

# BLESSING and CURSING

Gabriel L. Mancino



Now and again, newspaper articles discuss the ills of Britain. Yet, a writer of long ago said, “There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root.” Modern British historians appear to list evils and dangers to which the nation has largely fallen. In a bombing strategy called “bracketing,” one shell would fall on one side of the target, another shell on the other side, and the third shell hopefully hit the target. Oh, that the politicians, press and public would “hit the target!”

Deuteronomy, the fifth book in the Bible, is used much in the front page article. Deuteronomy 27—28 especially refer to the Blessings and Cursings from God to Israel. The 2 chapters do not list all of God’s concerns, so He spread the truth throughout the Bible to give the whole picture!

Stonehenge is unworthy to be compared to the “great stones” and the altar erected by Israel at God’s command as they prepared to enter the land He had promised them long before. God’s Law was to be inscribed upon those “great stones” as a visible call to obedience. The altar was an ever-present reminder also... but of forgiveness and mercy! Both “monuments” pointed forward to their Primary Object: the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

In Christ, God’s Law’s and God’s Mercy are seen in greatest clarity. Christ does for us inwardly what the mere outward monuments were unable to do. Jesus Christ makes no treaty with open rebellion against God, nor rebellion that is hidden and/or

inward. Yet He promises that those who genuinely come to Him, He will not cast out. There is mercy and blessing!

God knows every aspect of Life perfectly. His words to Israel are His promises that call us to the greatest good, and “the fruit” of such good. Yes, His words also call us to avoid and reject the ways of evil, for God knows the “hell on earth” that Man CAN get and HAS gotten himself into.

Britain’s trouble didn’t start with recent rioters, nor rioters of the past 30 years or so. Its “sickness” began long before the exploding 60s; actually paving the way for it! God mercifully gave restoring moral and spiritual boosts in Britain’s distant past, but it didn’t go deep enough, wide enough, nor continue long enough. The fault was not God’s! Man cools off quickly when it comes to spiritual focus (e.g. Judg. 2:17; Gal.1: 6). Yet, it is spiritual focus that makes national greatness.

May Britain return to God’s Law and Altar, for they wholly address the problem! But, if God’s truth is fought and/or popularized so that “religion” is an empty form with no TRUE godliness, then the spiritual vacuum invites national take-over. It has been a slow process, but nevertheless a sure one. The Law and the Altar stands for ALL of God’s truth and mercy which is intended for a nation’s greatest prosperity in literally every way. Yes, people may fight, “fashion” or fake true holiness, for true holiness puts an end to all that is worldly and ungodly in man and nation.

The Law and the Altar spare none, yet has mercy for all...IF they will come in repentance and faith, and completely forsake their sin—all of it! Strike at the root! This applies to everyone—poor, rich, in-between, all nations, religions, every type of worker or unemployed, housed or not. The entire pagan Capitol of the ancient Assyrian Empire repented upon hearing God’s truth... from the king to the commoners. London can do the same...right now. There is BLESSING enough for everyone!

Earthly things puzzle us enough, so no surprise that man can’t figure out God’s strategies for His long-range plan. His plan has centrally involved Israel, and will finish with Israel in centre-stage. God will never excuse Israel’s sins any more than the sins of anyone else on earth. Jesus Christ isn’t just more centre-stage than Israel, Jesus IS the Stage... and the Lighting and everything else. Stages recently fell on the VIP area in the USA & in Belgium. (Lk.13: 4,5) Jesus said the Stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone, and will crush to powder all upon whom it falls (Matt. 21:42-44). The world refuses to give Christ His Sovereign place in their lives and nations, including Israel/Jews, and the church. The Stone and Stage will fall globally on all rebels, from street level to VIPs. Turn!!

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## London Christian Standard ...and Provincial

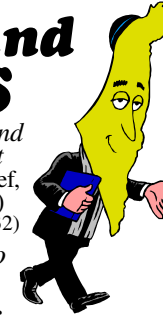
“Lift up a standard for the people.” Isaiah 62:10

Gabriel L. Mancino - Editor. Printing in London since 1983  
421 Watford Way, Hendon London NW4 4TR Phone: 020-8202-0806  
Website: www.londonchristianstandard.com

### ISRAEL and the JEWS

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved [from unbelief, sin, and hell].” (Rom. 10:1; 9:3) (and Moses said “Amen!” - Exo.32:32)

Gabriel Mancino



If you merely look for faults, favourites or foolishness, then you may be disappointed. HOWEVER... this issue has interesting and challenging information that applies to every one of us, as I hope you’ll see and agree.

