

MAX ERICKSON
JUNE 2018



MAX'S BREAKAWAY

Greetings HMI friends, I always tell you that my chapel season has been fantastic, this season is an exception. It has been **ultra fantastic** with **9 players** coming to know the saving, forgiving, life altering, eternity assuring love of Christ! This has not been a “quick fix” for any of them, but a long series of Questions and Answers, some players weekly for three years. We have deep discussions, prayer time, and very in-depth bible studies covering just about every topic a young college student can think of. These players want to know the end game concerning following Christ and what awaits the follower of Christ. I'd like to share one of these topics with you.

As I start this newsletter it is May 14th, 2018. Today is the 70th Anniversary of Israel regaining its national identity. The world watches and waits. A long time ago, Israel started a long slide into obscurity; only 31 years after Solomon's temple was completed in 960 B.C.; in 931 B.C. the nation split into the north and the south, Israel and Judah respectively, each side with a king. The nation split along governmental and religious lines; sound familiar? A civil war we might say. By 722 B.C. the Northern Kingdom falls to Assyria and 136 years later the Southern Kingdom finally succumbs to Babylon in 586 B.C. after 19 years of vicious war. So, if we say the people of Israel have been without the ownership of their nation for a long time, we could date it all the way back to the 931 B.C civil war which would be 2,948 years ago; or we could use the year 586 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar clobbered them completely, that's only 2,604 years ago (dates courtesy Bible Historical timeline, Living Bible and New Living Translation). At any rate, on May 14th, 1948 that all changed; when the dry bones of Ezekiel Ch 37 began walking back into Israel and the generational clock of the Fig tree (a symbol of National Israel) started ticking. Jesus references this in Matthew 24:32-34. That **specific generational** clock of the Abrahamic Covenant is set up for the Jews in Genesis 15:13-16. Israel is alive and has their Nation back, now and forever. **THE FIG TREE HAS BLOOMED!** What does this mean for the world, the Jews, the Church, and the chapel ministry you support? What does this mean for those that aren't following the Jesus of the Bible? What is the impact of the U.S. having recognized Jerusalem as the Capital City of Israel against the wishes of much of the U.S. and world governments? The 70th Anniversary is extremely significant. Study Matthew 24:15. Jesus tells his disciples to refer to Daniel; Daniel 9:20-



Augsburg prayer time after winning their third in a row MIAC Playoff Championship.

27 especially. Then study Genesis Ch 15-17, especially 15:8-17. Then to clarify what that covenant means, study Hebrews 6:13-20. That covenant never ends - ever! **PLEASE READ AND STUDY THESE REFERENCES, don't take my word for it, please read it for yourself!** I know my friend Bill Butters will, because that is what he does and who he is, thank you Bill.

This is probably the most exciting time the world has ever seen, but I'm afraid most of the world won't recognize it because they are biblically illiterate; I'm afraid many

Christians won't recognize it for the same reason. I have discussed this with many Christian friends and I'm concerned that most of them have very little clue of what awaits them... because they don't read scripture. Unless we have a **biblical worldview**; that is to balance all of the world's views and philosophies against the unchangeable word of God and all the promises and fulfilled and unfulfilled prophesies, we will be like the unsuspecting homeowner who is surprised by a thief in the night. On the other hand, his bride, the body of Christ; the ones who have long awaited him; those who know the signs of the seasons from Matthew 24 & 25, Ezekiel, Daniel, Genesis, 1 & 2 Thessalonians and Revelation...the whole bible; Jesus tells us, he will come as a friend, a welcome guest, The Bride Groom.

We can't share what we don't know! We as born-again believers have no excuse for not knowing, and to know God's word correctly, accurately and be able to put it together as Jesus showed us how.

