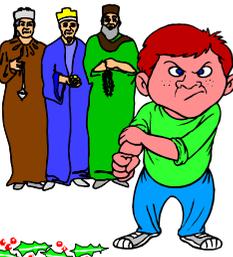


WHERE IS HE!

Gabriel L. Mancino



that she wouldn't recognise it. He did it "politely;" and "in her best interest." Satan asked "Did God really say..."? (Gen. 3:1). This question still has a world-wide "captive audience."

If those "wise guys" had just stayed home, Herod "and all Jerusalem" would not have been all upset (Matt. 2:3). What were they, *foreign missionaries*?! They were on a mission, alright! They had simply asked an innocent question, which they likely imagined would be "Good News." They knew that the question related to the greatest thing desired by the very people they were then visiting...and they started at the top, with the king.

That angry lad, above, may well picture the trouble that was brewing in the heart of the world's *first murderer*. Adam and Eve's son, Cain, killed his own brother. The *root problem between Muslims and Jews* isn't found so much in the two sons of Abraham as in these two *earlier* brothers. It was Herod's problem, and is the world's root problem *today*: sin in the human heart.

Cain wasn't as angry with his younger brother, Abel, as he was with God! After all, it was God who did not accept his worship sacrifice. If he could just get his hands on God! (see Ps. 2; Acts 4:25) Abel was within reach... accessible, and so was a substitute for what Cain would have done to God if he could. The Devil does no different. He can't destroy God, so he hurts God by hurting us, or getting us to hurt *ourselves* and *others*. God obviously had good cause *not* to accept Cain's offering. Cain had what I call "**Frank Sinatra religion**," i.e. "I Did It My Way!" Yes, God loves *everybody*, yet *everyone* must come to God *HIS Way*!

The wise men came to God "*HIS Way*" when they came to the palace and asked: "*Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship Him*". (Matt. 2:2). They didn't ask for a mere *Philosophy* nor for a *Principle*, but for a *Person!* They didn't desire a Christmas *Party*, but a Christmas *Person!* and they found Him! *Let's be wise and join them!*

King Herod was just as angry as the young lad, above, appears to be. If the king could find out where this Competitor was that he had just heard of! If he could just get his hands on Him, then he could rule without threat of interference. Was he just angry, or also a bully? History says that Herod was a ruthless killer, even of family members! He eliminated rivals—all of them. Herod sounds like Stalin, who had far more millions killed than Hitler. What was Herod's problem?

It is not always paranoia like Herod, Stalin or others, that helps move them to such action. Some people are just as determined to rule, and just as ruthless, but do it with "refinement," so to speak. Some *early gangsters* liked publicity, while "wiser ones" wished to stay out of the headlines. Both types were deadly.

The central problem with Herod, Stalin and a list of names that would stretch "from Earth to Saturn," is not *outside* threat of interference. The trouble is on the *inside* of the persons themselves. Such an "*internal, infernal* traitor," cannot be removed by education alone, for then Eton and Oxbridge would have solved Britain's woes. Medicine or meditation, alone, will not "strike at the root" of the problem, nor will any mere philosophies nor even "principles" of religion.

One of the first questions in the Bible is asked by God in The Garden of Eden: "Adam, where are you?" (Gen. 3:9). God knew where Adam was—and why. God knew that Adam didn't know where Adam was!

Satan beat God in asking the first question. He asked it of Eve, but masked it with "cosmetic surgery," so



A Very Blessed & Happy Christmas To All Our Readers!



Registered Charity #1092050

DECEMBER 2012

The

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

The London LIGHT—Free!

To read, consider, apply, then share with others!

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

MERRY CRIMSON!

Gabriel L. Mancino



Some may label Fripp a malcontent. They might describe him in the words of their Crimson "classic": a "21st Century Schizoid Man."

Many today find life, work and even pleasures "a joyless exercise in futility." Daily news provides ample evidence to prove it. Innumerable *untold* stories, if

King Crimson is a rock band founded in London in 1968. The guitar-playing elf, above, substitutes for King Crimson's first album cover picture which may be copyrighted. That picture might be too scary, anyway. My old friend, Larry Dallison, wouldn't look at it!

Perhaps the most known member of this band is guitarist, Robert Fripp. It appears that one or two *main* conflicts have made Fripp decide to give up his career as a musician. In a recent interview, he said he now "refers to his life as a professional musician 'a joyless exercise in futility.'" That is not a very Merry Crimson!

known, would provide pitiful confirmation. But a Fripp contemporary wrote "Don't let it bring you down, it's only castles burning." Surely, we don't agree with that.

Well, a King Crimson man wasn't the first to find the things he loved as bringing "a joyless exercise in futility." Another king tried it all, and found emptiness. King Solomon wrote about it in the Bible (O.T.) book called Ecclesiastes. Two phrases are repeated by this king: 1) "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." The word "vanity" has the idea of "a bursting bubble." 2) "Under the sun." Solomon

(continued inside)

"THE WORD WAS GOD!" (John 1:1). John bypassed the usual Christmas story of angels, shepherds and wise men. He went back to eternity. God communicated like you & me, with the spoken word...but went further. His word of communication, according to His plan, became housed in humanity so that it could be clearly seen, demonstrated and clarified (see Heb. 1:1-3; 1 Jn. 1:1-3). The world acts as if this was not enough. For God, it was! Christ had eternal existence before the Virgin Birth brought Him to His brief life on earth. The Resurrection & Ascension kicked the vain walls of death out to prove His eternal existence after His earthly life & work. Christ's last words to His disciples was "the Promise of the Father," that is, the gift of the Holy Ghost poured out on Pentecost. He told them they are Witnesses unto HIM throughout the whole world! Tell the world about HIM!!



