

All I Want For Christmas

Gabriel L. Mancino



People do not send in soldiers to slaughter the Competitor like King Herod did, for they have all of their soldiers of resistance living inside of them. Daily, people put Christ to death... refuse to welcome Him and co-operate with His purposes and commands. "Oh Come, let us adore Him" like the Christmas song says, is not something that is done daily and purposely but by comparatively few.

King Herod was a madman, but he is not alone. Sin in the human heart causes vast and deep twisting of the mental powers, as well as fear and paralysis of the will power. The Bible says that Jesus came to "destroy the works of the devil" (1 Jn. 3:8). Satan's greatest "work" is to keep man in sin, for sin is the only thing that sends people to hell. Jesus came to free man from sin, and fill man "full with all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:19).

St. John records Christ coming into this world as a human for that short 33 year period. Referring to God's provision for us through Jesus, John says, "And of His fullness have we all received, and grace, and even more grace" (Jn. 1:16). John was speaking of those who truly give their lives to this Promised Saviour.

It doesn't make sense for anyone to reject or neglect the fullness of God in their lives. **The great king, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon** (ancient Iraq), **also became a madman**. His madness came directly from God after he ignored or forgot God's clear warning. Pride overran him, just like people today. Pride twisted his mental power, and he became like an animal. Maybe he was an Old Testament example of "the mark of the beast" which is still coming. Today's world is becoming mentally ready for the coming "mark," for they are living for the pride of the world like Nebuchadnezzar. **Thankfully, God restored his mind.** I believe that great King died in victory, telling all coming generations: "**Oh Come, let us adore Him!**" That is All He Wanted For Christmas...and all year round!

The only thing King Herod wanted on that first Christmas was to slaughter the main Character in the story! Too late! He faced an impossible task, anyway. Many people today need to learn the same fact: Fighting God is both mad and sad.

If Herod were living today and facing the same situation, he would have more of a selection on how to kill his Competitor. **He could send in a drone or a secret service agency.** Believe me, this terrible point is relevant to us in today's world.

People generally kill the Promised King in more acceptable ways than Herod. Many, in practise, simply ignore Christ and His purpose for coming. This is done in a variety of ways, yet to a degree, **the manner is irrelevant. The outcome is everything.**

What is it that causes such determination to "wipe out" this "Wonderful" Promised Rescuer of the human family? **Jesus harmed no one any more as a grown man than when He was a baby in Bethlehem.** What is the great threat He poses to people that generates such wilful opposition? What do people want in life and from life that makes them see this Christ-Child-Saviour as the main hindrance to their plans?

What goes on (or fails to go on) in a person's mind and heart is most important in considering the question we pose. People are "programmed" by various sources, as culture, religion, floods of purposely-corrupting and biased media, etc. **The main source that initiates and sustains resistance to this "Christmas Child," however, is located on the inside, not the outside.**

Man is born in sin with a sinful "nature" that has a "main component" programmed to resist this loving Saviour.



(Continued from front) **A SONG OF INVITATION CALLS TO US ALL:**

"Come you sinners, poor & needy, weak & wounded, sick & sore.

Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love & power.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream,

All the fitness He requires is to feel your need of Him.

Come you weary, heavy laden, bruised & mangled by the Fall;

If you wait until you're better, you will never come at all."

Gabriel came to Mary & Joseph to tell of the coming Saviour.

Angels are not mediators, but ministers, i.e. "helping spirits sent to serve those who, before long, will obtain salvation" (Heb. 1:14).

Registered Charity #1092050

DECEMBER
2011

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

Christmas Coronation

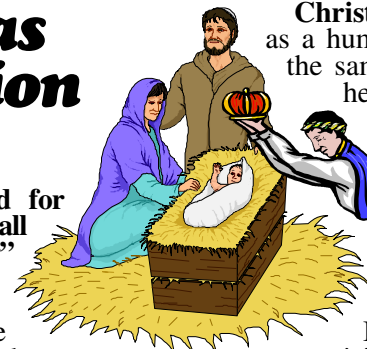
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We should be glad for
"that one day in all
of the calendar year"

as Dickens wrote, wherein people have long experienced more of a sense of outreaching love toward others. *That* love comes from God.

