

SUMMER 2021 *The*

To read, to apply and to share with others!

**London Christian Standard** ...and Provincial

"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

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So, with my page 3 **lion with the mirror**, I am illustrating Jesus, "the Lion of the tribe of Judah." But my "Jesus lion" sees more than Himself in the mirror! Imagine a wedding day, with a **bride** looking in the mirror, eagerly waiting to be joined to her groom; her husband; her forever mate. Now imagine Christ, "the Lion of Judah" seeing **His bride**; not Himself! This time the **Groom** is looking in the mirror! The bride is not in that page 3 clipart picture, but HE sees her, anyway!

We are meant to see Christ, "the Lion!" HE sees us, "But we see Jesus!" As we gaze into that mirror, we are not to focus on ourselves, but on Christ. "Self," "The Big I," is to be out of the picture!

Yet, writing to people who **had not seen** Jesus, *physically*, St. Peter says "Whom **having not seen**, you love; in whom, **though now you do not see Him**, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

Remember, 2 Corinthians 3 and 4 compare Moses' fading **glow** to Jesus' **never fading glory**. It says that as we **gaze** into the God-given mirror, we can be increasingly changed into Christ's own image by God's Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18), "more and more unto the perfect

day," as Proverbs 4:18 says.

Jesus is "the Lion of the tribe of Judah," but He is also "the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29, 36; Isaiah 53:7; Acts 8:32). He is the Lamb that sacrificed Himself **FOR** our sin. But Christ is also "the Lion of the tribe of Judah," strong to deliver each of us **FROM** our sin.

One day, all coverings, veils and masks will be taken off. For Christ's "**Bride**," that will be a Grand Day! Revelation 19:7 tells us why: "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." Have you made yourself ready? **Go and gaze into God's mirror and He will show you...** but we cannot really and truly look in that mirror with a mask on. One day, all masks will come off. It is best to take them off *right now!* ■



GOD SAYS: "I will take you as My bride for ever; truly, I will take you as My bride in righteousness." (Hosea 2:19)



"I am married to you." (Jeremiah 3:14)



**THEY LOST THE PLOT!** Adam and Eve "lost the plot" in what they were to be doing. As a result, they lost the "**plot**" of ground: the Garden of Eden. Satan had a "**plot**," that is, a secret plan to do harm, and he did it. Ever since Eden, humanity has been running around as "Masters of the Lost Plot," with emphasis on self; **The Big "I."** With a severely damaged compass, humanity needed rescue and guidance. So "in Christ," God got "**I to I**" with us to rescue us, meeting **our "I"** with **His Own "I."** Putting an "**I**" in "**plot**" makes "pilot!" Just what we need! But that "**I**" must be in the right place. That was man's problem: he has "**I**" ...*himself*... in the wrong place. Stop losing the **plot**. Welcome the **Pilot!**

**WHEN THE MASKS COME OFF!**

Gabriel L. Mancino



**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA — UNMASKED!**

The picture on the right is from the 1925 "silent movie;" nearly 100 years ago. Actor, Lon Chaney, was scary with his mask pulled off. OK, so when did masks start?

**THE MAGNIFICENT "MASK" OUR MAKER MADE**

God created Adam and Eve with a "**covering**" or "**mask**" of holiness and innocence. When they sinned, that **covering** was instantly lost. It vanished. In their shame, they made their own grossly inadequate "**mask**." The horror of Satan, and the horror of sin and its consequences burst into view.

That original "**mask**" was not taken away, it was given away; surrendered. Yes, it was lost through Satan's trickery, but also by wilful disobedience, and from not believing and trusting God. Eve got too close to danger in the first place. Satan lied to Eve to confuse her. He made God look bad by projecting his own evil character onto God! This was the start of "**making good look bad, and making bad look good.**" (Isa. 5:20)

(continued on next page)

**GARDEN OF THE GODS** is a sight-seeing place in Colorado Springs, USA, where I graduated from high school, though I am from West Virginia. In my graduating year, 71-72, John Denver wrote a great song about both states! "Almost Heaven, West Virginia" was first! GOD put Adam and Eve in the *original* Garden of the Gods! It WAS Almost Heaven, but they lost it. Yet a "*new heaven and new earth*" awaits us (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1). It will far-surpass the Garden of Eden, for there will be no Devil and no sin there! God has made the Way for us to go, if we will take it. Start now, come to the Lord, stay on His road and keep walking! (John 14:6; Isaiah 30:21)



## THE MASK AND MATERNITY OF MALICE

Malice is hatred, spite, cruelty, wickedness. In Satan, malice “gave birth” to mischief. Mischief then “births” trouble, harm, damage, injury.