First of all, Yes, the Bible “is a Jewish book,” though some of its writers were not Jewish/Hebrews/“Israelites.” Some of the early great characters of the Bible, like Abel, Enoch and Noah, were not “of the seed of Abraham,” for they pre-dated him.

A lady blamed a certain elderly man for almost every misfortune that occurred in the big complex where we all lived. I tried to help her to see her habit of accusing this faulty gentleman. The man WAS often at the centre of chaos, but not always! Many blame “the Jews,” Israel and “Jewish-controlled USA” for all the world’s woes.

Wrong is wrong, and evil is evil, no matter who is guilty; even if it is Israel or Jewish. Yet, this article displays “a bigger picture.”

Israel is and has been on centre-stage in the unfolding scenes of history. The Jews (Hebrews) have the principal role as the story plays out before our very eyes. Yet the Bible is vivid and global in application and relevance. In a way, each Bible reader is the main character, as he or she asks: “What is this saying?” and “What is this saying to ME?!”

Though Bible verses referred to or quoted in this article may relate to the people of Israel, yet the truth has personal application, to Jews and non-Jews alike... no doubt about it!

The whole human race is portrayed in the Bible with pinpoint accuracy. The Bible relates God’s rescue of the human family; originally pure, but terribly and utterly “fallen” by sin. Sin links to unbelief, disobedience and deep-rooted, wilful rebellion against God. While seeming to be passive and innocent, sin is active, persistent, corrupt and corrupting.. Individuals and groups “air brush” it to change its appearance, add décor... “whatever...” but sin is still sin.

Jehovah God Almighty never makes terms with sin, but condemns it in Jews

(continued inside)

God is not Anti-Semitic! Though He severely & repeatedly condemned & punished Israel, He also extended promises of mercy, forgiveness, restoration & more...to Israel, & to us all. Israel is God’s covenant people for a special reason & in a specific way. Yet, the whole human race has been brought into God’s net of love & promise... If we will come in TRUE humility, confession, repentance, & trusting obedience, without which, neither Israel nor we may profit from God’s extravagance in our behalf. ♦♦♦ 10 Years Ago: 9/11 Catastrophe—planned & executed with precision to start THE HUGE FRAUD war on terrorism, conclude global economic control & create the current chaos in nations...“for democracy!” But God will make the (evil) wrath of man to praise Him, & use some for HIS purposes! -Ps. 76: 10; See Lk. 21:28!

## ISRAEL and the JEWS

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and non-Jews alike. The Bible has NOT "been changed" to "make exceptions to the rules" for certain groups. No group or individual may please God now nor make it to heaven simply by their religious name tag or perceived personal goodness.

The fifth book of the Bible, written by Moses, is called **Deuteronomy**. It is a repeating of the Law which God gave to Israel...and to us! **God is often accused of being too severe** in some books in the Bible. But keep in mind that for any severity seen in the Bible, the Jews were also on the receiving end...repeatedly and severely. **Yes, "they had it coming. They asked for it!" But so do we all!**

There is no place on earth that God has specified the physical boundaries for like He has "The Promised Land;" a gift from God to the people of Israel. Yet, look at some of God's words to these Hebrews in Deuteronomy, for they have definite and practical application to us all.

In **Deuteronomy 8**, God tells the Israelites that He tested them during the 40 year "Wilderness Wanderings" before they entered the Promised Land. **The tests were to show them their own hearts.** He has the same loving purpose in our lives. God also reasoned with them (He does do that!! Isa. 1:18) so they would have no basis for thinking they got the land or all that came with it by means of their own **beauty, brains or bravado.** God condemns carnal pride in them and in us.

**Chapter 9** begins with Israel's cry that the inhabitants were too big and fierce for them to go in. Many today operate by the same principle, not believing God's promise and ability to bring them into The Promised Land—that "Land" that poses difficulties and seeming impossibilities. By the way, there are two Promised Lands which are illustrated by the geographical Promised Land given by God to the Hebrews.

A **Provisional driving license is a pre-requisite for a Full driving license.** Similarly, God's first "Promised Land" for us is holiness in heart and life "in this present world" (Titus 2:12). **THAT** is God's pre-requisite for the "Promised Land" of

heaven. Our hope of going to heaven must be well-based, for the Bible says *this* about it, "And everyone who **HAS** this hope in Him [of going to heaven] **purifies himself, just as He** [i.e. God!] **is pure**" (1 Jn. 3:3). St. John adds, "*Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world*" (1 Jn. 4:17).