The two main points about Christ's birth are 1) He came, and 2) He came to save sinners. Jesus will save "to the uttermost" (Heb. 7:25) all who would seek Him with all of their hearts (Jer. 29:13), and trust Him to do what He promised to do, i.e. save them from the guilt and power of all of their sins.

Martin Wells Knapp, founder of the Bible College I attended, wrote the book, *Christ Crowned Within*, and dated the Preface December 1, 1885. **THAT "Crowning" is the most relevant, practical and effective Coronation of all. It is a Coronation we may ALL attend, and would not want to miss.**



Christ's entrance into this world as a human largely failed to receive the same reception as the hosts of heaven gave it. John 1:1-11 says that Christ, the Creator of life and light was not recognised nor admitted by the darkened hearts and minds of sinful humanity; including His own people. In contrast, the sky above little Bethlehem was filled with praising angels, announcing the birth of the long-promised Messiah.

Angels gladly and immediately obey God. Toward the end of the Bible is the book of Hebrews. Its design is to show Christ as "better than" God's previous best, not merely "better than" other religious or philosophical systems. It specifically shows Christ "better than" Moses (representing the Law), "better than" Aaron (representing the Priesthood) and even "better than" angels!

Some groups claim that Christ was simply an angel. God doesn't agree with that. Heb. 1 makes God's view on the matter clear, stating the difference in what God says to and about angels,

(continued inside)



CHRIST'S COMING & COMING TO CHRIST: Jesus said "I have COME that they might have life, & that they might have life in greater fullness" (Jn. 10:10). Jesus invites us: "COME to Me, all you who labour & are weighted down & burdened, & I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). Jesus faithfully said, "But you are not willing to COME to Me that you may have life" (Jn. 5:40). John explains why people do not come to Christ: "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, for fear that his deeds should be exposed" (3:19,20). See Invitation lyrics on back page. **HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!**

Christmas Coronation (continued from front page)

in contrast to what God says *to* and *about* Jesus Christ, His Divine, Eternal Son. No prophets, priests or lawgivers, *during* or *since* Bible times are equal to *angels*. Certainly none of the same equal or surpass what Heb. 1 makes clear about *Jesus Christ!*

The “Wise Men” that came from the East to worship Jesus had been preceded by angels in that blessed privilege of adoration of the Messiah-Saviour. The angels had cut ahead in glad and ready obedience to God’s command, for Heb. 1:6 says “*And again, when He brings His only Son into the world, He says, ‘Let all the angels of God give Him full worship.’*” **The angel choir** complied to God’s command “**in royal fashion,**” amid Bethlehem’s emblazoned night sky. **It was like a Christmas Coronation!**

Some apply Heb. 1:6 also to the resurrection or the second coming. **The main point** is that Christ is greater than the angels, and that the angels worshipped Him; not merely giving Him courteous respect or reverence. Heb. 1:7 refers to angels in a lower order and rank, contrasted in v.8 to the purposely-supreme description of Christ, which says, “*But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a sceptre [rod/staff] of righteousness is the sceptre of Your Kingdom.’*”

Trinity rejecters change verse 8 to say, “*God is your throne,*” but such a “translation” interrupts the plain flow and obvious point being made in the passage. It is conveniently and cleverly devised and inserted to agree with their teaching.

Heb. 1:8, 9 are quoted from Ps. 45: 6, 7. It is from Ps. 45:8 that the lovely song comes that says “**Out of the ivory palaces, into a world of woe; only His great eternal love, made my Saviour go.**” Those Bible verses, as well as the song, emphasise the *purpose* of Christ’s coming as a man. Though largely unknown, ignored and/or rejected by man, **Jesus was crowned with**

Coronation victory and praise from heaven—at birth, at the Cross, at the Resurrection, at the Ascension and will be again at His Return.

Human authorities and onlookers gave Jesus a shocking and mocking “crowning” with thorns just before the Cross. In vivid contrast, we get a glorious glimpse of **God’s Coronation response** to the Crucifixion in Phil. 2: 9-11, saying “*Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

If you are still unclear how far God exalted Jesus, the following description of God’s action in Christ’s resurrection may help: “*and set Him at His right hand in heaven, far above all rule and authority and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this present age but also in that which is to come*” (Eph. 1: 20, 21).

