

I SHOT THE SHERIFF

Gabriel L. Mancino



Bob Marley wrote a song by this title, which was soon popularised by Eric Clapton. Clapton's version was quite well known, though he performed perhaps his "greatest hit," Layla, ten years ago at the Queen's 50th Jubilee. Believe it or not, both songs provide lessons to learn in the most important area of our lives: our relationship to God and our destination in eternity.

According to her own statement, Oprah Winfrey was greatly turned from God upon hearing that "God is a Jealous God" (Exodus 34:14). "God is jealous of ME?" she asked. In her mind and heart, such a description made God seem unworthy of her devotion. I can't imagine the feeling of a husband finding his wife in bed with another man, or visa versa. Yes, revolting. On the verse about God being "a Jealous God," that great English preacher of the 18th century, John Wesley, makes such a comparison regarding God's "jealousy" as follows: [God is] "as tender in the matters of His worship as the husband is of the honour of the marriage bed."

These comments apply to the song, Layla, for it is quite commonly known that Clapton's song refers to love going where it ought not to go; in the direction

of adultery. I use this song to declare to all that spiritual adultery against God is the worst adultery of all, as The Judgment and eternity will reveal. Let us direct our greatest and faithful love where it *should* go supremely: to God.

Marley's song, used by Clapton, gives us *more* light to apply to this critical consideration. The song is taken from the perspective of a man who admits shooting the local sheriff. However, the man says that it was in self-defence, and that the sheriff had hated him, and that he did *not* shoot the deputy, as was being accused against him. Apparently, the man planted seeds ("pot?") that the sheriff told him to kill before they grew.

We can learn some powerful spiritual lessons from the lyrics of this worldly song. Every human being is "under arrest" as one who breaks...even rebels against...the law of God. Call God the sheriff, if you like, but He is a sheriff that loves rather than hates us. God is not just out to give us a hard time. He tries to keep us from sowing seeds that will destroy us and send us to Hell.

God speaks to us...even pursues us...by His Faithful Spirit. Many "shoot the sheriff" in the self-defence of trying to remain "their own boss," or remain in the sins they love. So they resist arrest. God also speaks to us through conscience, but it can be "shot" or resisted, as well. How many other "tools" has God used to try to "arrest people?" All of these would be like the sheriff's deputy. They are God's aids to help bring us to Himself and to the prison of His love.

(continued inside, right page)

PRINCE CHARLES WAS FURIOUS to learn that a repeated sex-offender who had been jailed for 4 years was allowed on the Royal Barge which had the Queen and Royal Family aboard as it went down the Thames during the Queen's 60th Jubilee. Charles has banned the man from further events. Note: 1) Sexual evil of all sorts has been rapidly and increasingly promoted, spreading to Sodom-plague proportion, but God sees it all. None such are even members, much less ministers, of God's Royal Barge as it makes its way to the raised sides of Eternity's Tower Bridge. God bans them. 2) Even repeated sex-offenders (or other sinners), IF they thoroughly repent of their sin and get completely right with God, will be forgiven and taken on board by the Lord. 3) Charles was apparently unaware, but God knows all about each of us. 4) Be sure, NONE who continue in sin of any sort will be permitted entrance to heaven. ALL ABOARD!

Registered Charity #1092050

JUNE 2012

The

A paper for all people everywhere... and with a personal touch!

The London LIGHT— Free!

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

JUBILEE!



Gabriel L. Mancino

Elizabeth II has now been The Queen for 60 years! I wonder if, in a way, she feels that the time has gone by swiftly. I recently gazed at a photo someone took of me when I was three or four years old. The photo's edge has the printed date of 1958; six years after the Queen's Coronation. I was stunned looking at that faded photo, that about twenty years later, "that little boy" would be married. Thirty years after that photo, we had our second child.

There is a "Jubilee" in the Bible that helps us to see the great contrast between permanent and temporary. That Jubilee, which God had instituted in Moses' day, is recorded in Leviticus 25. One thing this God-instituted Jubilee served to do, as it mainly dealt with people and land, was to help prevent a big gap between rich and poor. Many,

especially in the past two centuries up to today, profess to champion the same cause, but theirs is an "equality" masquerade. They cannot use God's Jubilee as "a precedent," for they forsake the very Foundation: God Himself. In fact, some who would even profess to follow God do not walk in Godliness, as it is described in the Bible—God's Word. The Bible exposes all such counterfeit.