I believe the Bible says we are in the last generation as Jesus states in Matthew 24; that means if I don't die first I will see these things come to pass; **now that gets personal!** We know the season we're in. Now if a person can muster up a phrase such as “uh oh, you're setting dates”, they can be sure that they are either not reading the scriptures, don't understand what they have read, or have the same blindness the Jews had because they rejected Jesus. We as Christians know for a **fact** that this is going to happen sometime, and we should be overjoyed at the prospect, **but we have a hard time realizing it is going to happen to us, or our children and for sure our grandchildren.** It's time we get our house in order to receive our Christ, our bridegroom. He has prepared our home in heaven and is soon returning. Maybe we should let our families in on the secret. It's no secret really, it used to be but not anymore. Paul divulges the secret in **Colossians 1:27b** **“...and this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory (NLT).”**

After studying this “issue” for many months with my family, we

were all blown away on December 6th, 2017 when President Trump announced that the U.S. Embassy would be moved to Jerusalem and Jerusalem would be designated officially as the capital of Israel; **(the eternal city of God)** of course that happened on May 14th, 2018. I'm sure you have not missed the significance of the numbers 7, 70, 70x7 and the dozens of references to those numbers in scripture. If we are paying attention we can watch biblical history and prophecy being fulfilled before our very eyes. I think something is going on, let's all wake up and stay alert. This is a whole new game since May 14, 2018 oops, I meant 1948.

It is comforting to know that the U.S. is once again in God's blessing concerning Israel, in Genesis 12:3 God says, "I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt." When a country stabs Israel in the back, that country is not fighting Israel but fighting God. I hope you agree, because this is also a personal blessing or curse. We have to stand with Israel nationally and personally, because what happens to Israel sets the stage and the very specific time line for the Jews as well as the church; the rapture, the tribulation, the second coming of Christ and the millennial kingdom of Christ on Earth, and finally the new heaven and new earth. Much more to come...all very good news to those of us who are awaiting his coming!!! We will not be taken by surprise by our bridegroom (1 Thessalonians 5:4-11)!!! **Maranatha!**

Jay Sekulow is the chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), a Christian law firm fighting for Christian freedom all around the globe and for our ally Israel. They don't just report the news, they make the news. Jay makes this statement, **"It's the ministry of presence; you have to be on the ground engaging these issues on the forefront."** Translation: your support for us in this ministry allows us to have a presence engaging the hockey/college culture to effectively speak the language to these student athletes in an understandable message of repentance and surrender to Jesus Christ. These young men will be the next generation to take up the banner of Jesus Christ and proclaim him to this world. You are sending us to equip them and arm them for the spiritual war that wages in all our lives. You are vital and pivotal in sending us to these players. **THANK YOU!**

The players continue to ask, "How can we know what the Truth is?" The best way to combat the lies of the world is with the **TRUTH of God's Word!** Do we trust the Bible completely? Do we classify the Bible as a story book, or as a History of the World? How you answer these questions determines how you look at the **WHOLE** of scripture! In a seeker sensitive world (and church) **BIBLICAL TRUTH** has been lost; it has been redefined. Man has now become the authority and God is a myth, which in turn makes the Bible mythology. As we grow in sanctification (becoming more like Jesus, a lifelong process) we start seeing what is important. When we look across this world and in our own back yard, we see the falling away of Christians in the church (Apostasy), people without hope, committing suicide, school shootings, church

shootings, etc. If people understood the Gospel and the freedom it brings we wouldn't have a body of Christ that is floundering in NEW gospels popping up all over the place, confusing not only our young people but the leaders in our churches (**nothing new by the way**). **Galatians 1:6-8 - "I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you (NLT)." Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:8 - "For if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for the battle (KJV)?"** There is a battle, are you armed and ready for it? Why does Paul urge us in Ephesians 6 to put on the whole armor of God? Because **we are at WAR!!!**

