

Stumbling Over the Unborn Christ:

How We Threw the Baby Jesus Out with the Bathwater

By Jonathan O'Toole

“And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offense for both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 8 v14, KJV).

Read the following words carefully to understand how America and the American Religious Experiment, like first century Judaism, has stumbled over Jesus Christ, the Rock of Offense. The following words not only diagnose the problem; they exemplify the way of escape. If you fail to heed this clear warning, Jesus Christ will pay you no heed when you cry out because of the severity of His rod of judgment.

Not long ago, I received two letters. The first was from my attorney, informing me of the dismissal of FACE charges against me in California. I had been charged with “NONVIOLENT PHYSICAL OBSTRUCTION” by Los Angeles D.A. Mario Haider, under a California law which went into effect in January 2003. My crime? Standing on the public sidewalk and taking pictures in public view at the baby butcher shop, for which I was privileged to spend two days in jail.

The other letter was from a certain member of the U.S. House of Representatives in Arizona, asking me (I have never lived in Arizona) to give money to his campaign. He is championing new legislation that would provide federal funds to make equipment available to crisis pregnancy centers in order to show potentially abortive women ultrasound images of their unborn babies. “No woman,” says he, “will have an abortion if she sees an ultrasound of her unborn baby.”

Baby Jesus is Angry

Both letters work together to paint a picture that explains why judgment has come upon America and the form of Christianity that continues to usher in that judgment; form lacking substance: Christianity without the Christ Child.

During the Christmas season this year, as in the past thirty-one years of legalized child slaughter, American Christians made a big show of remembering the Christ child, bowing heads (presumably) along with the shepherds and wise men of old to pay homage to the King of Kings; the salvation of mankind, lying in



Jesus in the womb of Mary

a manger in Bethlehem. It is here that we think we first meet Jesus Christ incarnate, God with us, Emanuel. And we like to think He smiles at us and receives our gifts and hears our songs and delights in them.

He does not. He is angry with us, and in the year 2004 we are under His judgment.

Concurring Natures: The Beginning of the Incarnation

For there is an earlier stage of the incarnation of Christ, before the first Christmas, sometime after the annunciation of the angel Gabriel, when the Holy Ghost came upon the Virgin Mary (known by the early Christians as the “God-bearer” or “theotokos”),

overshadowing her with power, so that she conceived the Son of God (cf. Luke 1:35).

It was then that God was clothed with flesh, as a single celled human being hidden in the womb of his holy mother. We may infer that God became what modern science refers to as a zygote, then a morula, blastocyst, and upon implantation into Mary’s uterine walls, an embryo who would multiply and diversify according to the pre-born stages of human development, in accordance with the plan of God. Further, we may infer that in this zygote dwelt all the fulness of the Godhead, encompassing and containing all of space and time, bodily (cf. Col 2:9).

The Definition of Chalcedon, A.D. 451 described it this way: “We also teach that we apprehend this one and only Christ-Son, Lord, only-begotten — in two natures; and we do

this without confusing the two natures, without transmuting one nature into the other; without dividing them into two separate categories, without contrasting them according to area or function. The distinctiveness of each nature is not nullified by the union. Instead, the “properties” of each nature are conserved and both natures concur in one “person” and in one reality [hypostasis]. They are not divided or cut into two persons, but are together the



Suffer the little children to come unto me...

Unborn Christ: Continued from Page 3

one and only and only-begotten Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

We may not speak biblically of Jesus as partially incarnate, or gradually incarnate. The creeds, specifically the Definition of Chalcedon, and generally the whole testimony of orthodoxy in the history of the Christian church, both Eastern and Western, Catholic and Reformed, forbid parsing or gradation of Christ’s humanity or divinity. Therefore the incarnate Son of God was from the moment of his supernatural conception both fully God and fully man; nothing less.

The Babe Leapt

Worshipping an unborn or pre-born Jesus may sound strange, but it is not alien to the testimony of St. Luke the Physician. For it is in the very first chapter of his gospel, after the Annunciation, where we see the unborn John the Baptist leap with joy in the womb of his mother at the sound of the Virgin Mary’s voice, so that we are told his mother Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost and proclaimed, “Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that **the mother of my Lord** should come to me?”

