

CRAFTY CRITICS

Gabriel L. Mancino



truth. I know they are not alone in this opinion, for I've met others from a few other groups, as well as lone individuals, with the similar fantasy that only *THEY* are right!

Someone said that the JW's, are masters at **manipulating Scripture**. My recent exposure to their publications confirms the view I already had that the JW's are also "masters" at **manipulating Sources** from which they extensively quote. To strengthen one's argument by quoting *partially*, and "*out of context*" is deplorable deception; especially when done by professed-followers of Jesus Christ. Purposely misquoting so as to make the source quoted *appear to say* the very opposite of what it actually said, is evil! Such "study" is **crafty in an evil way**, yet with them, so common. Like Jesus said of the Pharisees, they *appear* beautiful on the outside, *but inside are full of dead men's bones!* I have said the same thing regarding others who do this, so please don't think I've singled-out the JW's!

JW's protest with much **crafty criticism** against the Christmas-Dec 25 connection to paganism. What if Jesus was actually born in July or October? The point is, *He was born!* AND He came purposely to die for our sins. *This is the point!*

Actually, *this* Christmas may be our last "normal" one. Big trouble seems to be *VERY* near, as I've repeatedly warned. This "trouble" will be an orchestrated, catastrophic, global one. Its architects SAY it as "the best for the planet, nature and mankind." This so-called "illuminati" group are actually opposing God Himself, and Jesus Christ. They are an organised, perfected version of **King Herod**. Such individuals and groups, wherever they are located, not only wish to **criticise**, but **crush the Christ**. "**Crafty critics**" may do what they will, but what will *YOU* do? There is no neutrality...as the **crafty** in Switzerland know very well. But all **corrupt and confederate craftiness** will have a terrible end...*unless!* Read Psalm 2 (esp. v.10-12)!

"Out upon 'Merry Christmas!'" said Scrooge. In others words, he wished Christmas would be stopped. In fact, his words became quite violent; his hatred was so intense. It was all "Humbug!" to him.

Christmas has its opponents, though the opponents may strongly differ among themselves. The Pharisees and Sadducees of New Testament times differed strongly. *BUT* they united to oppose Jesus Christ, and dragged the Roman government in to boost their position and power.

King Herod tried to kill the Christ-Child, and had the male children, two years old and under murdered...just to get rid of his chief competition: Jesus Christ. This is what is happening today, and it is **pictured in Psalm 2**; written several centuries before Christ's birth in human form. Read it.

The first-century church was infiltrated by false disciples who mislead many people. These **bogus brothers** were **crafty critics** of the faith of the apostles long before Constantine existed, or Catholics or Orthodox were formed. I had recent cause for fury at such **devious devotees**. I refer to the so-called Jehovah's Witnesses (JW's), for I was given one of their special editions which (like other of their publications) directly attacks historic Christian teaching as false. I later found a similar "special" edition. Such **crafty critics** can and *do* sometimes expose actual error from some branch of "Christendom," but then offer *their own error* as the supposed truth!

JW's generally make it clear that they are the only ones that have and share God's

OH YES! "WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM!"

God even invites crafty, hidden evil people in places of earthly power to show *true wisdom*, & come & submit to His authority before it is too late. Psalm 2 (above) tells this. God invites those at *EVERY* level & background, for all need forgiveness of sin which only He provided through His "Crafty Christmas" Plan! (p.1). He promised only ONE Saviour, & that is the One who was born in Bethlehem, & whose birth we now celebrate. (PLEASE see Psalm 2 on our website under "Articles.")



Registered Charity #1092050

December 2009

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421 Watford Way, Hendon London NW4 4TR Phone: 020-8202-0806
Website: www.londonchristianstandard.com

CRAFTY CHRISTMAS!

Crafty exploitation of Christmas abounds. GOD'S "Crafty 'Christmas' Plan" is a craftiness of a wonderful and far different sort! He "*devised*" a Plan to bring us Home!

Gabriel L. Mancino

A true story of craftiness from the Old Testament will hopefully illustrate the point of this article. It comes from the life of King David, and centres around his son, Absalom, who **craftily** had his step-brother, Amnon, killed. Amnon, two years before, had used **craftiness** to rape Absalom's sister, Tamar (2 Sam.13). **This story could spoil "the spirit of Christmas," if I didn't know the point it illustrates!** The whole string of sad events resulted from David's own sin of adultery, and the murder and cover-up that followed. ("*Be sure your sin will find you out.*" Num. 32:23).

