

This Same Jesus

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be betrayed into the hands of sinners, then crucified, but would rise from the dead. He also told His *enemies* that He would rise in three days. If Jesus lied, was mistaken, or was exchanged for someone else at the last minute (to avoid crucifixion), then He foretold something untrue. This would make Him a false prophet, and, according to God, by Moses, was to be killed (see Deut. 13 & 18). But what *“this same Jesus”* foretold about His betrayal, crucifixion and resurrection *DID* happen, just as He said it would!

Let’s “fast-forward” to today. Referring to Christ’s *Second* coming, John (quoting Zech. 12:10) says *“Behold, He is coming with the clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all tribes and nations of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen”* (Rev.1:7). Jesus *also* refers to this in Matt. 24:30.

Will you **welcome** *“this same Jesus”* now, and wait and **welcome** Him at His return? I do not want *anyone* to wail with the wicked, as it says above—a horrible thought! Whatever horrific details will happen before His return, *“this same Jesus”* will have the final word. That is sure...guaranteed!

“This same Jesus” is knocking at your heart’s door now, as in Rev. 3:20. **Welcome** Him in and let Him stay!!

Welcome Back!

(continued from inside)

Christ’s disciples had **fears**, **shock** and **unbelief** after His crucifixion. Yet, the patient and loving encouragement and instruction of their resurrected Lord helped them. **They welcomed Him** and were now ready for **“Phase Two”**—the coming of the Holy Ghost to purify their hearts, as Jesus promised.

“Phase Two” took place on the Feast of Pentecost (celebrated this year on May 15, Western Church...19 June, Eastern Orthodox Church). Jesus had told them, *“My going is for your good: for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you...to be with you forever!”* (Jn. 16:7 with 14:16). In Jn. 14 and 16, Jesus says much about the Holy Spirit, to Whom He here refers. **The Holy Spirit** is the Spirit of God and of Christ; *not some human being*. At Pentecost, *only ten days after His ascension*, the Lord was again with them by His Holy Spirit...to stay! (Jn. 14:16).

Reread Psalm 24:7-10 (inside) but, this time, apply it to Christ’s entry, not into heaven, but into your own heart. Compare it with *Ps. 118: 19-21. The Lord can give you some “heaven” in your heart, now! **Have you Welcomed Him BACK by welcoming Him IN?**

(* Other verses in Ps. 118, above, refer to Christ’s resurrection and were quoted by Him, as well as quoted at Pentecost.)

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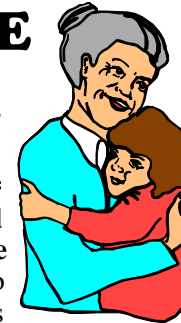
WELCOME BACK!

This is for *everyone!*

Gabriel L. Mancino

To be loved and missed must surely be a joy. There are two sides to that coin! Let’s turn the clock back and look. **Not so long ago, many Christians celebrated “Easter.”** But the Bible *also* refers to an amazing 40 days **AFTER “Easter!”** During those days, Christ appeared to varied groups of His disciples. St., Paul wrote, *“And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time!”* (1 Cor. 15:8). **Did they welcome Him?** Oh yes, it matters!

During **Old Testament** times, **God was not so welcome**. To really walk with God, *HIS* Way, was something abandoned, mocked and persecuted. Idolatry flourished. Yet, many “bright



lights” shine, and “glowing signposts” point us clearly in *“the right way”* (Ps. 107:7), even amid the sometimes-ugly pages of the Old Testament.

Describing Christ’s coming to this world, St. John’s record in the **New Testament** says, *“He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world did not recognize Him. He came to the things that were His own, and His own people gave Him no welcome”* (Jn. 1:10, 11). **There is Christ’s initial welcome!** He came, not just to the world in general, but to His own chosen people. **He should have been welcomed**, but was rejected...ridiculed...“removed.”

In 1948, after 1,878 years evicted by God and scattered throughout the world (as in Hos.9:17), God brought the Jews back to the land He promised to them via Abraham. They are not *yet* fulfilling the “terms and conditions” of **God’s “Tenancy Agreement,”** while they

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KEEP THE WELCOME MAT OUT, AND THE LIGHTS BURNING BRIGHTLY! The **“Welcome Back”** of Pentecost (above right) is the supreme need in the Church. The world must see it. Jesus especially prayed about it in Jn. 17. He died to provide it. He told His disciples about it. The Lord **WILL** return to see what spiritual condition we are in (Lk. 18:8) and what we have been doing. The date of His return is irrelevant. We are to be Christ-filled; doing God-glorifying, soul-saving work, just as He did (Jn. 17:17-19; 20:21; Lk.19:13). Awaiting His return is like a *“could-happen-any-second”* call to a marriage **NOW** (Matt. 22 & 25). He said so. The announcement is *also* now! Keep oil in your lamp (Matt. 25). Be ready, even if at midnight, to say **“Welcome Back!”**

IT ISN’T CHRISTMAS, EITHER! The above refers to Christ’s resurrection and to “Easter.” “Easter” is past. Christ remains! Ha! I still listen to good, spiritual Christmas music almost every night!! I love Christ’s coming! At His Second coming, He will come favourably *“to those who love His appearing”* (2 Tim. 4:8). Titus 2:11-15 & 1 Jn. 3: 2,3 tell us how to truly love His appearing. We must chose either Christ, OR our sins, “the world”...or even “religion!” We cannot have both sides: (Matt. 6:24; Jam. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21). In the article above, St. Paul says *“And last of all He was seen of me also, as one born out of due time!”* (1 Cor. 15:8). Paul was “an impossible case.” So was I. You can come to Christ, too. **Welcome Him today!**

Welcome Back!