**Note God's plainly-spoken words in Deuteronomy 9 about His removing the former inhabitants from the Promised Land, so Israel could enter:**

*"4 Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land'; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out from before you. 5 It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 6 Therefore understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people. 7 Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. 8 Also in Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry enough with you to have destroyed you."*

Moses repeated in v. 24 what he said in v.7, (above) saying, "*You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.*" Consider at least **three things** here: **1)** The only reason God didn't and doesn't keep rebellious Israel out of The Promised Land is His long-standing and unchangeable promise. Though possibly hard to believe, God's promise to them is for the benefit of us all! **2)** Though these comments describe Israel, yet they apply to every child of Adam's race. Within every person, until

he or she comes to God in full surrender on God's terms, there is an inborn and persistent disinclination and resistance to repent, turn from sin, and love, trust and obey God. People's spiritual knowledge and understanding varies, but God judges with perfect justice! **3)** God's exposing of Israel's sins in these verses must not cause us to miss the *wonder, splendour, mercy* and the *love* of God shown reaching out to these very same...very *rebellious* people. **There is mercy "today!"** (Heb.3: 7-15).

Deuteronomy, and the whole Old Testament, as well as the NEW Testament, confirm this original "**resident evil**," as seen in the Jews, but equally applicable to non-Jews! Note this example: "*But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, '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'*" (Acts 13:45, 46). The same is seen in Acts 18: 5, 6; 28:18-29).

**Reading the verses directly above,** and seeing the same truth in the accompanying Bible references in Acts, we see that Man condemns himself, judges himself and will ultimately send himself to Hell, unless he takes hold of the loving hand of a God of mercy.

**Muslims, also being professed children of Abraham,** face God's judgment as the Jews do. **Professing Christians of every branch face the same.** Some people **defame** Jesus in their lives and words, while others **doubt** or **deny** Him, and still others **demote** Him; trying to make Him less than He is. Christ's Divine Identity and Work are pre-eminent, so that rejection of this truth constitutes rejection of Jehovah God Himself (e.g. Lk. 16:10; 1 Jn. 2:22,23; 4: 14,15). No neutrality exists in this supreme matter. Clever logic gives no escape. God plays no favourites with sinners except by offering to make everyone His "favourite!" He does this through His grace and mercy extended to us through the unique Person and Work of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Christ is God's saving power to the Jews first, and also to non-Jews! (Rom. 1:16; 2:8-10). **"Therefore choose life!"** (Deut. 30:19).

## HEART Surgery



G.L. Mancino  
Forgive small print!

The great issues of life centre in the "heart" of man...the real You. It is the place where

we have victory or defeat, and from where we *please* or *displease* God. It is the fountain from which all that is within us flows out, affecting the world around us for good or bad; influencing others toward heaven or hell.

**Jesus said "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies"** (Matt. 15:19). **God saw the world's wretched heart problem in the days of Noah before the Flood,** for the Bible says, "*Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination and intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*" (Gen. 6:5). A bit later, at the building of The Tower of Babel, just before God confused man's language, God said, "*and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they imagine, propose and intend to do will be withheld from them*" (Gen. 11:6).

You can't drive north and south on the M1 at the same time. Jesus put it this way: "*A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire*" (Matt. 7:16-19; see His command in 12:33).

**God has a cure for man's heart problem.** God separated Abraham and his male family members from all other males by the physical ritual of circumcision. Yet, God soon after made it clear that no mere outward ritual is enough, so He introduced "**the circumcision of the heart!**" It is referred to in Deut. 10:16 and 10:16. The first says **YOU do it**, while the second says **GOD will do it**. This is one of many examples that show that in this matter of walking with God, it is a co-operative journey. In the book of Ezekiel, God again repeatedly mentions the utter rebelliousness of Israel, but also His cure for it by means of spiritual heart surgery (11:19; 36:26). Remember! what God condemns in Israel and promises to Israel, in matters of spiritual life, applies to each member of the human family! He promises "*a new heart,*" as well as the needed and required "blood transfusion" provided by Jesus on the Cross. No, it's not a *literal* blood transfusion, but it radically deals with the problem, making you dead to sin and alive to God. **Jesus Christ gets to the HEART surgery of the problem!**

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.