

Fear and Forgiveness



Gabriel L. Mancino

We realise that forgiveness is usually thought of either as it relates to God, to others or to ourselves. Regardless of the date of Jesus' birth, He was born! AND He was born that we might be forgiven for our sins and cleansed from our sinful "nature" that causes the sinning. Regardless of the shape of Jesus' "cross," He died! AND He died for the same reason He came.

Jesus came to us, and now we are to come to Him...to receive that forgiveness and new life He provided. This, of course, is a matter of choice for each of us. **One of the saddest things Jesus ever said** was, "And you will not come to Me that you might have life" (John 5:40). You see, the human will is inveterate.

No person receives this salvation from sin by means of fear. It is obtained by faith alone, though fear may help lead to faith.

Forgiving others is not an option for those who love God, love their fellow man and wish to make it to Heaven. One man said that he would **rather go to Hell** than to forgive the person who had wronged him. If that is the case, then that person will just have to go to Hell, for Jesus said that if we do not forgive others, neither will God forgive us! (see Matthew 18:35, Mark 11:26). I call Matthew

18:23-35 "**The Fearful Finale of Forgetting Forgiveness.**" A man forgiven "all that debt" and freed from prison, then found a man who owed him almost nothing, yet refused to give him time to pay though the man pleaded with the exact words of the first man! The one who forgave, then heard of it, brought the first man back and threw him into prison again. Yes, God can forgive and forget our sins—Glory! (see Jer. 31:34, Heb. 8:12; 10:17). But if we return to our sinning, then our "righteousness" is forgotten (see Jer. 18:7-12; Ezek. 18:24, 26; 33:11-13). What a Fearful Finale!

But, if we look at Psalm 130:4, we see that there is also "**The Fearful Finale of Finding Forgiveness!**" The Psalmist says to God, "*But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.*" What an awesome sense of reverence and respect overcomes the person who really finds the forgiveness of God Almighty!

Yet, the people who refuse to come to the Lord for forgiveness have good reason to fear. **God's forgiveness, of course, doesn't mean that criminals are "forgiven" by the courts!** St. Paul made it clear that the Roman government soldier didn't have the sword on his side for nothing! (see Rom.13:4). I recently read with fury about prostitution ring leaders laughing in the face of the girls they tricked into leaving home "to work abroad." This is only one example yet I know that, in fact, ALL sin and ALL crime will lead a person to Hell. Pride, for example, is one thing most like the devil himself, and God hates it and resists people who give it a home (Ja.4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5).

The picture above is an 18th century Hogarth in which we see a prisoner on the way from London's infamous Newgate Prison to be hung. You see a preacher offering forgiveness to the man on his way to the gallows. We have the Bible if we will turn back to God, and it is sufficient for "*all things for life and godliness*" (see 2 Pet.1:3). Therefore, Islamic Shariah law isn't needed either in the Banks to stop them charging interest (like Lloyds TSB) or in the courts to punish crime. God is the God with an open hand, so in relation to fear and forgiveness, **we must come to Him, empty-handed** (no excuses, boasts or plea-bargaining), **and ready to receive!**

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A paper for all people everywhere...
and with a personal touch! **Free!**

The London Christian Standard ...and Provincial

"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

Gabriel L. Mancino - Editor



Crisis at Christmas

Gabriel L. Mancino

Dr. Seuss had his **Grinch** That Stole Christmas and Victorian, Charles Dickens, had his **Ebenezer Scrooge**. Both of these characters tried to destroy Christmas. The fact that Charles Darwin replaced Charles Dickens on our Ten Pound notes seemed to sound forth the preference for those who *deteriorate* society over those who *declare the dire needs* of society. Dickens' work led people *toward* God; Darwin *away from* God. Dickens introduced things which lift the moral, spiritual and social level of man, whereas Darwin introduced concepts which appear to have augmented and aggravated an already distorted and inflated intellectual pride, which then had the knock-on effect of moral, spiritual and ethical deterioration.

News reports come in repeatedly which depict the **chaos of our own times**. Nero allegedly fiddled while Rome was burning, and others are doing similarly while our own world is in "Decline" (to use Gibbon's title of his Roman history).

In our local area Brent Cross Shopping Centre's advert, **Feed Your Addiction**, is once again all over the place. I went there to buy medicine for an elderly lady and was stunned at the enormous amount and variety of cosmetics, etc. mainly for women. Of course, other shops do likewise, for fashion dictates that people pour tons of money down the drain in the vain effort to improve themselves.

In contrast, one Bible verse declares of God, "*He will beautify the meek/humble with salvation*" (Psalm 149:4). Another speaks of "*the beauties of holiness*" (Psalm 110:3). Society's distorted values are obvious almost everywhere you look. On the personal level, as well as the national leadership level, things are absolutely "topsy-turvy." **We need a crisis to correct the chaos.**

A year ago the world heard in unbelief of the magnitude of the tsunami, yet that area of Thailand carries on with its well-known sex-trap-mania like someone rolling over in their sleep. Much of the world carries on in its various sinful habits, compulsions and infatuations, notwithstanding their own agony and the agonies of others.

Both the **Grinch** and old **Scrooge** had **a crisis of a different sort** at Christmas. Their hearts and attitudes were suddenly changed regarding themselves and regarding others. *That* is a crises Britain needs at the individual and national level,

A Happy & Blessed Christmas & New Year to all our readers!
Spread God's Word "Go ye into all the world" means YOU!
The picture at top is taken from the 1954 reprint of the original 1786 true story of The Life of Mr. Silas Told of England & written by him self!
It's only 118 pages and beats the fairy-tale Davinci Code to pieces.

