

INVASION!

Satan's global web is nearly finished. God looks for His truly holy, praying people to make a difference. (Ezek. 22:30; Isa. 59:16).

Gabriel L. Mancino

The original film, **Invasion of the Body Snatchers**, came out in 1956. That sci-fi film resembles an *actual* process which has been going on for a long time. That process *may* come to a climax soon, and most won't be aware of its *cause* nor prepared for its *effects*. As with the Body Snatcher movie, so it is with present *reality* of invasion and take-over—most people don't *really* believe it is happening. Other things, other cares, other, other, other. No time. No thought. No action.

Jesus certainly told **"a scary story"** when relating about the house full of **evil spirits** (Matt. 12: 43-45). His "parable" story illustrates what happens to those that fail to allow God to cleanse their soul from sin and keep it clean. Wesley's song, Jesus, Lover Of My Soul says, "Make and keep me pure within." Answering *this* type of prayer is God's joyful purpose for all of us.

The Titanic sunk 100 years ago, amid luxury and denials of danger. Attractions and *distraction* unceasingly bombard people to keep them occupied, entertained, asleep, while the world and its people sink. The subtle invasion is in death-grip mode. Denial is useless. The invasion *has been permitted*, little by little. The "hand-over" has come by various means and methods—some by corruption and greed, others by love of the world's godless, selfish and

The great U.S. Marine Maj. Gen. S.D. Butler said, "War Is A Racket!" But in the coming kingdom of God, "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isa. 2:4; Mic. 4:3). Powerful, hidden world-controllers & their helpers are united against God (Psalm 2 & quoted in Acts 4:25). But we need not fear them, unless we fail or refuse to truly walk with God, which then puts us on their side, regardless of our logic or excuses. Jesus "invaded" this world once, to die for our sins & bring peace to the individual. HIS next "invasion" will bring world peace! Whose side are you really on? Joshua told the people: "Choose TODAY!" (Josh. 24:15).



self-pampering delights. The patient planners and perpetrators utilize man's sin, ignorance and apathy.

National leaders have long been puppets to "the masters," as their nations were being surrendered. **Iran's President** recently stated those familiar, "sacred" words that we need a **"New World Order!"** Is he just another puppet? The hidden masters use any and all nations for their goal of world control. They care

not for *any* nation nor its people, including the USA. They *use*, and then *destroy*...like their *ultimate* boss: the devil.

Satan's New World Order is his counterfeit and competitor for *God's* coming world kingdom. To become a citizen of *God's* Kingdom, pray wholeheartedly to **"our Father"**, for example, as Jesus taught us: **"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!"** (Matt. 6:10ff; Lk.11:1ff). Repent. Turn from sin. Be ready and willing for God to free you from sin's power, for His people must be clean.

Satan will fight to the end, though he knows he is defeated and will be damned in hell forever. He hates God and man. **He hates the planet!** He just wants to take as many people with him as he can. An "invasion" from God is man's only hope; individually, nationally and globally. Ask Him to "invade" your heart and life right now. In the very last words of the Bible, John prayed, **"Even so, come Lord Jesus!"** In salvation from sin, the Lord "invades" where He is invited. His *Second* Coming will occur **"invited or not,"** and **"ready or not."**

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JESUS' "WIFE"

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Harvard professor, **Karen King**, recently displayed **"evidence"** to further question accepted **Christian history**, focusing (*again!*) on whether or not Jesus was married. One has well said, **"The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing!"** Christ's highest *purpose* centred around doing the Father's will and work, and *finishing* it. Likewise, Christ's greatest **"wife"** (I do not believe He was married!) are those who are truly and intimately united to Him in *His* Spirit and purpose as *He* was with the Father's. Jesus made this "intimacy" unmistakable in John 17, which contains the Pentecost Imperative He came to provide. (See also Matt. 12: 46-50; Mk. 10:28-30).

Our own *personal* relationship to

God and Christ, *on GOD'S terms*, surpasses any earthly relationship Jesus had, or that *we* may have. Jesus made this fact clear, and did so without undermining the home and family.

Psalm 45:13 says **"The king's daughter is all glorious within."**

That word **"within,"** means **"on the inside;"** not merely referring to inside the palace!

Yes, the second half of that verse speaks of clothing that is woven with gold. Such external **"décor"** is common to the Old Testament, yet note the following:

1) These references, *though literal*, often illustrate the supreme *inward* **"ornaments"** of grace. God's grace is pre-eminently and ultimately to create in man the likeness to the moral character of God and Christ in holiness. 2) Both *Old* and *New* Testaments show that the inward **"adornment"** of personal holiness is incomparably greater than any perceived external **"improvements"** people may *try* to make upon themselves.

(continued inside)

CHRIST'S WIFE—CHRIST'S WORLD: Christ is the Creator of **ALL** things (Jn. 1:3; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2. see also Rev. 4:11). Psalm 24:1, 2 says: **"The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters."** Ps. 24 then says that holiness is required to worship Him and have fellowship with Him. Satan polluted man (*humanity*) by sin. Both *man* and *the planet* were defiled. Man's defilement is *spiritual* and *moral*. St. Paul's early testimony is that, *even then*, the whole cursed planet was groaning (Rom.8:22 w/Jer.12:11) likely due to the earth-polluting effects of human sin! Christ wants **"the world"** as His wife (Jn. 3:16), but man is disqualified in his polluted spirit. For man's sake, and also to reflect His own union with man, God instituted marriage between 1 man and 1 woman. *That* union (and sexuality itself!) has been eroded, polluted, perverted and mocked. Yet, God calls to all, as He did to ancient Israel: **"Return, for I am married to you!"** (Jer.3:14).

