

2001 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the
Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

Homepage: www.lanset.com/carmichael

(916) 483-9318

ELDERS / EVANGELISTS

Glenn H. Reagan - 721-9464; Ron Stewart - 771-2064; C. L. [Vern] Wilson - 961-6944

[<lareagan@lanset.com>](mailto:lareagan@lanset.com)

[<rstewcrr@lanset.com>](mailto:rstewcrr@lanset.com)

[<vernwil@lanset.com>](mailto:vernwil@lanset.com)

DEACONS: Brent Agee - 786-0436; Frank Ayers, 966-4979; Allen Key, 944-8166; Jeffry Pen-
nant, 331-1535; Carl Romine, 773-4402; Bob Sadler, 789-0547; Oliver Sasse, 723-4425;

Bill Schultz, 771-0263; Brad Shuck, 990-0533

May 6th, 2001

THE YEAR "1"

by Jon Quinn

"2,000 years ago, life under Roman rule was bleak and brutal, setting the stage for Christianity." Thus read the message on the cover of the January 8, 2001 issue of U.S. News & World Report. The cover article was entitled *The Year One A.D.* and has a photograph of a sculpted bust of Emperor Augustus. The article within is found on pages 38 through 45.

Of course, the people alive in 1 A.D. did not know it as that. They thought in terms of the founding of the Rome. To them, the calendar read that it was year 745 A.U.C. which was Latin for "founding of the city."

A sixth century monk, Dionysius Exiguus figured out centuries later the year of Jesus' birth and devised a calendar based on his reckoning. Unfortunately, he miscalculated. Jesus was probably already 5 to 7 years old.

It would be big time culture shock if you or I were suddenly dumped into the Roman Empire in "year one." One historian suggested we might find it easier to deal with aliens from the stars than deal with Romans on their own terms.

Augustus was 63 years old in year one. He was 5 foot 5 inches tall and had gallstones, dirty teeth and "a knack for climbing to the top and staying there." He was in the 27th year of his 41 year reign. He brought a good road system and order to the increasingly morally decadent empire. It is these three things; good roads, order (Pax Romana) and the moral decadence that made this era the right time for the coming of the Messiah. The gospel would speedily make its way throughout the Empire. [cont. pg 2]

The people of the empire were overwhelmingly poor. About one tenth of one percent of the people belonged to the elite rich that we see so often in the movies. Below that you had the "upper middle class" which were barely better off than the extreme poor. The upper middle class slept on straw, went bare-foot, and ate pork, vegetables and bread.

Bribery was rampant. Chariot races were popular. A day in the forum would typically begin with wild beast matches where packs of dogs would win over herds of deer; bears could defeat bulls and lions usually finished off tigers. In the afternoon, it would become human versus animals. At times, the humans would be given spears; at others, no training or weapons whatsoever. This was usually justified by saying that the human victims were condemned criminals anyway, but later in the century some of these criminals would be men and women who were simply the "wrong" religion... they were Christians.

The crowd preferred smaller beasts to larger ones. They never wanted it to be over too quickly. The more gore. The better. That's entertainment!

Family life was disintegrating. Augustus had his own "family values" program, not for any kind of moral reasons but rather to keep Rome's population from shrinking. Married men who had three or more children were more likely to advance. Women who become mothers of three gained more say in property rights. The unmarried were penalized. In divorce, fathers always got the children. The age limit for getting married was ten years old. Affection was rarely an ingredient of engagements, but if things worked out it was thought that such could eventually develop.

There are other things that they found quite natural which we would find repugnant. Feeding people to wild animals to the cheers of delight of the masses was not thought of as strange or questionable by most. To take a conquered city's residents; killing all the women and children and taking the males into slavery; was no cause of outrage, but "as natural as water running downhill." A father's tossing an unwanted infant onto a dung heap was completely inoffensive. Children were not considered humans until they walked and talked. (Of course, our modern decision that a baby is not human until he or she is born is just as arbitrary).

Questioning such behavior was not an art of a typical Roman's thought processes. But a new and strange way of looking at the world and others was being born. It would bring justice, honor and love to the forefront. It would speak of human dignity as a characteristic that belonged to everyone; rich or poor; slave or free; male or female. Compassion would no longer be thought of as a foolish weakness. As people heard of it for the first time, there would be different reactions. Some would scoff; but a light would go on for others as they came to realize that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (**John 14:6**).

