

# UNMASKING the Carnival

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The Edict of Milan, February 313... gave Christians living in the Roman Empire a legal right to exist; though it is incorrect to think it made Christian faith the official religion of the empire; as it is incorrect to think those late-comers of Rome were the only Christians... ignoring the Church already in the north, south, and east. Pope Gregory (590–604) decided fasting would start on Ash Wednesday. Carnival was set before the fasting. **Carnival**, carnevale — means “to put away the meat.” Put away what meat? Oh! A custom during Carnival was to mock the ruling class using masks and disguises. Carnival is derived from the ancient Roman festivals of Saturnalia and Bacchanalia; events inherited from Nimrod’s ancient Babylon.

Although liturgical calendars vary, Lent is in the Roman rite, in the Orthodox rite, in the Anglican rite, the Lutheran rite, and the Methodist rite — although it is **not** in the bible. Fat Thursday; Fat Tuesday; Pancake Tuesday all vary in the local culture; but don’t worry: **Jesus was crucified on Good Wednesday** any way. In the Roman church, singing of Glory to God, and Alleluia / Praise God... is omitted in the liturgy during Lent, along with studying the word to show yourself approved unto God... which is omitted every day of the year.



In his preface to: The Young Church in Action ©1955, J B Phillips wrote:

“It is impossible to spend several months in close study of the remarkable short book, commonly known as the **Acts of the Apostles**, without being profoundly stirred and to be honest, disturbed. The reader is stirred because he is seeing the Church, **the real thing**, in action for the first time in human history. The newborn church, as vulnerable as any human child, having neither money... influence nor power in the ordinary sense, is setting forth joyfully and courageously to win the pagan world for God through Christ. The young Church, like all young creatures, is appealing in its simplicity and single-heart. In the book of Acts, we see the Church in its first youth, valiant and unspoiled -- a body of ordinary men and women joined in an unconquerable fellowship never seen on earth. Yet we cannot help feeling disturbed as well as moved,

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for this is the Church as it was meant to be, vigorous and flexible; these are the days before it ever became fat and short of breath through prosperity, or muscle-bound by over-organization. These men and women did not make "acts of faith," they believed; they did not "say their prayers," they really prayed. They did not hold conferences on psychosomatic medicine, they simply healed the sick.



But if they were uncomplicated and naive by modern standards we have regrettably to admit that they were open on the God-ward side in a way that is almost unknown today. No one can read the book of Acts without being convinced that there is Someone here at work besides mere human beings.

J B Phillips concludes: Perhaps because in their very simplicity, perhaps because of their readiness to believe, to obey, to give, to suffer, and if need be to die, the Spirit of God found what surely He must always be seeking - a fellowship of men and women so united in love and faith, that He can work in them and through them with the minimal hindrance. As a result, it is a matter of sober historical fact that never before has any small body of ordinary people so moved the world that their enemies could say, with tears of rage in their eyes, that these "have turned the world upside down"! (Acts 17:6) To the enemies of the early church of Acts, perhaps J B Phillips should have corrected them and said, didn't you mean: **these have turned the world right side up**?! After all, it is the creepy church, who loves the artificial traditions and it's pennies from parishioners, who again turned it all upside down.



And I said, **What is it?**

And he said, This is a measuring container that goes forth. Moreover, this is their characteristic appearance... through all the earth. Behold, there was lifted up a cover of lead. And there sat a woman inside the measuring container. And he said, this is evil and he pushed her down inside the container and put the lead cover over the opening. Then I lifted up my eyes, and looked, and behold, there came two women / hopefully faithful and truth, with the wind in their wings -- [they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the measuring container between the earth and the heaven.](#)



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Then I said to the angel who talked to me, Where are they taking that container? And he said unto me, To the land of Babylon, the great... to build a house for it; and when the house is ready, the container will be placed there on its own pedestal -- **Zechariah 5:6-11**.



And you may wonder, **What is this all about?**

Well, prophet Jeremiah had the answer: Because you were glad, because you rejoiced, O you destroyers of My heritage, because you have grown fat as a heifer grazing, and bellow as bulls...your mother-city will be sorely perplexed; behold, the butt... of the nations, a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert. Because of the wrath of the LORD, she will not be inhabited, but she will be wholly desolate: everyone who passes by Babylon the great -- the Mother of whores... will be astonished and hiss at all her plagues. [Put yourselves in array on every side... against Babylon, the great: all of you who bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows... for she has sinned against the LORD](#) -- **Jeremiah 50:10-15**.



So, someday the party will be over... and Babylon the great... will end up as target practice for the nations. Wow! No wonder the Lord said: **Come out of her My people!** -- **Revelation 18**.

Though Babylon the great should ascend to heaven -- in her arrogance and her dreams, and though she should fortify her lofty fortress, yet spoilers will come against her from Me, says the LORD. For the LORD will destroy Babylon the great, and the sound of a cry from Babylon! The sound of terrible destruction, like waves of a rushing tsunami, and He will silence her mighty voice: For the Destroyer has come against her, against Babylon the great; her mighty men will be captured, every one of their bows is shattered: for the LORD God of rewards, He will surely repay. And I will make her princes and her wise advisors drunk, her rulers and her officials, and merchants: **and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, says the King**, whose name is the LORD of hosts - **Jeremiah 51:53-57**.