Here the Scripture paints for us a curious and wonderful picture indeed! An unborn Nazirite, and the greatest of the prophets, displaying with all the might of his six month old body and soul the highest emotion of spiritual joy at the incarnation of his Lord. And his mother Elizabeth, that maidservant of the Lord, saluting with a holy joy that verily jumps out of the text, her cousin as the mother of her Lord God, *even before Jesus was born!*

Recent images of babies smiling, laughing, and crying in the womb drive home to the modern mind the point that the Holy Ghost was communicating through St. Luke almost two thousand years before technological advances would allow us to glimpse with our eyes the reality he so poignantly described.

Human Dignity and the Work of Sanctification

Here are the words of Irenaeus, disciple of Polycarp, disciple of John, disciple of Jesus: “...*He came to save all through himself; all, that is who through him are born into God, infants, children, boys, young men and old. Therefore he passed through every stage of life: he was made an infant for infants, sanctifying infancy; a child among children, sanctifying those of this age, an example also to them of filial affection, righteousness and obedience; a young man amongst young men, an example to them, and sanctifying them to the Lord. So also amongst the older men; that he might be a perfect master for all, not solely in regard to the revelation of the truth, but also in respect of each stage of life. And then he came even unto death that he might be ‘the firstborn from the dead, holding the pre-eminence among all’ (Col. I. 18), the Prince of Life, before all and preceding all.*” [Emphasis mine.](Second-Century Bishop Irenaeus, the Sanctification of each Stage of Life: Adv. haer. II. Xxii. 4)The word used by Irenaeus to designate the first stage of human life is preserved for us only in a Latin translation, not in his original Greek, and has come down to us in English as “infant.” It is of note that while “fetus” is usually used to refer to the developing unborn human, especially after the first trimester; the word carries with it, according to Merriam-Webster, the connotation of having been “newly delivered,” whereas “infant” as a Latin derivative is more inclusive, meaning simply “a child in the first stage of life.” In the absence of evidence to the contrary, and the original Greek, we are obliged both by the rules of interpretation and the stated purpose of Irenaeus (to emphasize the sanctity of every stage of life) to assume the broadest natural meaning of the text. That is all to say that Irenaeus understood sanctification (making holy) as something which was **accomplished by God through becoming Man and thereby dignifying the human condition forever** (past, present and future) with the Image of God.

Piss-Poor Priorities

Returning to the two letters I received this morning, let us briefly examine both of them, in the light of the sanctifying work of the Unborn Christ.

The first letter represents the state of California’s first awkward attempt to incarcerate an abortion abolitionist for reporting the facts about the homicides at the abortion clinic, as though the capturing of light on the film of a camera represented a “physical obstruction.” No one should be surprised that California has stretched its bloody arm so deliberately against abortion abolitionists.

But the confusing reaction of pro-lifers does explain why the Unborn Christ is angry with pro-life Americans.

Katie Short, my attorney from California’s Life Legal Defense Foundation, very graciously helped me get the court to drop the warrant for my arrest. She said that trying to call photography physical obstruction was “manifestly absurd.” Later, Survivors founder Jeff White turned my case over to Atty. Colette Wilson, because of her availability and closer proximity. Colette was also very helpful in convincing the D.A. to eventually drop the charges.

But both Colette and Katie were single-minded in their determination to discourage me from pursuing the Abortion Cams Project or opting for a jury trial. The following comments from Katie in a November 30th email are helpful in understanding why the Unborn Christ is angry with the pro-life movement:

“One indirect effect of the abortioncam project is endangering the defensive use of videos by pro-lifers...at all clinics...”

“...we constantly fight the accusation that we are using the videos to intimidate women. [The] abortioncam project gives the pro-aborts just about all the ammo they need to make their case.

“To tell the truth, Jonathan, I just don’t see what abortioncams hopes to accomplish, period. Even less can I see what it hopes to accomplish that justifies the risks, not just to yourselves, but to all pro-lifers. I am open to hearing what you think the project does that is worth the problems it causes and will cause. But as matters now stand, I concur with Colette that time spent defending that activity

Continued on next page

is not in anyone's best interests."