The Good News is that God made a Way to "save" murderers, adulterers and everyone else like you and me! This is what **Christmas** is really all about. Let me digress from King David and explain. Christ's birth was a sort of "Mars landing" in God's rescuing of mankind...in Person!

"The Mighty God... Everlasting Father... Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6)—the long-promised Messiah-Saviour of God—was to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 & Matt. 2:5). This world was "a foreign planet" to God, who is absolutely holy. (Jn 1:10). Yet, into our Mars-like "World at War" came this Prince of Peace! Of course, Satan always has **crafty counterfeits** to oppose God's Plan (as in Dan. 8:25).

God invaded "*OUR*" land (that *HE* made!), *not* "to bring *democracy*," but to bring *salvation from all sin*, and the *real and true freedom* that comes with it.

Our world is not the way it was at Creation. Man started polluting the environment with sin, which has ever been the **internationally-peerless pollutant**. It causes trouble in homes and schools, among the "religious" and the "non-religious," and causes blood on streets. It pollutes the minds and hearts of society by multiple means, starts wars...the list is endless. Man himself is so polluted that he generally appears to have no inclination to get to the root of the matter...**but God did!** Yes, this is what **Christmas** is all about.

So, what does this have to do with King David's sin and all the tragedy that

(continued inside)

OH, THOSE SHEPHERDS! Angels appeared to them, telling them of the Messiah's birth, & telling them to go & see. Messiah had been promised for thousands of years, so why believe *now*? These simple workmen obeyed. The light that lit inside them was greater than the light of the angel's awesome, yet brief "show." **NOW**, in the silence they went quickly, saw the Christ-Child, then did *more* than the angels told them. Faith & Love does this! They began telling people as they went around the town. Then they went back to work...different men. Oh, what lessons are here for us! God's voice to you is greater than outside show. Obey! Go!



CRAFTY CHRISTMAS!

(continued from front page)

followed it? Remember, Absalom killed Amnon, but then Absalom ran away to his grandpa; staying in exile for three years. After grieving Amnon's death, David craved to be reunited with Absalom. David's general, Joab, saw this desire and hatched a **crafty plan** to bring Absalom back. The Bible account shows us that *it may have been better* for everyone around if Absalom had stayed away. God knows.

General Joab got "a wise woman," and gave her the central part in his crafty plan to get the king's son back. See this in 2 Sam. 14. Joab invented a story for the woman, who was then to tell it to David. This false story was to appear to concern two sons of this widowed woman; one killing the other, then other members of the extended family wanting to kill the murdering son. This would leave the woman completely alone. When David replied that he would protect her son, she used this to expose the king's inconsistency of not allowing his *own* son to return.

This "wise woman" made an awesome point saying, **"God devises means that the expelled outcast may not be kept outcast from Him"** (2 Sam. 14:14). What truth is in those words! Due to their own sin, "our original parents," Adam and Eve, were the first ones expelled by God. As a result, the entire human family became outcast from God who is holy. **But this lady revealed an amazing truth: "God has devised means to bring back the outcast!"** This Plan of God was made "before the foundation of the world" (1 Pet. 1:20), but "activated" at Christ's birth. **"Christmas" is God's devised means for bringing back the outcast.** One song says: "When I could not come to where He was, He came to me!"

In the original language, the words "devises means" literally means "thinks thoughts." God thinks about you and me. The Bible also says "God who spoke...has spoken!" (Heb. 1:1, 2). God speaks, thinks and much more... He acts! The birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ is God's unique, superlative, unprecedented and unparalleled ACTION! **"God has devised means!"**

God had said through His prophet, Jeremiah, "For I know the thoughts that I

think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (29:11). In Jeremiah's time, God's people had two moral attitudes because of the Babylonian army that surrounded them: 1) Useless confidence, then 2) Despair! They had not listened to God nor His prophets, and paid dearly for it. We *all* should take that lesson seriously for this world is *now* under siege. Trust me.

Jesus Himself said **"the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out"** (Jn.6:37). **God devises means!** Eliza Hewitt's great song, My Faith Has Found A Resting Place says: "Enough for me that Jesus died, This ends my fear and doubt; A sinful soul I come to Him, He'll never cast me out." Yes! **"God devises means that the expelled outcast may not be kept outcast from Him"** Notice—"may not." You have a choice in the matter. Yes, we *may* be cast out forever, but this need not happen!