The PERSON of Christmas is still our help and hope!
These are days of global Chaos and Catastrophe, yet, global Corruption and Carousing. The final king of the Babylonian Empire held a colossal feast every night his kingdom fell and he was killed & odious & armed him with "the handwriting on the wall." (Daniel 5)

The World Into Which He Came

by
Gabriel L. Mancino



The birth of Jesus Christ is internationally celebrated on the 25th of December. The *actual* day of Jesus' birth is irrelevant, though some people and groups wish to drag the matter into an argument; sometimes for their personal agenda. The *great* fact is that He was born, and that He was born for the grand and glorious reason to die the atoning and sacrificial death for the sins of all the human family. You can't get more international than that! That international aspect of salvation does not simply cover the rich and famous, but the poor, the unknown, the helpless and even the infamous and notorious.

This love of God for *all* makes Christmas (and Good Friday and Easter) a time when *everybody* becomes privileged. However, *none* of those in these various groups will receive the benefits provided if they stand back or reject the Gift.

So, what about the world condition when Jesus was born? Friends, I doubt if it was much different than it is now. Technological or environmental differences are certainly not the main factors to consider. To compare properly, we must focus on *THE PEOPLE*, then and now.

The Bible tells us about the shepherds, the "wise men," old Simeon and old Anna, King Herod, and of course, Mary, Joseph and the angels. **There are tremendous lessons** from these people to be taken as treasures into our own hearts...and remember, you are what you are *in your heart*, not in your appearance or bank account.

The shepherds teach us the awesomeness of true worship, the reward of quick obedience to God and the fact that God also comes to common people. **The "wise men"** show us that God comes also to the "intelligentsia" (if

they are humble enough to mind God!), and that God comes to "outsiders," which these men were. **The two old folk** show us that people can continue holding onto God's promises even though time passes and things look like spiritual chaos. These two also teach us the wonderful reality of being ready to meet God—something that too

many people either ignore or have false hopes based on self deception and self flattery. King Herod is an outstanding example of the hatred of God, God's plans and God's purposes. Herod's hatred and jealousy are bursting at the seams in the present world. Herod tried to kill the baby Jesus, and there are active efforts to do the same today; left, right and centre. For those today who like to believe they are not "on Herod's side," remember that Jesus is the Saviour, and that He is not a Sentimental Saviour, but a Sovereign Saviour. All the people I mentioned, except Herod, came to worship Jesus. They brought their ALL and they brought themselves. We must do likewise.

I often recall **Psalm 24** which says: "1. *The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.* 2. *For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.* 3. *Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?* 4. *He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.* 5. *He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.* 6. *This is the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face, O God of Jacob.* Selah 7. *Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.* 8. *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.* 9. *Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.* 10. *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.* Selah

Quoting this short Psalm fits into this

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article about **The World Into Which He Came**. First, note that the world AND the fullness of it AND the people in it belong to God because He is the Creator. Next, note that we are to live a holy life, and the Psalm gives us some of the proof-fruit of holiness. Finally, hear the repeated shout to open the gates for "*the King of glory*," who it identifies. Words about the earth belonging to God are first recorded being spoken by Moses to the Egyptian king (Pharaoh) as proof to this stubborn monarch that God is truly in control. Pharaoh had boasted, "*Who is the Lord that I should serve Him?!*" Pharaoh soon found out. Many people today have this Pharaoh attitude, and if there is no change, they will face Pharaoh's end, as well.

Psalm 2 goes even further, from a stubborn Pharaoh to an antagonistic, rebellious world of nations and people against God, saying: 1. *Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?* 2. *The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed (Messiah/Christ), saying,* 3. *"Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."* 4. *He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.* 5. *Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:* 6. *"Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."* 7. *"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.* 8. *Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.* 9. *You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."* 10. *Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.* 11. *Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.* 12. *Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*

In both Psalms a holy hill and a King are mentioned. In Psalm 24 a **positive** exclamation is heard to receive this King. In Psalm 2 a **negative** warning is given so that we will take the situation soberly and

seriously. God reaches out to us positively and negatively so that there is no reason or excuse to miss out. King Herod was like those of the nations who position themselves to fight against God as in the opening of Psalm 2...but all in vain. The fighting against Almighty God that the nations today are doing is just as empty and vain. In all the maths of power and control which the nations and "behind-the-scenes big shots" are doing, they are leaving out the most important part of the calculation—God.

St. John's account of Jesus' entrance into this world is much different than that of Matthew and Luke. John says of Jesus, "*He came into the world that He made, and the world did not know Him. He came unto His own people, and His own people did not receive Him.*" That picture and that reality has not changed in today's world. Yet John continues, "*but to those who DID receive Him and believe on His name, to them He gave the right/power/authority to become the children of God; who were born, not by human descent, nor the impulse of man's nature or by a father's desire, but of God.*"

Into that dark and violent world, the shepherds came, the wise men came, the elderly who patiently waited came. The same is true today. Jesus' miraculous birth was foretold in several details by various prophets over centuries. It was utterly impossible except through the plan and power of God. But in a similarly violent world, the same God makes our *spiritual* birth equally possible, and no Pharaoh or Herod can prevent this purpose of God in your life. It is only our own personal choice that may stop us. Jesus came to us, and now He calls for us to come to Him.

CHRISTMAS BOOK OFFER

We have copies of the 52 page book, **Guidelines for Life**, which we helped to produce. Send an S.A.E. the size of this leaflet (A5) for your copy. If you would like to help our missionary evangelism work, send a free-will donation to **London Christian Standard** at the address on the front page.

O Come O Come Emmanuel!

"*He was in the world that He made, and the world did not acknowledge Him.*" John 1:10
Why didn't the world acknowledge Him? (see John 3:19!) Do **WE** acknowledge Him?

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