches were caught up in the excitement the book generated.
		1988	Colin Deal, author of best-seller, <i>Christ Returns by 1988</i> .
		1988	Return of Christ: May 14, 1988; based on Founding State of Israel, May 15, 1948. ¹⁶
		1988	Tribulation begins in 1988. ¹⁷

12. 99 Reasons Why No One Knows When Christ Will Return, by B.J. Oropeza, Foreword by Hank Hanegraaff, IVP publishing, 1994.
 13. *The Day of the Lord*, 1978.
 14. Gary DeMar, *The Debate Over Christian Reconstruction*, Ft.

Worth: Dominion Press, 1988.
 15. Evangelical Tract Distributors, Edmonton, Alta., Canada.
 16. Bill Maupin, *The Lighthouse Gospel Tract Foundation, Tucson*.
 17. J.R. Church, *Hidden Prophecies in the Psalms*.

1989	Edgar Whisenaut came out with a another new book called <i>89 Reasons why the Rapture is in 1989</i> .	1997	When Rabin and Arafat signed their peace pact on the White House lawn on Sept. 13, 1993, some saw the events as the beginning of the Tribulation. With signing of the peace agreement Daniel's 1260 day countdown was underway. By adding 1260 days to Sept, 1993, you get Feb. 24, 1997.
1991	Australian group predicted Jesus would return through the Sydney Harbor at 9:00 a.m. on 31 st March.		
1991	Nation of Islam Leader Louis Farrakhan proclaimed the Gulf War would to be "the War of Armageddon ... the final War."	1997	Stan Johnson of the <i>Prophecy Club</i> saw a 90 percent chance that the tribulation would start Sept. 12, 1997. He bases his conclusion on several end-time signs. The date of Sept. 12 was chosen by Johnson because it would have been Jesus' 2000 th birthday, as well as the day of atonement.
1991	Menachem Schneerson, a Russian born rabbi, predicted the Messiah to come by Sept. 9, 1991, the start of the Jewish New Year.		
1991	Full page apocalyptic ad in USA Today, on Oct. 20, 1991.	1997-1999	Russian scientist Vladimir Sobolyovhas of the Rerikh Academy analyzed prophecies made by Russian saints, Nostradamus etc. His conclusion was that the earth's axis will suddenly tilt about 30 degrees sometime during the next two years, resulting in the <i>Armageddon Flood</i> .
1992	David Koresh of the Branch Davidians changed the name of their commune from <i>Mt. Carmel</i> to <i>Ranch Apocalypse</i> , because of his belief that the final all-encompassing battle of Armageddon mentioned in the Bible would start at the Branch Davidian compound. They had calculated that the end would occur in 1995.	1997	Bob Wadsworth, <i>Biblical Astronomy</i> , predicted the arrival of the Antichrist on April 10.
1992	Lee Jang Rim founder of the <i>Mission For The Coming Days</i> predicted the Second Coming at 9:00 am on October 28.	1997	The July 29, 1997 issue of the <i>Weekly World News</i> reported that the biggest end of the world scare since the Cuban missile crisis was circulating through Washington, predicting worldwide cataclysm of unprecedented proportions.
1993	If the year 2000 is the end of the 6000 year cycle, then the rapture must take place in 1993, because you would need 7 years of the tribulation. This was the thinking of a number of prophecy writers.	1997	The <i>Vortex of the Star of David</i> religious sect of Quebec predicted the end of the world on March 8.
1994	F.M. Riley's book <i>1994 The Year of Destiny</i> predicted the rapture.	1998	Because 666 times three equals 1998 some people point to this years as being a prophetically significant year.
1994	John Hinkle, Christ Church Los Angeles, caused quite a stir when he announced he had received a vision for God that warned of an apocalyptic event on June 9 th , 1994.	1998	Heng-ming Chen, of Garland TX, predicted Christ would return on March 31.
1994	Harold Camping in his book <i>Are You Ready?</i> predicted the Lord's return Sept. 15, 1994.	1998	On April 30 the Israeli nation became 50, this sparked some predictions that the tribulation could start.
1996	Millennium begins according to Morgan Edwards' <i>Two Academical Exercises on Subjects Bearing the Following Titles: Millennium, and Las-Novelties</i> (1788). ¹⁸	1998	Marilyn Agee in her book <i>The End of the Age</i> set her sights on May 31. According to her this date concluded the 6000 year cycle from the time of Adam. Agee looked for the rapture to take place on Pentecost.
1996	Many Christians, accepting the calculations of James Ussher, an Irish archbishop, predict the end of the world.	1998	The <i>House of Yahweh, Abilene</i> predicted that an end-of-world scenario would start.
		1999	TV newscaster-turned-psychic Charles Criswell King said in 1968 that the world as we know it would cease to exist on Aug. 18, 1999.

