

Sinuing Against Evidence

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Jesus said, God's big bulldozer (the Roman army) came to town and Jerusalem was gone! This is not funny, and it happened before; more than once. It is happening today. This is the most serious matter you will ever consider... which is the very reason many wish to bury it or blot it out somehow.

APPLYING THE LESSON OF LIGHT

Don't worry about *others* judging you. There is a far worse way in which we may **judge ourselves!** Facing fierce rejection of their spoken word from God (largely due to their enemies' envy), the apostles replied: "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, **and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'**" (Acts 13:44-47). They sinned against **God's clear and ample evidence.**

If a person sins against, that is, rejects the evidence, God has no "second option." Hebrews 10:26-29 says: "For if we sin wilfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by

which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?"

If you noticed carefully, not only may "outsiders" reject **God and His evidence.** "Insiders" also, who have known God, may also turn away from the Holy Word and Holy Way of God. For such people as those who wilfully persist in turning away from the salvation of God (as in Acts 28:28) which He has mercifully and lovingly provided through His one and only promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, God has no alternative method of rescue or acceptance.

EASTER'S LOST LESSON

We have just passed through the season during which Jesus was crucified and then rose from the dead, "according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3,4). This season is intended to bring a great joy, though it is mingled with God's greatest agony. We should also realise that Christ's resurrection is God's stunning and **rock-solid evidence** that He will judge every last person who ever lived on earth: "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. **He has given assurance [proof-evidence] of this to all by raising Him from the dead**" (Acts 17:30,31).

In view of the many examples I have shared with you, I pray that you may all **accept the evidence**, take full and immediate action regarding your own salvation, then also become an ambassador for God and Christ, just as that man whom Jesus so wonderfully set free. This is **Emancipating Evidence** for people all over this world! **TELL IT!**

BIBLE CONTRADICTION? The Bible says that Noah warned people of the coming flood, but Jesus says "they did not know, until the flood came and took them all away!" (Matt.24:39). Jesus said that the days just prior to His Second Coming (His return) would be "as it was in the days of Noah." The question is: "DID THEY KNOW!?" St. Peter helps clarify this matter as he compares the people of our "last days" with those of Noah's times. There is a controlling characteristic in the people of both times. 2 Pet. 3:5 says: "they wilfully forget" "are wilfully blind" "wilfully shut their eyes" "deliberately ignore" "put it out of their minds" "hidden from them by their willing it" etc. This same factor promotes perversion of every kind (Rom. 1:18-32, esp. v.28), and believe me, "the Judge of all the earth will do right" (Gen.18:25), just as He did with Sodom and earlier in Noah's day, and as He will do with you and me. **God knows the evidence.** Don't ignore it.

Registered Charity #1092050

April 2010

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

Sinuing Against Evidence

That's an S.A.E.
for each addressee!
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...and it WILL find it's way home!

Gabriel L. Mancino



"There are those that rebel against the light" (Job 24:13,16). With such words the Bible describes people who reject **evidence** God gives to them personally. God's "light" is a **priceless gift**. One may reject light by simply ignoring or neglecting it, rather than openly and fiercely rejecting it. "Mildly" rejecting light tends to make the person "feel" less evil. But "No" is "No," and "polite" rejection is just as damning. The Bible asks "how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Heb.2:1-4).

THE PURPOSE OF LIGHT

The main purpose of God's light is to move man's "will" (man's ability to choose

or act) in a "redemptive" way. By "redemptive" I mean it is an attempt on God's part to rescue man. It is to liberate; to set free. This is why some Christians may ask, "Are you saved?"

Many people would say, like some Jewish religious leaders said to Jesus: "We were never in slavery to any man!" That answer showed that they either forgot their own embarrassing history, or more likely, they chose to deny the reality. They had

long walked the path of chosen spiritual darkness, and continued to "rebel against the light." That time they rebelled against the Greatest Light of All, which rejection resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

GUILT? CONDEMNATION?

The Bible word "condemnation" has little to do with how a person "feels." The same is true with the word "guilty." A cold-blooded killer's lack of "feeling guilty" is irrelevant for the judge and jury. **Upon proper evidence**, the killer is found guilty, is condemned or sentenced. The Bible says, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,

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"THE MOST DANGEROUS DRUG" A late-March article compared "Meow-Meow" with other drugs, alcohol...and the worst mind-bending influence: newspapers! I had already concluded that the excessive bombardment of the general public with free newspapers and magazines is one of various means to keep the public satisfied and too busy to notice what they have already been oblivious to. This world has been being carefully reshaped while people sleep the sleep of death. There is a war going on, alright, and it is not merely in the Middle East. Where do you think you fit in the picture? The war is a spiritual one, and I do not even mean between Muslims, Christians and Jews. Please "STUDY" and enjoy this unusual April issue—It consists of only one article! But I've broken it up for you!

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but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (John 3:17-21). To "believe" involves 1) a chosen and committed life based on one's full heart acceptance of Christ's Person, Purpose and Provision, and 2) God's own definite work of grace in the person's heart. Both.

WHERE'D THE LIGHT COME FROM?