“Open-heart surgery” done on the Devil would reveal rebellion. Satan went against God; refusing to be under His authority.

Malice “breeds.” It becomes “pregnant.” Whatever is inside grows. It has “babies.” Satan was among the best of the angels, but rebellion against God grew within him. Pride was at the root of his malice and rebellion. Pride has a huge family, but God condemns it.

Satan passed his anti-God rebel nature on to Adam and Eve, so Jesus rightly spoke of “children of the Devil.” (John 8:44 with Romans 8: 7-9). If we don’t like God and His methods, we are being like Satan.

Sin continues today as it started; a tragedy and a mess. Yet God gave our first parents the promise of sending our Saviour, Jesus Christ. ■

- 1) All people need to be saved.
- 2) All people can be saved.
- 3) All people can know they are saved.
- 4) All people can be saved “to the uttermost” (completely).

## WHAT A MASK!



### “MAN OF A THOUSAND FACES”

THAT is what they called Lon Chaney Sr.; the “Phantom” on page 1. A 1957 movie about him had the above title, for Chaney was said to have “a thousand faces.”

Chaney’s “make-up” box was simple, yet it helped to transform him in “a thousand” ways. Sin “in the human heart” is also simple, yet it grows, deepens its roots and sends out many shoots. It becomes the substitute for the actual person God wants us to be. Sin would disable humans from being *or even desiring to be* the person that Jesus Christ died to help us to become.

Upon his death, Lon Chaney’s career passed on to his son. Yet, far worse, upon Adam’s “deathbed” fall into sin in Eden, he passed his *sin-corrupted* nature on to the entire human family! (Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12; 6:23; James 1:14,15).

Lon Chaney Jr. never played “The Phantom” like his father, but was best known as “The Wolf Man.” He also acted other scary roles his father never played. The “monster” of sin, likewise, does not necessarily develop in people the same way, yet sin is sin. Only sin can send people to hell, unless they repent and come to God. Jesus made rescue from sin possible! (Matt.1:21) ■



## A MASK AND A MIRROR



### A LION AND A LOOKING GLASS

There are about 200 names and titles for Jesus Christ in the Bible. In Revelation 5:5 Jesus is called “the Lion of the tribe of Judah.” **There’s the Lion! So, what does the Lion, above, see in the mirror?**

In the Bible, 2 Corinthians 3 and 4 contrast the shining face of Moses with the face of Jesus. It says: 1) The shine on Moses’ face faded away until he met with God again, 2) Jesus Christ never lost the brilliant grace and glory of God, for He was God living right among us.

Those two chapters *also* say that we can be changed into the very image of Christ, “from glory to glory, by the Holy Spirit of God!” But it says **we must focus in that “mirror” with no mask**; no hiding anything! (2 Corinthians 3:18).

**Pulling the mask off** shows the ugliness of sin like the face of the Phantom of the Opera. **NO! worse than the Phantom!** The Phantom’s face was fake; a performance, but human sin is real. Sin is dreadful, destructive and damning. It is truly the world’s worst plague. Yet, God has done something about it! **Let’s**



look in His mirror and be changed.

Our bathroom mirror has two sides; one is normal; the other is magnified. The Bible speaks of **two matchless mirrors** in which we may rightly see God and see ourselves.

God’s Word is “the perfect law of liberty” and is like a mirror. (James 1: 21-25). God’s law and our human liberty do not need to be in conflict. However, as James says, we can look in a mirror, then walk away and forget to correct something we saw! I’ve done that! Let’s gaze into God’s mirror and correct everything He shows us. (Phil. 2:12, 13; 1 Jn. 1:7; 2 Pet. 1:5-11; Gen. 20:3-6).

**One the most important names for Christ in the Bible is “THE WORD.”** Words communicate ideas *and much more*, from person to person. *God speaks*, and His *greatest* speaking to us was by Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 1: 1-3; John.1:1, 2).

In Christ, God not only talked, but also walked among us: “**And THE WORD was made flesh and lived for a while among us, and we saw His glory; the glory as of the only born of the Father, full of grace and truth.**” (John [the Gospel] 1:1-14; 14: 7-9). **What a Mirror to gaze into! “THE WORD”** didn’t become words, words and more words. “*The Word became flesh!*” (also *First John* 1: 1-4).

**Gaze into both of those mirrors:** 1) the Bible and 2) the Christ of the Bible. Certain Greeks came to Christ’s disciples and said, “*Sirs, we desire to see Jesus!*” (John 12: 21). Hebrews 2: 9 says “*But we see Jesus!*” HE is the One we need to see!

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