Our previous issue had "Almost Heaven, West Virginia" on the front page. As a lad, I would sometimes daydream on the bridge just one block from our home. The bridge crossed the Monongahela River, that separated the East Side from the West Side of our small town. The Moravian missionary from the Czech Republic, David Zeisberger (born 200 years before my mother in 1721), said that the American Indian meaning of "Monongahela" (originally spelled a bit differently), was "falling banks!" That almost sounds prophetic! It apparently signified "a high bank, which is ever washed out and therefore collapses." That meaning tempts me to leave my

(continued inside)

Another Jubilee In 3 Years Or So? I refer to the next Biblical Jubilee Year. I understand that Jesus was born on a Biblical Jubilee year; a time when special freedom was given and things restored. When Jesus began His ministry (see Lk. 4:18), He used Isaiah 61's words in which God pronounces unspeakably good news of liberty, joy, etc. which you would do well to find and read. It is shocking, if true, that British Gen. Allenby captured Jerusalem (1917) during the 50th Jubilee since the Babylon Captivity. Israel captured Jerusalem during the 51st Jubilee (1967). That "Prince of Commentators," Adam Clarke (died in 1832) said that according to Scriptures, Christ's return may occur near 2015! The 52nd Jubilee? As life is uncertain, always be ready NOW!!

THE JUBILEE

(continued from front page)

subject and speak against the ages-long perverted and criminal banking system. Many banks, world-wide, are “collapsing” by control and strategy of “the big boys” behind the scenes.

In my daydreams on the bridge, I imagined **Indians paddling their canoes on the river below**, and the surrounding green hills empty of buildings and homes. That history is long gone. **Sometimes history changes more quickly.** Not so long ago, the state bought much land in order to build a wide access road to the motorway. Many people lost their homes; including my dear mother, who had literally been born there in her parents’ home and had lived there for over 80 years. Our family grew up there. It’s all gone now...in my own lifetime.

An Austrian lady whom my wife and I help care for lost her home *twice*; once after each of the World Wars. She was 3 when WW1 started and will be 101 this October. She said “The Communists came and took everything, and I never saw it again.”

In God’s Jubilee, which occurred every 50 years, lands which were sold due to debt were returned to their original owners. **Bankrupt people who sold themselves as slaves** (or hired servants) gained freedom once again. Obviously, a person could only “enjoy” such an emancipation once or twice in a lifetime; *three times in very unusual circumstances.* If they were unable to purchase their own freedom at the Jubilee, then their near kinsman would do so. The fullest and final fulfilment of this God-instituted plan is seen in Bible verses such as 1 Cor. 6:20; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 1: 18, 19; Rev. 5: 9.

God’s Jubilee was one third of a three-part lesson in Rest. **After 6 days** of work, the 7th was for man to Rest. **After 6 years** of farming, the land was to Rest on the 7th. The same God that

provided enough heaven-sent “manna” so they didn’t have to gather on the 7th day, also provided for this 7th year of land Rest so that the people did not starve. God’s Jubilee came **after the 7th of the 7 year Rests.** By these Rests, God was not promoting laziness. He desired to instil trust, dependence and obedience toward Him as God Who cares for them and seeks their best. Human “reason-logic” is inadequate.

This Jubilee was started well **after the times of Noah, or his ancestor, Methusaleh**, who lived longer than anyone else, at a whopping 969 years! But even at 969, had Methusaleh lived in the same spot all his life, in a real way he never owned the land nor himself. Both Noah and Methusaleh recognised their need of God. They also recognised God’s true ownership of all things long before the Psalmist wrote. *“The earth is the LORD’S, and all its fullness, the world AND those who dwell therein”* (24:1).