Under Moses, God had instituted what were called **"cities of refuge,"** where anyone who accidentally killed another person could go for safety. Such a person was required to remain there "until the death of the high priest" (Num. 35:25). Some people took the risk, left early, and were found and killed by vengeful family members. A similar thing happened under David's son King Solomon. (1 Kings 2:36-46). Sin tricks people into feeling invincible; maybe invisible! ("No consequences. No one sees me!") Wrong!

Jesus Christ, *our* Great High Priest, has an unending Priesthood! (Heb. 7). Though guilty, we may run to Him, *our* "city of refuge." Yet, we must remain in Him (Jn. 15), or suffer spiritual decay, and in eternity—*worse*. This need not be. **Christmas shouts to us all: "God devises means!"** God **"thinks thoughts,"** as in Jer. 29:11 above. Our part is given in 29:13—**"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."** **God thinks thoughts and devises means.** We must think and act, too! **The Prodigal Son** (Lk. 15: 17,18) thought and acted—and his days as an outcast were over! The love of the Prodigal's father was enough to encourage his son to return. The Prodigal was desperate. He had had enough. If you have, too, there's a celebration waiting for you. (Lk. 15:22-24). **Crafty Christmas!!**

WHAT A CHRISTMAS GIFT!



"Jesus Would Take Even **The Devil's Castaways**"

A great 18th century English preacher told a large outdoor crowd that the love of God is so great, and Jesus loves people so much that he would save even *the Devil's* castaways! Apparently, a refined Christian lady thought his language was a bit extreme or improper. **However, the preacher's words had found their target** in the hearts of some women of the streets. They sent a message to the preacher informing him that his words brought salvation and hope...even to *them*, as low as they were. Their lives... broken in body, soul and spirit... had been rescued by the God of all grace. Though they had been "the Devil's castaways," Jesus took them in!

Jesus said that **"many will come from the east and west"** (Matt. 8:11) being fully accepted by God into fellowship with Him, while those who know the truth but don't obey it are shut out forever. The end depends on our actual response to God's truth. People and groups may have selfish prejudices with which God Himself is not in agreement, yet these people would close off and cut off other people that God receives with open arms!

Christ's **"east and west"** could refer to geography—that God will receive anyone, world-wide who truly repents of sin, and will completely make them **"a new creation in Christ!"** (2 Cor. 5:17). **"East and west"** could also refer to circumstances—whether "down and outers," or "up and outers," or anything in between! God will save people from the gutter-most **"to the uttermost!"** (Heb. 7:25). As the angel said to Jesus' parents: **"You shall call His name**

Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins!" (Matt. 1:21). New Life and true hope is a **"Christmas Gift" that no one should CAST AWAY.** (Jn. 1:12,13).

Time On Our Hands?



Gabriel L. Mancino

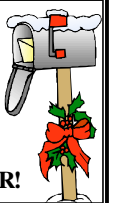
Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. As I've often said: God only promised ONE Messiah, that is, *one* Savior to provide for the salvation of *any* and *all* who come to Him. Thousands of years rolled by before He was finally born, but it was God's perfect time. As the Bible says, **"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"** (Gal. 4:4-6).

NOW we await the Second coming of Jesus. Like the *first* coming, we do not know just when it will happen, yet God did not leave us totally without a Guide!

Yes, TIME is in *God's* hands, but in another way, time is in *our* hands! **God "has devised means" to bring "the Devil's castaways to Himself.** God made *HIS* move, and came to us in Christ. Now, it's *our* move... and *our* time! **"Come unto Me,"** Jesus says (Mt.11:28). The Father specifies who is invited: **"all you ends of the earth"** (Isa.45:22). **"Whosoever will may come"** (Rev.22:17) means that our *WILL* or choice is involved. **Our coming to Him is "while He may be found!"** (Isa.55:6 with 2 Chron. 15:2).

Powerful people who are now orchestrating the controlled world chaos in various ways think they have time and power in *their* hands. Oh, how wrong they are. Though we don't know exactly *when*, yet **"in the fullness of time,"** God will stop their actions...and *ours*, too. **Let's be ready...and stay ready!**

Remember, Repent, Repeat! This was Christ's message to the first of the Seven Churches in Revelation 2 & 3. They were to remember from where they had fallen away from God—**"left their first love."** King David (front page) had done the same. Thank God, he thoroughly repented and got back to God. Psalm 51 is his heart-felt cry to God for mercy, and each of us should read it carefully, and put it ALL into practise! It results in **Rejoicing**, and also in **Reaching Out** to others!
THIS IS GOD'S CHRISTMAS POST TO YOU. USE IT NOW & DURING THE NEW YEAR!



We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 5:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.