Why did God Himself lift the name of Jesus to such an unparalleled and unsurpassable place? The angel, Gabriel, told Mary’s husband, Joseph, of Christ’s coming birth. Gabriel then instructed him “*you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins*” (Matt. 1:21). From the beginning, God planned and promised only ONE Saviour to save mankind from their sins. That Saviour was Jesus Christ. Jesus came for that Divine and pre-eminent task, and was able to proclaim from the Cross, “*It is finished!*”

God planned, promised and provided for man’s full salvation from sin. **Jesus fulfilled** God’s “Rescue Mission”— **and shouldn’t God be pleased?** He was *well pleased!* (Matt. 3:17; 17:5; 2 Pet. 1:17).

Hell awaits those who continue in sin, **but God, as it were, “threw” His Only Life-Preserver into this world to prevent that ending!** What love! This is why the “Golden Text” of the Bible is “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes*

and trusts in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16). The next verse says “*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*” (See also 1 Jn. 4:9; Rom. 5:8; 8:32, and on and on!!).

Supreme praise and exaltation coming from God and angels recurred to Jesus from His birth to His Ascension. **It was no new experience** from those with whom Jesus Christ was in greatest harmony. **But** in view of all of this Divine and heavenly exaltation, **where do WE fit in?** Another song says, “Lord of my life I crown Thee now, Thine shall the glory be...” **Have we crowned Him** Lord of all in our lives?

To use Knapp’s book title, referred to on the front page, we may ask, “Is Christ Crowned Within in my life?” Heb. 12 starts with reference to a crowd something like at a large stadium, where the players are surrounded by excited onlookers. The same supportive voices of God and angels that cheered and praised Jesus will encourage us, as well. Just before the Cross, Jesus was seen talking with Moses and the prophet Elijah regarding His upcoming death (Lk. 9: 28-31). God only knows how many onlookers that have already passed on victoriously, like Moses and Elijah (*or maybe some godly people you knew yourself!*) are trying to encourage us to enter and finish the race!

The glorified Christ Himself says to us what He said to the group representing our last days. They were badly mistaken about their true spiritual condition. In love He corrected them and said, “*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies*” (Rev. 3: 14-22).

Give Jesus a Christmas Coronation, crowning Him Lord of all in your life. His Coronation within you now will ensure Final Coronation later. He promised!

Apple Tree/ Christmas Tree

Adam, where are you? Come home!

Gabriel L. Mancino



In a WW2 movie I saw as a youth, a stranded U. S. Marine sang “**Don’t sit under the apple tree with anyone else but me, til I come marching home.**” I thought of this recently in relation to Israel’s use of **trees dedicated to idol worship**. Such unfaithfulness to the true God was a source of anger and jealousy to God... but also of genuine heartbreak and heartache. God knew what was best, and provided for all their needs, yet they constantly went wrong. God had created Israel for Himself, to be a holy and special people in order to be God’s spiritual light and witness to all other nations.

Instead of proving false, they should have brought their lives as constant gifts of praise and thankfulness. Israel’s King David had such a desire, asking “*What shall I give to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?*” (Ps. 116:12). The word “*give*” should perhaps be “*return*.” Actually, *any giving* to God is from what He has allowed us to have. David answered himself in the next verse, saying “*I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.*” **He asked what to give, but ends up taking!** Such a “reversing” may *seem* insane or even evil, but, the fact is, God **WANTS** us to be takers... from Him! David identifies what it is he will take: “*the cup of salvation!*” That “*cup*” has both bitterness and glory, yet Jesus determined to drink the entire content (Heb. 2:9). Jesus’ “*cup of salvation*” was not for *His* salvation, but *ours!* (Matt. 20:22; 26: 39, 42; Jn. 18:11). Yet, fulfilling God’s plan for our full salvation from sin, and thereby glorifying God, was a source of uttermost joy to Him (Heb. 12:2). God’s gift of salvation provided through Christ is the only thing that can keep us humans out of the world’s idolatrous practises.

Whatever tree Eve got under, it was certainly not with God, and *there* Man broke with God and has been lost ever since. He is ruined in the *fruit* because he is ruined at the *root*. **This Christmas, find God’s gift and take it. It is the best way to get under the tree and meet with HIM there!** (Acts 5:30; 10:39; 13:29; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:24; Jn. 1:48)

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.