Leviticus 25:23 says *“The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.”* God had “given” the Promised Land to the Hebrews as tenants. Many valuable truths are here, and the *“strangers and pilgrims”* of Heb. 11: 13-16 *“believed, embraced and confessed”* them, and pressed onward by faith! Though a person could perhaps feel insecure with that arrangement, those words, *“with Me,”* add the note of comfort and assurance!

St. Peter says *“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul”* (1 Pet. 2:11). Peter then says that not only will they save *themselves* by such a godly life and attitude, but that they can best help *others* spiritually, as well. With such an “adopted” mindset, Peter says that they should *“honour all people”* and obey and pray for government leaders. Peter specifically mentions *“the king, as supreme,”* but that title certainly includes Queen Elizabeth II.

THE JUBILEE (continued from left)

God’s Jubilee was a time of Freedom and Rest. Yet, as tenants—*aware of God’s ownership of the land and of themselves*—they were to live in such a way of *“true holiness”* as would glorify God in the sight of the people who lived among or around them. “Salvation” which Jesus came to provide for all people is a freedom from *all* sin. The “Rest” comes with it!

The various “Rests” which were provided for the Hebrews illustrate the **greater “rest”** of deliverance from sin in this life. They also illustrate the **later rest** that awaits those who will inhabit “that place where we never grow old!” The *heavenly rest* is one in which the people never get old, sick or die, and where there is no more sin or temptation or devil. It is also a place in which all things are settled by God—fairly. Living up-to-date *now* with God in *true holiness* eliminates fear of what could happen later when accounts are settled!

May 27 was Pentecost Sunday which celebrated God’s giving of the Law to Moses. It was, therefore, the “perfect” festival during which God wrote His Law—*not upon stone tablets, like before*, but upon the hearts of men and women, as He said He would (e.g. Jer. 31:33; Ezek. 11: 19, 20; 36: 26, 27 with Heb. 8: 8-12; 10: 16, 17; 2 Cor. 3:3).

Just before Pentecost was Christ’s ascension. Peter said of The Ascended Christ, *“whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began”* (Acts 3: 21). **There is coming a day** when God will institute a **Final and Full restoring of things** to its original condition. God said, *“Behold, I make all things new!”* (Rev. 21:5). *THAT will be the greatest and last Jubilee, and God said that IF we truly walk with Him, we can inherit it all* (Rev. 21:7). ...and all because our “Near-Kinsman,” Jesus, paid the price to set us free.

WHAT A JUBILEE... FOREVER!

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.

I SHOT THE SHERIFF

(continued from back page)

Longfellow wrote of his three daughters whom he “imprisoned”— *“I have you fast in my fortress and will not let you depart, but put you down into the dungeon in the round-tower of my heart”* (*The Children’s Hour [poem]*).

Many readers will know Marley’s and Clapton’s songs more than they would have personal knowledge of the Bible. Many others know little, if anything, of either. Nevertheless, I hope these few applications of the lyrics and thrust of these two songs will speak to your hearts and help you engage your willpower to *not* resist God and His Holy Spirit.

The very first martyr of the Christian faith was Stephen, who the Bible describes as full of faith, wisdom and the Holy Ghost. It says that he had a face *“like the face of an angel.”* Stephen faithfully told the Christ-rejecting leaders that they resist the Holy Ghost just as their forefathers had done. They killed Stephen for his convicting testimony. In other words, **“they shot the deputy.”**

Marley’s song was released in **1973**; Clapton’s Layla in **1971**. My “wild career” in drugs came crashing down in Autumn **1972**. Rather than resist arrest, I put up a “white flag” of surrender...*full* surrender to “The Sheriff.” Layla was part of an LP titled “Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs.” Yet “The Love of God” has no equal—nothing even near it.

Many shoot the Sheriff with His own gun and bullets. They use the Bible and try to assassinate God and Jesus; depicting them the opposite of love. *Sick-shooters*, indeed.

Avoid stereotyping “rebellion against God.” You know if you are resisting arrest. Yet, such resisting is scary, for it is not just moments of confrontation, but the ongoing fugitive life. You may seem not to have a care in the world and “nothing bothering your conscience.” You are “on the lam” from God, when you should surrender to The Lamb *OF* God.” **Stop Running. Stop Shooting. Put down the gun. Surrender.**