Here we have expounded for us a worldview in which the interests of pro-lifers, who theoretically might lose their ability to have cameras to defend themselves, along with the need to avoid being seen to be making things uncomfortable for homicidal mothers, all being weighed against the interests of unborn babies who are being legally ripped apart every day by the thousands. Doubt is then cast on the efficacy of the whole project.

The Abortion Cams Project: a Neglected Deterrent

Yet the fact that the Abortion Cams Project, properly implemented, does indeed deter abortion is a fact that hardly needs explicit justification. Look in the phone book and you will see that every abortion clinic advertises its services as "confidential" and "anonymous." Most people seeking abortions are trying to cover up something they're embarrassed or inconvenienced by. The fact that abortioncams has the capacity to pierce that confidentiality and do away with the illusion of anonymity is easily evident to anyone with at least a third grade education. Add to this the historic responsibility of a journalist to communicate newsworthy facts about human beings being killed, and the intense anger of the abortion industry at the very idea of Abortion Cams, and you would logically expect people who define themselves as champions of the sanctity of life to start flocking in droves to abortion clinics with cameras in hand.

Now dead in the water and censored by the Federal Government (to the intense delight of both radical feminists and pro-lifers), the Abortion Cams Project was as impossible for pro-lifers to justify socially as it was easy for anyone who believes the unborn to be worthy of defense to justify logically (and biblically, cf. Ephesians 5:11), even at the expense of being perceived as mean by the pro-choice world, the rebellious civil magistrate, and the abortive "mothers".

Pro-life Money Serves the Ego of Pro-lifers; not the Needs of Unborn Babies!

It is the shameful truth, that in the face of intense social pressure the pro-life movement once again turned its face away from what remains a legal tactic; one that if properly implemented in just one city could bring the abortion industry there to a grinding halt. And so they have gone about laboring for thirty-one years, grasping at legal straws, pandering to the leaders of the rebellion, **raising untold millions of dollars**, adopting the worldview of the enemy and ignoring the real options available to deter the slaughter of unborn boys and girls. And this has made the Unborn Jesus very angry with whatever you want to call it: the pro-life movement, American Evangelicalism, American Conservatism, American Christianity, or **the Whore of Babylon**.

Which brings us to the second letter I received this morning, which hardly bears mentioning but for the sake of the **intense and lethal denial** that has overtaken we the people. The honorable representative from Arizona tells us that the legislative remedy that will lead to the abolition of legalized abortion is sonograms that will help women make the right choice. So we see the nature of the dark rebellion in this government of the people: whichever side you are on, Republican or Democrat, pro-life or pro-choice, it all comes down to pandering to the choice of the homicidal woman, at the expense of the innocent child. Anyone who has spent any significant amount of time around an abortion clinic knows that most of the women who go for abortions in the year 2003 know exactly what they are doing and who they're doing it to and they don't care and that a sonogram would do exactly nothing to address the current problem which is not a lack of crisis pregnancy solutions in America but is instead **a satanic determination among American Christians, pro-lifers and their representatives in government** to fight tooth and nail to maintain *at all costs* the political, economic, and ecclesiastical status quo.

Therefore to those who are not ashamed to call themselves Christians, yet persist in scorning the pre-born as though they were neither worthy of the consideration given to other stages of human life, nor yet even worthy of the consideration given to their own common household pets and other beasts; the Spirit of God bears witness with the Unborn Christ against that heresy and shouts "Anathema!"

JESUS VERSUS JESUS

When almost thirty-one years ago America legalized abortion, **America declared war against the Unborn Jesus** and those precious ones He has sanctified unto Himself. We gouged, as it were, the apple of His eye. We have thereby incurred the wrath of the same stumbling block that felled Judaism, Caesar-worship, Polytheism and every false image of god. Every politico-religious entity that opposed the revelation of the fullness of the godhead in the humanity and divinity of Christ Jesus has been destroyed... The same stumbling block shall fell the present delusion of American Christianity. For we Americans are revealing to the world a version of Christianity in which a god rules the universe who cares more about the welfare of those who are born than he does about the pre-born. This amounts to nothing other than revealing a Father God who loved his only begotten Son less in the period between the Incarnation and the Advent, than He did subsequently. Here we borrow from Dr. Luther to say that those who make their love for their neighbor contingent upon their neighbor's being born, and consequently make the Father's love for the Son contingent upon the birth of Jesus, harmonize with the Gospel as well as the ass with the nightingale. Indeed, this doctrine is the evil fruit of a reprobate mind; a satanic lie. For, which cannot be overemphasized, we may not say that the unborn Jesus was fully God and partially man, nor partially God, nor gradually Man. The full counsel of scripture and Church history agree: the Incarnation is all or nothing. Therefore the Image of God on our unborn neighbors demands the same.