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reject Christ. It is *God's* Land. They are merely His chosen tenants there. God severely punished and evicted them repeatedly in Old Testament times due to their persistent rebellion against Him, though He warned them in love by His prophets. Read it, for it is His faithful, loving record, *and* is a fresh alarm bell—for *them* and for *us all* today. As promised, God then sent His Son (Gal. 4:4) as the *supreme, vivid*, and in a sense, *final* means of winning them to Himself (Matt. 21: 33-46; Heb. 1:1-3). **They did not welcome Him!**

How do the rest of us measure-up in welcoming the Christ of God? I do not mean a Christ of our own making, or the Counterfeit Christ of various other beliefs. The piercing question that the Roman governor, Pilate, asked the mad crowd still probes: "*What do you want me to do with this Jesus, who is called Christ?*" (Mk. 15:12). Even if no "organised religion" called Christianity (or using Christ's name) existed, *Pilate's piercing probe* still demands an answer...even today! "*What will you do with Jesus?*" That inescapable question will not go away.

Yes, Christ "*came to His own*" and also "*to the world that was made by Him*," but **He was neither recognised nor welcomed** (Jn. 1:10, 11).

Psalms 24 says: **1** "The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fulness; the world, and all who live in it. **2** For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. **3** Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in His holy place? **4** He that has clean hands, and a pure heart; who has not lifted up his soul to false or foolish things ("idols"), nor

sworn falsely. **5** He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. **6** This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek Your face, O God of Jacob. Selah. **7** Lift up your heads, O you gates; and be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. **8** Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. **9** Lift up your heads, O you gates; even lift them up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. **10** Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah.

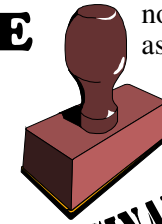
Verses 7-10 may picture Christ's welcomed return to "heaven," having completed His "mission" to provide (by His death) salvation from all sin for all who will receive it. But look what came *before!* **Verses 1-2** say that God owns everything here because He made it. Even if *man* builds something here (*a LOT of building is going on here in London!*), **God** still owns it because the earth belongs to Him! We are all merely tenants. **Verses 3-6 are urgent**, for though verses 7-10 may talk about *Christ* going to heaven, **verses 4-6** ask which of *Us* will make it there! One old song said, "Not everyone that talks about heaven is going there!" God requires "*clean hands and a pure heart*," as seen in verse 4. The primary need is the "*pure heart*," for all else flows from that source, like "fruit from a root" (Matt. 15:19; Mk. 7:21-23). St. James 4:8, *also*, calls us to this two-part need — what we *are* (*heart*), as well as what we *do* (*hands*).

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FOOD! "*O, taste and see that the Lord is good!*" (Psalm 34:8)

"THIS SAME JESUS"

Gabriel L. Mancino
"Jesus Christ, the same
yesterday, and today and
forever!" (Heb. 13:8)



ORIGINAL

After the resurrection, the Lord lovingly challenged His disciple, Thomas: "*Come and put your finger into My torn hands, and put your hand into My pierced side*" (Jn. 20:27). Jesus had already reasoned with His *other* doubting disciples similarly: "*Touch Me. A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see Me*" - (Lk. 24:39). He was *the very same Jesus* they had seen, touched, heard, walked with, ate with and learned from for the past three years. (1 Jn. 1:1-4).

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He *then* rose to heaven (Acts 1:3). Before rising, He commanded them to go to Jerusalem (where He had just been crucified!) and "*wait for the promise of the Father*" (Lk. 24:49). The disciples watched Him rise out of their sight until an angel brought them back to reality, so to speak. The angel said (putting it in my words!) "*Stop looking up into the sky and do what Jesus told you to do! This same Jesus will return just as you have seen Him go up from you into heaven.*" (Acts 1:11).

My numerous English and foreign translations of the Bible all tell me that Jesus Christ is the uncreated Son of God, that He Himself is Divine (i.e. God) and that He is the only Messiah-Saviour promised by God. This long-promised Saviour was to come (*being born in Bethlehem*) and save man from sin by means of His death. (Jn. 10:18).

A Jehovah Witness (JW) man assured me that he could take my translations and prove that Jesus is *not* God. I had

no Bible with me at that moment, so I asked him if he had a copy of their own translation of the Bible (which, has been **conveniently changed** to agree with their teachings). He handed me his own JW "Bible."

Going to the last book of the Bible, "Revelation," I pointed out the One calling Himself "Alpha and Omega," "Beginning and Ending," and "First and Last." He agreed that it is "Jehovah God." I reminded him that God says "*I am the First and the Last and beside Me there is no God*" (Isa 44:6).

I showed him that in Revelation, it says that this Person self-identified as "*First and Last*" says: "*I am He that lives and was dead, and behold, I am alive forever more and have the keys of death and hell*" (1:17, 18). So, I asked him "**When did Jehovah God die?**" Clearly, *that* "*First and Last*" was Jesus. And either we have two "*Firsts*" and two "*Lasts*," or they are the same "Person."

He was momentarily speechless, then admitted that he had never seen that before. To me, *that* was an example of JW training that keeps the eye from seeing certain things that their own "Watchtower" teaching disagree with.

Such "**veiled eyesight**" (as in 2 Cor. 3:14,15) is not just among JWs. Thankfully, **that veil can be taken away** by Christ, as 2 Cor. 3:16 says.

The first century Church was new-born. But, even *then*, there were people spreading beliefs of "*another Jesus, another Gospel and another Spirit*" (2 Cor. 11: 2-4; Gal. 1:6-9). It was not "*this same Jesus*," but a customised one. Many today seek a Jesus that suits *them*; a Jesus of convenience; requiring little, if anything, of them.

Who is "*this same Jesus?*" Here is my answer. He is the One who repeatedly told His disciples that He would

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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.