A month ago, I heard Lee Strobel being interviewed by Greg Laurie about his movie, "The Case for Christ," and he shared **John 1:12 - "But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God."** Jesus gives the right to become a child of God. Then in **John 6:37-39 - "However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day."** I am sure you have heard some Christian leaders, pastors, elders say something like you can lose your salvation; can you really? We must go to God's word to get clarity and understanding. **Jude 1:1, "This letter is from Jude (half brother of Jesus), a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. I am writing to all who have been called by God the Father, who loves you and keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ (NLT)." Jude 1:24, "Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault (NLT)."**



*Hamline Chapel at the Answers in Genesis movie:
Genesis/Paradise Lost Part 1*

My Eyes Are Open

Growing up, I had no relationship with Jesus Christ. My parents abandoned Christ due to an awful family tragedy that happened years before I was born. My mother lost two brothers and a father within a one-year span. During my freshman year at Augsburg is when I was first introduced to Max Erickson, who then introduced me to Jesus. Today, I am now the student HMI leader at Augsburg. Most importantly, I gave my life to Christ on November 17th, 2017 with Max there by my side. It's safe to say, I have come a long way in two years. Because of this, my life has changed and a new man was born. Jesus has opened my eyes. He has showed me how sinful and corrupt today's society is and is giving me the free will to turn away.

What HMI is doing for me is teach me how to get right with our Lord Jesus Christ. How to live through him and for him. We have a special group at Augsburg where guys are not afraid to ask questions on tough topics such as premarital sex, drugs, alcohol, suicide, hell, judgment day, etc... What is great about HMI is these personal questions on topics society doesn't want to talk about, are answered **BIBLICALLY**. Every question asked, the first thing Max does is open the bible; which is reassuring because we know we are being steered the right way. There isn't a word in my vocabulary to describe how impactful HMI has been on my life. I would just like to thank Jesus Christ for saving my life, and Max for bringing me to him.

Luke Gillette, Augsburg College

Chapel Testimony

Over the past three years of attending chapel, I have grown closer to Christ in ways that I would have never expected. Being able to dig in the Lord's word and have conversations with Max and teammates, I have been able to broaden my understanding of Christ and his word. Not only has it helped me grow closer to the Lord, it has helped me gain that hunger and drive to continue to grow through reading the Bible and applying those words to living life through Christ. Christ is teaching me how to live my life to his glory. As time goes on I will continue to grow within him as a servant of his word.

Mike Amelio, St Mary's University

The older I get, the easier the emotions come when I think of the sovereignty of God; his purpose, his plan, his authority, his provision, his redemption, and his salvation are overwhelming. These are tears of thankfulness and relief that I am his and he is mine, (**I have total assurance**). When I look back upon the past 17 months from my initial diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes, I am blown away by God's healing in my life. He gave me the tools; to read, investigate, learn, listen and apply the information I found in trying to reverse my "irreversible" condition (same principles apply in the reading of God's word to reverse our sin condition). The doctors didn't give me much chance to reverse; they simply set me up to be a slave to Insulin injection multiple times per day and never get better and eventually get worse with neuropathy and eventual limb loss. I am excited to report, I have been without Insulin Injections for 87 days and counting with good diet, exercise and good supplementation of vitamins and minerals. I praise the Lord for all the natural remedies he planted in the garden and gave to Noah to save on the Ark. All we need to do is find out about them and then use them; seems like we can apply that formula to just about everything. It works, but I need to be disciplined and devoted to the plan and process (there is always a catch, isn't there). The same is true in following Christ and sharing Christ in the hockey world on the college/university campuses, and everywhere else, the word is **PERSEVERANCE**. A good friend of mine encourages me to keep shooting the puck for the Lord!

Will you join us in sending us into the harvest field to enlist these young men on the college campuses to enlist in the Army of the Lord? We need your prayers and financial support to continue and persevere in a world that would love to kick us out and lock us up. Don't give up, don't quit, don't disqualify yourself from the prize. Press on, persevere in the strength of Christ and finish the race of life to our eternal home in the presence of God almighty. Thank you very much for over 10 years of support and our prayer is you will continue to partner with us in the future.

*In His Grip,
Max and Mariana Erickson*



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