This article is compatible to the purpose of Gordon Wilson's lessons last Sunday on Early Church History. It helps us to better understand that "fullness of time" in which God culminated His efforts to provide salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ. *[Vern]*

A Service of
Songs - Scriptures - Prayers
Here tonight at 6:00

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

- Sue Claiborne
- Truman Claiborne
- Helen Gray
- Willa Lockett
- Wendell Rapier
- Norma Romine
- Josie Steadman
- Nancy Valine
- Evie Westphal

THOSE WHO ARE TRAVELLING:

The Wilson's were in Glendale for a funeral this past Friday, and now in Corona as maternal caregivers for a few days with Lucille's mother.
Bob Pemberton has returned to the East coast for the next six months.
Gordon Wilson will be gone until the 9th in a gospel meeting

PLEASE PRAY for these, and others you may be aware of, who are sick or away from this church family. **Prayers do avail!**

The Cat

"No matter how much cats fight, there always seems to be plenty of kittens." - **Abraham Lincoln**

"One cat just leads to another." - **Ernest Hemingway**

"Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later." - **Mary Bly**

"There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast." - **Unknown**

"Cats are rather delicate creatures and they are subject to a good many ailments, but I never heard of one who suffered from insomnia." - **Joseph Wood Krutch**

The 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd--**THAT'S RELATIONSHIP**
 I shall not want--**THAT'S SUPPLY**
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures--**THAT'S REST**
 He leadeth me beside still waters--**THAT'S REFRESHMENT**
 He restoreth my soul--**THAT'S HEALING**
 He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness--**THAT'S GUIDANCE**
 For His name sake--**THAT'S PURPOSE**
 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death--**THAT'S TESTING**
 I will fear no evil--**THAT'S PROTECTION**
 For thou art with me--**THAT'S FAITHFULNESS**
 Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me--**THAT'S DISCIPLINE**
 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies--**THAT'S HOPE**
 Thou anointest my head with oil--**THAT'S CONSECRATION**
 My cup runneth over--**THAT'S ABUNDANCE**
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life--**THAT'S BLESSING**
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord--**THAT'S SECURITY**
 Forever--**THAT'S ETERNITY**

May God give you the strength and courage to keep your Shepherd in sight!

---Sent in by a faithful reader.

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**NOTICE TO ALL CHILDREN:**  
**Next Sunday is Mother's Day**  
**But remember to honor her every day of the year!**

# DEMANDS OF OUR KING

By David J. Riggs

## I. IT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF GREAT LEADERS TO MAKE DEMANDS ON THEIR FOLLOWERS.

- A. During his reign, King Frederick William III of Prussia found himself in trouble. Wars had been costly, and, in trying to build the nation, he was seriously short of finances. He couldn't disappoint his people, and to surrender to the enemy was unthinkable.
  1. After careful reflection, he decided to ask the women of Prussia to bring their gold and silver jewelry to be melted down for their country.
    - a) For each ornament received, he determined to exchange a decoration of iron as a symbol of gratitude.
    - b) Each decoration would be inscribed: "I gave gold for iron, 1813."
  2. The response was overwhelming and, more importantly, the women prized the iron from their king more highly than their former jewelry.
    - a) The reason, of course, was obviously because the pieces of iron represented a greater value to them.
    - b) Their decorations of iron were proof that they had sacrificed for their king and country.
- B. When Winston Churchill became Prime Minister he told the British people that he had nothing to offer them but "blood, toil, tears, and sweat."

## II. THESE WERE DEMANDING LEADERS, BUT JESUS CHRIST IS A THOUSAND TIMES MORE DEMANDING THAN THEY WERE.

- A. Love of country, home, or property cannot stand in the way. Luke 14:33
- B. Riches, wealth, or possessions cannot stand between us and our King. Mark 10:21-25
- C. Something as dear as one's close loved ones cannot stand in the way. Luke 14:26
- D. Even one's own self, or one's own life, cannot stand in the way. Mark 8:34-37

## III. WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE - LAZINESS, FEAR, SELFISHNESS, COUNTRY, MONEY, FAMILY, ONESELF - IT CANNOT STAND BETWEEN US AND OUR KING.

- A. Jesus is not some wishy-washy person coming up to us, hoping to win our favor by saying softly: "Please, may I have a word with you."
- B. He comes to us as the Lord and King. Acts 2:37; 1 Tim 6:14-16
- C. Our King requires obedience. Heb 5:9
- D. He will destroy all enemies in the day of His wrath. Psalms 110:5; Rev 19:15-16

## CONCLUSION:

Let us willingly and freely submit to the demands of our glorious Ruler who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

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SONG AND PRAYER SERVICE TONIGHT AT 6:00