

# HE DID IT!

Gabriel L. Mancino



The front page article asks: “Who Did It?” It tells of one man that stopped the God-given progress of a whole nation! Long before *that*, **one man**, Adam, had not just messed up a nation, but ruined the whole world!

The Bible tells us that though **one man** brought us all into immeasurable, indescribable, eternal trouble with God, yet **one Man—the Lord Jesus Christ**—made it possible for each of us to get OUT of that trouble. “By one man, trouble; by one man, Triumph!” (Rom. 5:12-19).

Long ago, a fire on dry grasslands spread quickly, bringing destruction and danger—made worse by strong wind. Another large fire was started ahead of the oncoming one. People in the path of the oncoming wildfire were told to stand where the new fire had been, and they would be safe.

Adam brought the fire of God’s wrath and judgment upon us all.

Jesus took upon Himself God’s fiery wrath against sin, nailing it to the Cross. The old fire was stopped on the Cross. All we must do is to stand and stay where the new fire was!

Running from fire or running from tsunami waters, fleeing wild animals are too focused on their personal safety to think of attacking each other. Similarly, if we humans were *keenly* conscious that we must “flee the wrath to come,” as John the Baptist said, it would end all of the killing, crime, racism...you name it!

John the Baptist’s warning tells of God’s wrath against sin. It also tells of Christ’s “fire,” provided for our escape from that wrath through the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3: 7-12). Ask the animals—it’s wise to run for your life!

Yes, Adam made unimaginable trouble for us all. **He Did It!** But Jesus made provision sufficient for all people to be free from the certain fire of God’s wrath and judgment. All we must do is to stand in the safety zone provided by the so-great love of God which He showed on the Cross through Christ. Jesus took the fire of God’s wrath and judgment on sin, so that we could be rescued from it. **HE DID IT! HE REALLY DID IT! Now, what will YOU do?**



**“BUT YOU SAY!” Religious Jews “re-interpreted” and thereby avoided the clear command of God—and Jesus told them so! (Matt. 15:1-9; Mk. 7:1-13). Many today reject God and Jesus. Others “re-identify” Jesus, or have little or no idea or concern what He came to do. One thing Christ came to do was to talk to YOU! Among many names connected to Jesus in the Bible, “THE WORD” is a very important one. Words communicate from one person to another. God spoke in ancient times, then spoke to us with absolute perfection...in Christ! (see Heb. 1: 1-3; Jn. 7:46; Matt. 7: 28, 29). Read Jesus’ life in the Bible. It is far more understandable than you might expect! Let Jesus speak for Himself. He does a good job! “BUT I SAY TO YOU!”—Jesus said. Listen and Act.**

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# WHO DID IT?



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Some people are considered “one-man trouble!” Adam wins that title above all others. He ruined the whole world!

Long after Adam died, Joshua, Moses’ successor, took Israel into the land God had given them through Abraham about 450 years earlier.

After amazing, God-given victory, **trouble came!** Israel was humiliated in defeat by a much smaller enemy.

At that time, the people of Israel numbered 2 or 3 million or more. Their fighting army amounted to more than the population of many of England’s largest cities. Imagine one person causing **Liverpool, Bristol or Manchester** to be in danger of being wiped out! *That* is what they faced!

Joshua chapter 7 starts with the word, “**But**,” which introduces the stopping of Israel’s victorious march. “**Sin**” caused that stop. Israel is “God’s chosen people,” **but** with **sin**, God plays no favourites. The Garden of Eden, for example, was wonderful beyond description, yet **our first parents** were fooled into “enjoying the pleasures of sin for a short while” (Heb. 11: 25), and lost it all. (Gen. 3:23; Mk. 8: 36, 37).

What happened to Israel in Joshua 7 is seen again and again throughout the Old Testament. They didn’t seem to learn the lesson. Are **WE** doing any better than they did?

Joshua 7 says that God saw the sin of one man in Israel’s vast army, and stopped the progress of the whole nation. What must God see in **Britain?...in London** alone?...or in much smaller **Luton**, not far away?

**Pentecost**, also called **Whitsun** or **Whitsunday** (White Sunday) was celebrated on **20 May** this year. In

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**WHEN THE EXPERIENCE OF PENTECOST is rejected, neglected or deflected (detoured), it has a wretched, wilting and wayward effect; first, on churches, and ultimately on the world. The experience of “Pentecost” is what Jesus prayed for (Jn. 17) for ALL of His followers! It was Jesus’ “finishing touch” to make His followers what God wants them to be—for God’s sake, their own sake, the Church’s sake and the sake of a lost and unbelieving world that needs to see Christ in their midst again. Read A. M. Hills’ 1902 book, “Pentecost Rejected” online at [archive.org](http://archive.org) (103 pages)**

## WHO DID IT?

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1976, **Luton Carnival** started. Held originally on Spring Bank Holiday Monday (on Sunday, as of 2013!), it is said to be Europe's largest one-day carnival. They advertised "family friendly fun for all!" This year's motto was "**Home Is Where The Heart Is!**" That motto is truer than we realise. Luton Carnival was held the week after **Pentecost** this year.

Luton is not alone. London has its **Notting Hill Carnival**, started 10 years earlier; all for man's pleasure and entertainment. **Such carnivals' contrast to Pentecost** is like Moses getting the 10 Commandments contrasted with his brother and all Israel having wild parties at the same time at the base of the mountain. Man loves entertainment—all kinds; including "religious" entertainment.

