

Why the Heathen Rage

Gabriel L. Mancino



Don't be offended at that word, "heathen." Most modern Bibles have "nations" to replace the old 1611 English word. I've used the Bible reference in this paper before, and it is **found in Psalm 2**. Sometimes the old English Bibles would use the general term "*Gentiles*" which also means nations and people other than Jews—so you have Jews and Gentiles.

So what's the fuss? Why is everyone so enraged? If you look on the inside right page, you can read it and find out for yourself. Notwithstanding all the conflicts between nations, races or religions, or for that matter, the terrific conflicts within individuals themselves, the greatest rage and conflict is against God Himself and His "Anointed" (which points to Jesus Christ).

The "heathen's" central problem is not oil, or over-population, as Adam and Eve found out and as their two boys discovered later when one killed the other. The great problem is sin in the human heart, which pollutes the world far more than nuclear waste. And that sin...that "*rage*"... is focused on a holy God who requires holiness in us, *wherever* we are.

Too often, the "church" has given ammunition to "the heathen" to rage against God, because **the church itself has become "heathenised."** God still holds the Sabbath special, and any time of great spiritual revival in history, the church has kept the Lord's Day holy, distinct and special; that is, until the modern church! Likewise, when "the heathen" see grossly immodest "Christians," so popular in today's "church," it is no surprise that "*the heathen rage*," for the "church" gives them added cause to do so. What professing Christians had better take on board is

the very clear and very serious warning St. Paul gives to those who are a "stumbling block" to keep people from coming to Christ. Jesus warned likewise. Yet the on-looking world sees a laughing-stock "church" which copies nearly "everything in the book" which an unsaved, unregenerate world is doing. "The heathen" (and this time I *include* Jews) already have an internal disinclination to a holy God who requires holiness, but the church too often makes God even less attractive to them.

This subject is certainly relevant to Good Friday and Easter, for "**the heathen raging**" is quoted by the early church and connected to Jesus' crucifixion (see Acts 4:2). Also, later (Acts 13:7), St. Paul quotes Psalm 2 verse 7 and applies it squarely to Christ's Resurrection, which we celebrate at Easter. Psalm 2:7 is also quoted in Hebrews 1:5 and 5:5. Jesus repeatedly told His disciples about His upcoming death, but always followed by mentioning the victory of His resurrection. Jesus also capped it off with central reference to the outpouring of the Holy Ghost (Spirit), which occurred on the Day of Pentecost. It was then that these forgiven and born-again believers were inwardly cleansed from inward sinfulness, as well as filled with God's Holy Spirit. This two-fold blessing of cleansing and filling was pre-requisite to fulfilling the command of Jesus to "*go into all the world and make disciples*" (see Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24: 44-49; Acts 1:4-8).

Yet, though Christ Himself had given this command, we repeatedly read today that Christians and converts to Jesus are being severely persecuted in many countries, even where the predominant religion is supposedly "peace-loving." Recently, a Muslim convert to Christ was only saved death in Pakistan through a charge of "insanity"! Well, if so, he is in good company for they said the same of St. Paul (Acts 26:24 and 24:14). This is a very good reason not to have Islamic Sharia law in Britain. From all over the world, **"the heathen rage, and the people plot a vain thing...against God and against Christ."** Regardless where the "rage" comes from, like Joshua of old, WE will serve the Lord and His Christ. Why not you, too? Today is the day!

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

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Easter Babies

(Lessons from Isaiah)

by

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Several months ago, a large statue was placed at Trafalgar Square in an apparent attempt to portray triumph over enormous personal tragedy and disadvantages. If ever there should be a commemoration of a "hero" in that well-known Square, it should be of Jesus Christ, for all other persons pale in comparison to His triumphs, not to mention His character! The record is there to prove it, which you may read for yourself.

Nelson's Column may be exceedingly tall, but Christ's "monument" reaches to the heavens. **The statue of the pregnant, deformed female** most appropriately causes sensitive people to look away, and the account of the suffering Saviour, Jesus Christ, is worse still. Isaiah, the prophet, describes it all too clearly from chapter 52 verse 13 to chapter 53's end; fifteen short verses in total.