Ephesians 5:13,14 reveals another vital point. Notice: "*But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for WHATEVER makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: 'Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.'*" "*Made* or *make manifest*," just above, is like "*clearly seen*" in the previous paragraph. Other translations are "*made clear*," "*become visible*" "*are revealed*." The Bible used the now-popular word. "**Whatever!**" God uses "*whatever*" things... even ungodly or seemingly-unimportant things around you at the time, to turn the light on for you. Why? Because He loves you and wants you saved! Notice: Jesus gives *more* light to those who "awake" and "arise!" "*Let there be light!*"

THE KING OF EGYPT

Out of many Bible examples, the **Pharaoh of Egypt**, when Moses was to bring the Hebrews out of slavery, is **classic!** God sent the horrific plagues to get him to let the people go. God hardened Pharaoh's heart in direct response to Pharaoh hardening his own heart first (like the dreadful picture in 2 Thess. 2:1-12). That is *action* making a *reaction*. God makes it clear that He wants no one to go to Hell, and does what He can (without forcing the

person) to prompt a willingness to love and obey. **Pharaoh repeatedly refused.** His magicians were able to counterfeit Moses' (God's) miracles, until they finally had to confess in defeat, "*THIS is the finger of God!*" Later, after the kingdom lay in ruins, Pharaoh's leaders came to him trying to reason with him to let the Hebrews go free. Basically they said to him, "*Sir, with all due respect, ARE YOU BLIND! Can't you see that Egypt is destroyed!?*" **The evidence** was all around him, but he dug his heels in and refused to budge.

This Egyptian history may seem amusing, but the same tragedy is being replayed over and over throughout the millions of London, and throughout "Broken Britain" and the rest of the world. People in general, for various and numerous reasons, refuse to walk in the light God gives for their rescue. Yet, God makes it clear that "*walking in the light*" is the only way He will accept us, forgive us, bring us into "fellowship" with Himself and keep us clean from any and all sin.... "**IF** we walk in the light!" (1 Jn. 1:7).

THE GREAT KING OF BABYLON

King Nebuchadnezzar, the greatest king of ancient Babylon, is a striking personality that provides tremendous lessons. I think that Nebuchadnezzar had a hard head rather than a hard heart, but either can send a person to Hell. Daniel 5 seems to indicate that this king died in the victory of God's merciful salvation. He had had some "starts," but went back to the old ways. But his public testimony to the whole kingdom at the end makes it clear that **this man "burned the bridges behind him"—no turning back!** Some people will leave their favourite sin in a drawer "just in case they backslide." No one who really wants to walk with God will make such foolish provision for an easy return to the old ways of sin.

THE LAST KING OF BABYLON

Each person must receive God's light and salvation personally. You cannot get it automatically from others. **King Nebuchadnezzar's grandson never learned from his grandfather's terrible experience.** Read it in Daniel

chapters 4 and 5. Yet Daniel faithfully announced God's judgment upon the grandson, Belshazzar. Daniel exposed the bold, arrogant sin which the grandson had done "*though he knew all this!*" Daniel knew that the grandson knew what had happened to his grandfather as an immediate judgment from God. This fearful scene originated the saying: "*the handwriting on the wall.*" **Belshazzar sinned against evidence and against light.**

NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES (BOOK OF ACTS)

"*'What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.'* And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard'" (Acts 4:16-20). The enemies of Christ and His spreading Kingdom admitted that the healing of the lame man (chapter 3) was genuine, yet they still determined to fight against it! **A similar scene is recorded in 5:29-42,** but a highly respected member of their own group had enough God-given wisdom to advise them to stop opposing. **Where are such men today?** He would have been *even wiser* to urge them to whole-heartedly join Christ's followers, not just leave them alone!

Such men as those above mocked Jesus on the Cross. They **specified the evidence it would take** for them to believe He was God's Son (i.e. if He would come down off the cross by Himself). Really, they were lying to themselves (as well as to God), and had no such intention to believe, even if Jesus would have come down from the Cross as they proposed. (Like Lk.16:31: "*If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead!*").

NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES (LIFE OF CHRIST)

A similar case to Acts 4 involved locals where Jesus **had cast out the demons from a madman who ran around naked** through the cemetery and cut himself, and who none of them could successfully keep tied up (see Mark 5). That man was their worst case, but after Jesus made him completely well—*casting out his demons, plus making him fully sane, which then caused him to wear proper clothes*—**the people told Jesus to go away!** Why? Because they lost some of their money-crop of pigs. This is just like today. People don't want their "treasures" touched by God, whether it be money, fun, or things that actually hurt them or others. Jesus freed that demon-possessed man and told him to be a "home missionary" rather than go as a "foreign missionary." The world's greatest need today is people in whom the devil and sin are thoroughly cast out, and who have a whole-hearted love for Christ and a readiness to follow and obey Him and be a witness to Him anywhere He wants them to be or go!

The Bible record of the trial, mocking and crucifying of Jesus gives us a horrid testimony of the evil heart of man. But the hounding opposition, the hypocritical questioning, the false accusations and the following Him for self-gain, etc, during Christ's ministry are the bitter buds and blossoms that were indicators of the foul fruit to follow. **God gave man no greater evidence** of His love and mercy, and no clearer Signpost nor more inviting Gate of Entry than He did through Jesus Christ, His Son. **Yet, regardless of such irrefutable evidence,** man showed his determined ferocity in **fighting that evidence.**

Frank Sinatra sang "I Do It My Way." **Burger King** says "Have It Your Way." Jesus, weeping over Jerusalem, tells the outcome of such thinking. "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate!*" (Matt.23:37,38).

They had their own way, and just as

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.