JESUS' "WIFE"

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3) Only the adornment of God-given holiness through salvation from sin makes us acceptable to God on His terms, and gains us entrance to heaven.

God's priorities in this context are seen, for example, in Psalm 149:4—*"For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation."* For *"beautify,"* some Bibles have *"adorn"* or *"crown."* God spoke similarly through His prophet, Isaiah (chapter 61). What a magnificent description of the exchange a person receives upon getting right with God! Isaiah's leading words tell of God giving people *"beauty for ashes,"* but doesn't stop there! Man's own *"beauty"* (whatever type it may be!) amounts to mere *"ashes,"* at best.

Jesus highly honoured the opening words of Isaiah 61 by using them in His very first *"sermon!"* (see Lk. 4:18). The Lord used those words right after defeating the Devil in the wilderness temptation (Lk. 4: 1-13). How significant— coming right after His victory over the very one who has worked to damage, defile, distort, destroy and damn the entire population— from Adam until today!

Old age does not make "Christ's wife" less beautiful. Prov. 16:31 says *"Gray hair is a crown of glory, IF it is found in the way of righteousness."* Ps. 92: 11-15 agrees. By the way, Prov. 16:31 *also* applies to bald people! Using different Bible translations, Psalm 39:11, *as if speaking to God,* says this: *"When You correct- rebuke a person for their sin, You make their beauty- form- desires- wealth- glory to consume- vanish- melt- waste away like a moth! Surely, every man is vanity- a vapour- a mere breath."* Apparently, in God's eyes, it is sin alone that "disfigures" a human being.

Through His prophet, Jeremiah, God

exposed the **spiritual adultery** of His people, Israel, saying *"Israel was holiness to the LORD"* (2:3). *"Was"* is past tense. **God's heartache is heard and felt as He reflects on that past,** saying, *"I remember you, the kindness of your youth, the love of your betrothal, when you went after Me in the wilderness, in a land not sown"* (2:2).

God delivered His people from Egyptian slavery, brought them through the wilderness toward The Promised Land, and they **"signed the marriage contract,"** accepting God's Law at Sinai. **But like the wife who replied "I'm married on paper, but not in my heart!"** so Israel demonstrated throughout the Old Testament their love of the world, pagan idolatry and all manner of deplorable sin. They showed that they were not married to God "in their heart." **Yet, God determined to rescue His adulterous people** by promising to provide them a new heart, *so that they would want to live and walk in loving obedience to His Word* (e.g. Ezek. 11: 19, 20; 36: 25ff; Jere. 31:33).

Even after "the Church" had come into the picture, Jesus had to rebuke them in faithfulness and love. He had to inform them: *"You have left your first love!"* (Rev. 2:4). Christ told them what they must do to correct their condition...*"or else!"* That particular church was not ready when Christ appeared in their midst.

Jesus' true "wife" lives in a state of continuous readiness. Rev. 19: 7-9 says *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. Then he said to me, 'Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"* (See Matt. 22:1-14 & 25:1-13) **BE READY!**

CHOICES: (God's & Ours)

Gabriel L. Mancino



God does some things that we also do. We see this more clearly when we see it lived out in Jesus Christ. Jesus lived life as we do. He had no advantages over us. He did no miracle to benefit Himself.

More frequently than anywhere else in the Bible, we see **God expressing HIS choices** in the last book of Moses, called Deuteronomy. *Some Bible verses show God demanding that people make a choice.* If a baby or child dies, or very young person dies before reaching "the age (awareness) of accountability before God," they will go to heaven. The same applies to those mentally incapable.

With most others, there comes a time when a person recognizes they must walk "uprightly" before God. This is the call to holiness, even in its earliest stage. **Sometimes our choices are positive; sometimes negative,** but both push us in a selected direction; either toward God, holiness and heaven, or toward the world, sin, self, Satan and Hell.

If, for God's sake and our soul's sake, we choose *NOT* to do a certain thing, **then our "negative" choice is actually a great positive choice.** Moses is a good example of this. In Heb. 11, "the Faith Chapter," it says *"By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is*

invisible" (v.24-27). Others have made choices similar to Moses here.

God, also, has made "negative" choices...choosing NOT to do a thing. I will mention only one for our blessed encouragement...but it is a **big one!** Moses told God's people, *"The LORD did not set*

His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples" (Deut.7:7). In Deut. 9, Moses also made it clear that God's love was not being shown to them because of their own personal righteousness, for Moses emphasized how rebellious and stubborn they were!

The Father's Foundation of Favour contained two things Israel received: 1) God's character in love and mercy, and 2) His promise. Even God's *promise* is backed by His *"true and faithful"* character (Rev. 3:14; 19:11). God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

Now, let's apply this to ourselves. No one on earth should despair of seeking God. God rejects no one for what may *seem to be* disadvantages. Everyone should take heart regarding this! God does not even reject a person because of their sin, *unless they are unwilling to admit and turn from it.* God, likewise, cannot receive a person who refuses to take Him at His word.

So, God's "negative" choice about you and me is this: He is *NOT* receiving us because we are so great and flawless. He wants to receive us 1) because He loves us and 2) because He sees what beauty He can put in us and display through us.

Our Creator-God has given us the gift, the right, the power of choosing. Joshua said: *"Choose this day whom you will serve!"* (24:15). **The choice is all yours.**

"Therefore choose life!"
(Deut. 30:19)

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.