In 52:14, Isaiah records that Christ's

appearance and form was more disfigured than any man. Recently, press photos showed **a young Rwandan woman whose face was disfigured** in a conflict which I still stand amazed that world leaders seem to have just stood by and let happen. Likewise, regarding the Christ of the Cross, we could apply the words of the prophet Jeremiah: "*Is it nothing to you—you that pass by?*" (Lamentations 1:20).

The Rwandan lady awaits surgery here in Britain in hopes she may have a more normal life. Jesus' suffering and death for our sins was so that we *ALL* may be normal, for sin in the heart and life is an abnormality, not original to the creation of man. Satan was **the original "hacker"** that introduced the virus of sin into the human family. He hacked *into* life and then hacks away *at* life, as with a machete. Oh, the damage sin has caused and still causes within individuals, families, nations and throughout the world.

The term, "*The Servant of the Lord*," is used in a broad section in Isaiah, and refers prophetically to the coming of the suffering Saviour, Jesus Christ. So, Isaiah 52:13 starts out, "*Behold My Servant!*" In 53:11, Isaiah uses the word "*travail*," and says that God (looking on) "*shall see the travail of His [Christ's] soul, and shall be satisfied.*" **Travail is a word which refers to the pain of giving birth!** At Christmas, we celebrate the "Virgin Birth" of Jesus. But here, through the sufferings

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Springtime Is Here, Bringing Freshness and New Life!

We are also being met with the new world's alluring, but deceptive bombardment of "sex appeal" adverts by various rich and popular, though debased companies who wish to enslave you with their "goods." BUT WAIT! We are also met by a loving Saviour who gave us life to bring to us all what this world, with its deceptive glitter, could (and never can) give!

Happy Easter To All Our Readers!

Thank God for the Cross of Christ and for His victorious resurrection! This issue of the paper has quite a bit to read, study and think about. Please take the time to really digest the little studies, for it is only if the truth is applied to our lives that we may receive the full benefit... and that benefit just grows and grows "unto the perfect day" (Prov. 4:18)

Easter Babies

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and death of Christ on the Cross, we see our "virgin birth" through the Cross of Jesus! Jesus was born without a human father and obviously without sexual relation involved. St. John 1:13 makes it clear that if we are really a *true* Christian, then we were "*born, not of natural conception, nor human descent, nor human instincts, nor of the impulse of their own nature, nor the will of a human father, nor the will of the flesh, but of God.*"

I used various Bible translations to make the above verse clear. Just as Christ's own *physical* birth was directly from God, so is our "new birth" directly from God. Each of us must use our "will" in the personal approach to God, but the actual "birth" is God's work, not man's. And think, just as that disfigured, pregnant woman portrayed at Trafalgar Square was soon to "travail" and give birth, so the grossly disfigured Christ of the Cross was there to give spiritual birth to you and to me. I've heard comparison of Nelson and Jesus, yet, my focus is neither Nelson nor the disfigured woman at Trafalgar Square, but on the Christ of the Cross.

Isaiah doesn't stop the birthing process at the end of chapter 53! The very first verse of chapter 54 sounds like the rejoicing of the hospital maternity ward, where people who once were unable to have children are now seen giving birth on an increasingly large scale. Read it. They even had to stretch out the tent pegs to make more room (verse 2)! And guess who the father is—God! for verse 5 says, "*For your Maker is your husband.*"

Please keep in mind, we are considering some lessons relating to the suffering and death of Christ, and how they apply to us. The Crucifixion, of course, relates to what we call "Good Friday," while Easter is connected to the actual bodily resurrection of Jesus. However, these two events are practically inseparable. It is likewise hardly possible to separate those two events from two that follow shortly afterward, namely, The Ascension of Jesus

and the coming of the Holy Spirit (not Mohammed), as Jesus promised when He said "*another Comforter*" was coming (see it in St. John 14: 16,17,26).