**Pentecost** commemorates God's giving His Promised Gift of the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus had said to His disciples (Jn. 14 to 17). That Promised Gift provides true holiness and *all* that God has for those that love Him. God *requires* holiness (1 Pet. 1:16), but only gives His Holy Spirit to those who obey Him (Acts 5: 32).

God's Holy Spirit actually works in our lives even before we come to Him, otherwise *no one* could find God! Yet, God doesn't just "meet us halfway." He comes to where we are and tries to help us to come to Him.

**Pentecost** celebrates the giving of the 10 Commandments and the joys of the first harvest from the fields. Both had special fulfilment on the Day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2; here's how: **1)** God promised that He would write His law on the hearts of

men rather than on tablets of stone (Jer. 31: 31-34; Ezek. 11: 19,20; 36: 26, 27; 2 Cor. 3:3; Heb. 8:10). **2)** On Pentecost (Acts 2), 3,000 visitors from various places came to Christ in that one day! The "first-fruits" of God's harvest! The newborn Church! Both of those "fulfilments" were made possible by the Promised Holy Spirit. "Pentecost" enables man not only to *inwardly desire*, but *outwardly obey* the law of God.

**Many foreigners were mixed in** with Israel when Moses led them out of Egypt and later received the 10 Commandments. But Israel's sin at Mt. Sinai wasn't all the fault of this "**mixed multitude.**" Moses' brother was his God-appointed prophet and soon the high priest, yet was right in the middle of the sinful, idolatrous partying! Like Aaron, the church has helped to bring God's displeasure and damnation upon Britain and other countries for generations.

Old Testament Israel repeatedly turned its back on the true God. That included *prophets, priests, princes* and *people*. God allowed and used foreign enemies to come and destroy Israel, and take them into slavery. Their liberty was actually not taken from them; they gave it away, little by little; year after year...just like Britain, America and other nations have been doing now for generations.

God acts...or seems *NOT* to act... whenever, wherever and however He wants. **But**, He never overlooks or excuses covered-up **sin**.

Adam and Eve's problem was wanting what God had forbidden. The man in Joshua 7, who "*troubled Israel,*" likewise wanted what was forbidden. The 10th Commandment says "*You shall not covet*" (Exodus 20:17). Covet means to wrongly

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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.



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want something; especially what belongs to someone else. It was *this* Commandment that awakened the enslaved and soul-tortured man in Romans 7:24 to see his spiritual need.

The sin-process of the man in Joshua 7 is described much like Eve taking the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6). First, he **saw**, then he **wanted** (coveted), then he **took** it and **hid** it. James 1: 13-15 also gives a picture of the progressive nature of sin.

No one can hide their sin from God. Adam and Eve tried, but failed. In Joshua 7, this one man, among the hundreds of thousands in Israel's fighting force, tried to hide his sin. God says to us all: "*Be sure, your sin will find you out*" (Num. 32: 23).

People often blame others. The man in Joshua 7 blamed no one but himself. But he "confessed" only when hiding was no longer possible! Many today, *still* wouldn't confess.

**Step by step, God narrowed the search** for the guilty person. Perhaps the man *hoped*, or even *believed*, that he would not be found out; not among the many thousands. Wrong! Maybe he assured himself that other soldiers had likely done the same as he had. Whatever the case, God may have been giving him opportunity to confess before it was too late.

Regardless of the type or degree, sin has consequences—for ourselves; for others; sometimes now; certainly later. Many of his fellow-soldiers died because of his sin. Now, it was *HIS* turn to face the consequences of his personal sin.

Every individual needs to ask, as the disciples did at The Last Supper: "**Lord, is it me?!**" Yet, Judas, who betrayed Jesus, *also* asked, "**Lord, is it me?**" though he knew very well he

was the guilty man! (Matt. 26:25).

Man is fooled and hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3: 13), the deceitfulness of the human heart (Jer. 17:9) and the deceitfulness of the Devil (Rev.12: 9; 20:1-30). The Bible says, "*Let no man deceive you*"—(Eph. 5:6; 1 Jn. 3:7). Don't deceive yourself (Gal. 6:3; 1 Cor. 3:18; James 1:26). "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap*" (Gal. 6:7).

The man in Joshua 7 *knew*, but kept quiet until it was too late. God exposed him. By His Holy Spirit, God tries to show us our sin while there is time to do something about it. If we fail to admit, confess, repent and forsake them, then our sins will cause us far worse results than happened to this man in Joshua 7 (see Rev. 20; 11– 15). There is time now. With all your heart, tell the Lord: "**I did it!**" Then, start your walk with Him and don't look back! (Luke 9:62; 17:32; Gen. 19:26).

## Taken To Hell By "Superman"

Superman was said to be "**Faster** than a speeding bullet! More **powerful** than a locomotive (train)! **Able** to leap tall buildings in a single bound!" *So is sin!*

It is **fast, powerful** and **capable** of amazing things. Yes, sin often grows undetected, doing its damning damage.

Satan doesn't care how long it takes him and get you to hell, and sin is the only thing that sends a person to hell.

God has a Cure...One only...for the problem of personal sin. Man and religion have invented many substitutes.

Ssssserpent!  Sssssin!  
Saviour!!!  
Stay away from the "kryptonite" of Sssssin! Be Saved! Be Safe!