The Serpent and The Woman: Paradise Regained

Our great North American civilization would do well to learn from the mistakes of the former great civilizations of the New World, the South Americans who sacrificed their young children to giant serpent gods and dragons. When their iniquity was complete, God answered them with judgment at the hand of Spanish conquistadors. The same iron rod of the Son of Man is hurtling toward We the People with great fury. But ours is a God who tempers his judgment with longsuffering. Look at the familiar image of the Lady of Guadalupe. A cultural image for American Hispanics (I saw Guadalupe stickers on cars at abortion clinics in California), and a uniquely Catholic image as far as most Protestants (who have thrown the Baby Jesus out with the bathwater) are concerned.

This vision bears reexamining by Catholics and Protestants alike. Like the woman in the heavenlies in the Revelation, clothed with the sun, or the woman of Isaiah 26, the Lady of Guadalupe is at war with the spiritual principalities of idolatry and child sacrifice. She is the Church of God: the pillar and foundation of all truth. She receives with open arms all who answer her call to arms and fight alongside her, standing on her Son. Depicted thus we see what is humanly speaking, impossible and contradictory. The infant child supports his mother, with his tiny arms. It is the same Child who holds all of reality in his hands, and who offers comfort and aid to those who show kindness to the least of his brethren, the slaughtered unborn.

There are two alternatives in Christ: bear fruit or be consumed. In the fight to abolish legalized abortion, there is a thirty-one year track record of struggling and groaning in what at one time seemed to be the pangs of childbirth, but as Isaiah so aptly depicts them, gave birth only to wind (cf. Isaiah 26:12-19). Let us renew then our determination in Christ to do justice and demand redress of grievances, without compromising one iota with the serpent that seeks to devour God's inheritance. In this way, we model the simple obedience of the mother of our Lord, and thereby exchange our heritage in the disobedience of our mother Eve for the glory of the Bride of Christ.

Not worshipping Caesar as God became a terrible top priority for all true Christians who would not blaspheme the Holy Ghost during the times before the subjection of the Roman Empire to the dominion of Jesus Christ. It set them in deadly opposition to a government determined to enforce its decrees at the edge of a cruel sword. Their example of obedience unto death, by the power of God in Christ, purchased a name for them in the Kingdom of Heaven. They have already regained the paradise lost. But what of the present generation?

Not worshipping the American Christian consensus that reveals through government an idolatrous image of god and a false Christ must become our first priority if we Americans are to remain in Christ and not be cut off and our earthly dwellings razed like Jerusalem. For, and I will be so bold as to paraphrase Paul, if God did not spare the natural branches who stumbled over the grown man Jesus Christ, how shall he spare those unnatural branches who have stumbled over the pre-born Christ?

An Easier Way of Escape: The Creator's Rights Party

There is only one graceful way of escape for the American Christian: confess the sin of collaborating with the enemies of the sanctified unborn, and confess the sin of failing to **organize to fight for The Creator's rights**. Then repent and determine in your heart to find a way in wisdom to oppose legalized abortion as God's top priority. Plead with God in fervent prayer for help toward this end and plead the shed blood of Jesus as covering for past negligence. God promises that if we stand in Him, he will provide us with a way of escape, without suffering us to be tempted beyond what we can endure. We have his living Word on it. Therefore with King David, kiss the Son, lest He be angry. Join The Creator's Rights Party, subscribe to the Abortion Abolitionist and covenant with us to seek lawful severance of the political bonds which have enslaved us to the present rebellion, the present national idolatry. Above all, see to it that you walk circumspectly, to avoid stumbling over our Unborn Lord, and incurring the wrath of that great assembly of the faithful, who is the mother of all true believers, the Church, His Body.



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