MERRY CRIMSON

(continued from front page)



“The performing arts,” the movie and fashion industries, education—the *list is endless, for the human race is a big target*—all have been having their hand in helping destroy society. The big target necessitates big guns and a long, drawn-out warfare executed with strategy and precision. And now, we have a **“21st Century Schizoid” World!**

The world’s peoples are under siege. The human family is battle-weary, just as “the enemy” wants them to become; worn out, stressed, like a **“21st Century Schizoid Man.”** No wonder that, notwithstanding all the entertainment, holidays, superficial diversions and “cures” and smoke-screens galore, that life—to *many*—has become (as Fripp said): **“a joyless exercise in futility.”**

This Very Un-“Merry Crimson,” can be turned *forever* into a **constant “Merry Christmas”** for every person on earth. Note the question-answer dialog that abruptly opens Isaiah 63: “*Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?*” — “*I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.*” — “*Why is Your apparel red (crimson), and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?*” — “*I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me*” (vv.1-3).

That dialog, above, may not *seem* like a very **Merry Crimson** either, *but it certainly and stunningly includes it!* Those verses from Isaiah point to Jesus and the salvation from sin, death and hell which He purchased, *“alone,”* for us all, at the expense of His own sinless life and His blood. That extract from Isaiah points to the Cross, where **joy** and **sorrow** met together. Hebrews 12: 2 says “*Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right*

found there was “*nothing new under the sun.*” To him, life was unoriginal, repeat-cycle and **“a joyless exercise in futility.”** There *IS* a perspective higher than a “here and now,” earth-bound, “*under the sun*” view.

“Positive thinking” and other similar approaches to life are like the magicians of Egypt. None of them go far enough. The magicians duplicated some of the God-given miracle-signs of Moses, but their imitating came to an abrupt end. God limited them. The lion-lead that God put on Satan is of limited length, as well!

Fripp focused on the difference in rock music *then* and *now*. Guitarist, **Jimi Hendrix**, had a gift—no doubt about it. Yet, neither *he* nor a whole assortment of others in *various* fields, are spiritual role models. That same recent article quotes Fripp saying of *early* Crimson: **“the remarkable explosion of the creative impulse came from these young men who didn’t know what they were doing, yet were able to do it.”** *

That sounds familiar! The *early* disciples were **“unlearned and ignorant men,”** (Acts 4:13) but **“turned the world upside down”** in the best way possible (Acts 17: 6). The church has largely lost this glorious and powerful “ignorance!” By the way, Fripp’s “explosion” quote, above, sounds like an “Egyptian magician” version of Thomas Chalmers’ sermon: **“The Expulsive Power of a New Affection.”**

I readily admit the skill and talent of some rock musicians of 40 years ago. Yet, those very musicians wielded a deteriorating, detouring and damning influence on my life, personally. They were not alone in creating the harming influences of that day, and were preceded by *others* whose “talents” and “contributions,” gradually through generations, eroded the moral and spiritual fabric of nations and their youth.

* Google: King Crimson’s Robert Fripp Quits Music Business

hand of the throne of God.”

The *Christ of Christmas*, the *Babe of Bethlehem* was eternally planned to go from the *cattle crib* to the *Crimson Cross*. Christmas celebrates that **He came to us. He now invites us to come to Him!** What a welcome!— “*‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the LORD, ‘though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool’*” (Isa. 1:18).

I thank God for His **help in the past.** I praise Him for the **hope of the future.** Yet, in a very real sense, “walking with God” in “the holy way,” is **“a present-tense experience.”** Not merely *past-tense* or *future-tense*, but walking with Him right now; obeying His word and trusting Him completely. The walk is present tense— **NOW.** But so is the *beginning* of that walk...*the first step...the instant decision to start walking God’s way*, for He says above, **“Come NOW!”**

Such a *step* and such a *walking* will result in the **Merriest Christmas** and **Merriest Crimson** of all! And even if people around you...yes, even church people around you...may be *clueless* about your *newness*, at least **YOU** don’t need to find life **“a joyless exercise in futility.”**

**Hold God’s Hand
Seek God’s Face
Speak in God’s Ear
Read God’s Word,
the Bible**



Let **US** Adore Him





The Good News of the Christmas Angel

by J. R. Miller

“Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.”
(Luke 2:10)

In the Bible, “Gospel” refers to the good news about Jesus Christ. Every word of the gospel is a **joy-bell**. The Gospel is *always* good news. It brings good news to the guilty sinner when it comes to tell him of forgiveness. It brings good news to the struggling soul in the struggle of temptation, when it comes to offer him help to overcome. It brings good news to the man or the woman who has failed, and is in despair over a ruined life and hopes dashed to the dust, when it says, *“You may rise yet to a glorious life.”* It brings good news to the mourner when it breathes comfort, the assurance of God’s sympathy and love, and a promise that good shall come out of sorrow. So wherever the Gospel goes it tells good news. There are many **joys** it has started in this world, and sadness it has chased away, and ruin it has restored to beauty. Think of the church songs of **joy** that have been sung along these many centuries, and are yet echoing in countless human hearts. Think of the heavenly song in which millions will unite eternally. Then remember that all this song and gladness will simply be the prolonged echo of that **joy** which the angel proclaimed. If we desire to share this great gladness, we must be sure that we let this good news into our hearts *now*. And then we, too, should become **joy-bearers**, by ourselves repeating the good news, and likewise by letting all about us see in us what deep victorious **joy** the Gospel of Christ can give. (edited)

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.