I say that these lessons apply to us all, but I am primarily focusing on the aspect of the birth-pain travail and giving birth. Read it over again and consider: Jesus' suffering and death was to provide "new birth" for all who come to Him. **Did you notice** that the pain of Jesus which is outstanding in Isaiah 53:11 and which "satisfied" God the Father was not the *physical* "travail" pain, but "*the travail of His soul!*" THAT is different! As awful as the physical suffering of Jesus was, His soul travail was worse. Does that sink into your thinking?

The church fails miserably when it merely externalises spiritual truths and realities. Though being a Christian affects our entire being, inside and out, it is first and foremost an *internal* reality and experience. Furthermore, God makes it clear through Isaiah, that Christ passed on the birthing process to all who genuinely receive and experience this new birth. It is for this reason, we hear the apostle Paul pleading with the Galatians, "*My little children, for whom I am again in a mother's birth-pains of travail until Christ be formed in you*" (4:19). Obviously, St. Paul was a man, and this is the only context when males giving birth has God's approval.

At Christmas, we usually think of "baby Jesus." With the thoughts I am now presenting from Isaiah which point to Good Friday and Easter, it gives us good reason to think deeply about *our own NEW birth*, and the fact that God has passed on to us ALL the opportunity to join Him in helping others into this birth.

In the final chapter of Isaiah (66), God is seen condemning mere external religion as severely as He ever condemned open idolatry. Then God opens the curtain, as it were, on **the stunning and miraculous event of what appears to be a sudden, mass-produced nation;** by-passing the normal birth-pain travail. We know from the Bible that on the Day of Pentecost, when the "Comforter" (the Holy Spirit) came, 3,000 received the experience of the

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new birth "*in one day,*" using Isaiah's words in 66:8 (which we may compare to Acts 2:41). I use the crowd-conversion at Pentecost *first* as an example of "birth in one day" because it strictly refers to personal, spiritual experience which God can bring to us, and therefore fits with the spiritual "soul travail" of Jesus on the Cross which "satisfied" God and made the birth possible. I know that nationally, Israel was quickly "re-born" in 1948, but people need far more than earthly material boundaries to get to heaven. Without the "Promised Land" within the soul, which God has promised and provided through Christ for every person, then ALL externals, large and small, are empty boasts.

From the heart of godly King Hezekiah to the ears of Isaiah, the nation was pictured as being in a time of trouble, disgrace, contempt, rejection, punishment and blasphemy because "*the children had come to birth, but there was no strength to bring them forth*" (2 Kings 19:3). How long ago Britain came to this condition, I do not know, but Hezekiah saw that only a God-given miracle could provide deliverance... and it came! Oh Britain, God is the same today.

On the Day of Pentecost, people from all over the world, though already sincerely religious, received the experience of true relationship to God which comes only through the new birth (see Acts 2:5-11). A miraculous national turning like this involving ALL peoples is the only thing that can give the nation a future of true hope and blessing. Springtime and Easter burst forth with new life. THIS year, may it be a time when Britain sees a true revival, when not Easter *bunnies*, but Easter *babies* rapidly multiply across the country—when people from our vast and varied population become truly newborn in Jesus Christ!



Psalm 2

(Used for the article on the back page)

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, 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. (NKJV)

Jerry Springer—Back From the Dead? (so reported!)

Well, from time to time (including recently), newspapers have brought actors and actresses "from the dead" as they put before the readers the grossly immoral character of many of them; including some of "the greats." I believe The Jerry Springer Opera is of like nature, which incorporates, as Psalm 2:1,2 above states, a rebellion against God and against Christ. The immorality of much screenplay is inconsistent to watch if I truly love God, for it cannot help but have a spiritually and morally degrading effect, and certainly (as the old song says) "is not a friend of grace to help us on to God." Let the ever-living Christ be your Role Model (as in 1 Peter 2:21-25).

St. Paul's defence on trial: "Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and



Moses said would come-- that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles." Acts 26:22,23

We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 8.45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.