¹⁸ *The Life and Works of Morgan Edwards*, Thomas McKibbens Jr.

1999	Second Coming predicted by Kirk Nelson using Edgar Cayce's predictions in correlation with the Bible.	2001	<i>Sun Magazine</i> reported in its Oct. 14, 1997 issue that Noah's Ark has been discovered intact in undamaged form on a slope near Mount Ararat in Turkey. Inside were a group of 6 copper-gold-silver scrolls, each 12" square. Scroll 2 reveals that the sun will superheat the earth, melting both polar ice caps, and creating a world-wide flood. Scroll 3 reveals that Doomsday is set for January 31.
1999	<i>Sun Magazine</i> listed a prediction of the end of the world by Dotson Meade, derived from information in the Dead Sea Scrolls.		
2000	Dividing 2000 by 3, you will get the devil's number 666.66666666666667.		
2000:	Michael Drosnin, author of <i>The Bible Code</i> , found a hidden message in the Pentateuch that predicted that World War III, involving a worldwide holocaust, will start in 2000.	2004	This date for Jesus' return is based upon Psalmology, numerology, the biblical 360 days per year, Jewish holidays, and "Biblical astronomy."
2000	Dale SumburĖru predicts March 22 to be "the date when all the dramatic events leading through the tribulation to the return of Christ should begin."	2007	Shelby Corbett, of Bradenton, Florida puts up benches throughout town advertising the rapture will happen in 2007!
2000	Lester Sumerall, in his book <i>I Predict 2000 AD</i> , predicts the beginning of the Millennial reign from Jerusalem.	2008	Ronald Weinland, <i>God's Final Witness</i> , travelled to Jerusalem on April 17, 2008. He announced that he and his wife were the two witnesses of Revelation.
2000	Hal Lindsay's revision prediction. 1st said 1948+40=1988; Later Israel did not have land until 1967 War; 1967+40=2007; Rapture seven years earlier.	2011	Harold Camping, <i>We Are Almost There</i> , owns 55 radio stations and advertised on 6000 billboards in the USA. After his first prediction of the end of the world failed in 1994, he established a new date: May 21. When that date was missed it was moved to Oct. 21.
2000	William Cooper predicted that one of the secret chambers of the Pyramid at Giza would be opened. Its secrets would be revealed and Satan would become a public figure.	2012	New Age writers cite Mayan and Aztec calendars which predict the end of the age on Dec. 21.
2000	Dan Millar estimates Sept. 21 as the date of the Second Coming.	2012	Michael Drosnin, author of <i>The Bible Code</i> , found a hidden message in the Pentateuch that predicts that a comet will crash into the earth in 2012 and annihilate all life. ■
2001	Because there was no year 0, the true millennium will not start until January 1.		
2001	Charles Spiegel teaches that the ancient land of Atlantis will emerge from the Caribbean.		

Adapted from *Bible.ca*

ERA (continued from page 4307)

According to Paul, this is the advanced will of our Lord for today. So much so, that single women are instructed to "marry, bear children and guide the house" (I Timothy 5:14). Moreover, ideal family life¹⁰ is made a prerequisite to taking care of the ecclesia, for "if anyone is not aware how to control his own household, how will he care for the ecclesia of God?" (:5). Even service to the Body of Christ is predicated on ideal household service from which one is "procuring for themselves an ideal rank ... in the faith" (:12-13).

Life matters. The details of life matter. The details of

10. "Controlling his own household ideally" (I Timothy 3:4, CV).

life are strategically designed by God to have meaning and purpose. Don't waste your time imagining that you will be "raptured" (i.e., delivered away) from your divine training ground. It will be a costly mistake. Father is getting you ready for something bigger. Don't come up short in your experience for celestial service. ■

The King and the kingdom are in abeyance, and prophecy yet awaits its further fulfillment.
— E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

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