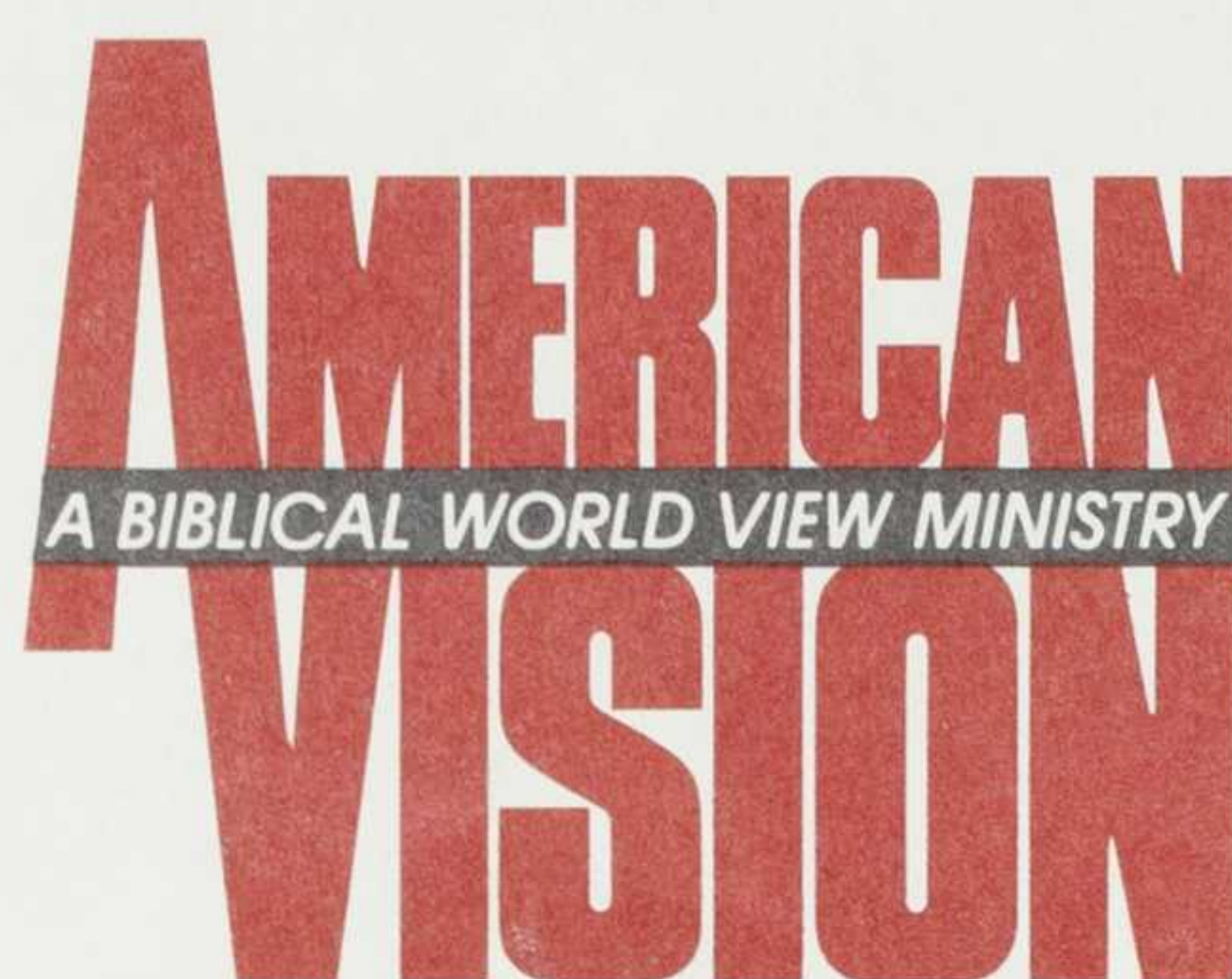




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May 1988

Dear Friend of American Vision:

The following portion of a letter appeared in the April 8, 1988 issue of Christianity Today:

We must remember Jesus' words, "The kingdom of God does not come with careful observation . . . because the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20). It is time to see America as a "sinking ship" and that through the preaching of salvation, the church is to rescue as many survivors as it can.

This reminds me of the movie Fate is the Hunter. Through a series of flashbacks, we learn more about a pilot (Rod Taylor) who went down in a curious and unexplainable plane crash. One flashback shows Rod Taylor's plane losing altitude, seemingly ready to crash. The co-pilot and navigator bail out. The plane does not crash, and Taylor returns home a hero. The two men who took to the parachutes looked like cowards.

The only sinking ship I know is that of humanism. The Bible tells us that those who oppose Christ do not make further progress (2 Tim. 2:9). The enemies of God are destined to perish if they refuse to "do homage to the Son" (Psalm 2:) It is unbelief and unfaithfulness to portray God's kingdom as a sinking ship or to deny that God's kingdom does not now operate in the world.

The reason God's kingdom does not come "with signs to be observed" is because the kingdom is in our midst. People were waiting for something that had already been manifested. Jesus said, "But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Luke 11:20). The Pharisees were looking for an earthly king to sit on an earthly throne. But Jesus is enthroned in heaven at His Father's right hand ruling over all creation, and we with Him (Acts 2:32-36; Eph. 1:5-7).

Dave Hunt and I had our first radio debate on April 4th. It went very well. We had another radio debate on April 11th. Our two hour live debate was held in Dallas on the 14th. The nature of the kingdom was a main concern. This is not a peripheral issue. To deny the present rule of Christ is to deny the gospel and Jesus' finished work. It must be cleared up.

Please consider helping us with our ever-expanding ministry. Our next area of influence is with graduating high school students and college students. Please help us produce the material to reach this next generation of Christians.

Yours in Christ,

Gary DeMar