

# REDEMPTION PLAN

By

John A Greed

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- <sup>1</sup> "Let there be light!" And there was  
light:  
Creation thus began.  
Eternal God brought forth the world,  
And last of all made Man.
- <sup>2</sup> And Man was then in tune with God  
In perfect harmony.  
"O, may Man keep this happy state!"  
Alas, 'twas not to be.
- <sup>3</sup> For Man, and Woman too, his mate,  
Let Satan show them wrong,  
And chose to change God's holy Plan:  
So starts the tale of fallen man -  
A tale as sad as long.
- <sup>4</sup> No longer then in tune with God,  
Man's banner was unfurled -  
But ruined man, a ruined Plan,  
And hence, a ruined world:



- 9 Yet there is one God-fearing man:  
On him I will depend -  
Use him and his small family  
To keep the race from end."
- 10 The Earth was different in those days  
- A younger, hotter world -  
And high above the sky a mass  
Of water always swirled.
- 11 Not heavy cloud, but thicker far:  
While on the Earth below  
Rain was unknown. There came a mist  
Which made the plants to grow.
- 12 No-one had ever built an Ark!  
But God told Noah, "Haste:  
Soon there will come a thing called  
Rain -  
There is no time to waste!"
- 13 Noah, not knowing what he did,  
Soon built a giant craft  
As big as a Cunarder - while  
No doubt the people laughed.

14 They'd never seen the like - and nor  
had Noah!  
"And now where's he going to with that  
big boa?  
And the rabbit and the pig and the  
chimpanzee?"  
But he took aboard two each - and his  
family.

15 And then the water-mass crashed down  
Upon the giant boat.  
The Earth was drowned, but - miracle! -  
That Noah's Ark would float!

16 The flood abated. There survived  
Four women and four men  
With beasts of every species, for  
To start the world again.

17 (It seems that when it drained away  
It even formed a new sea-shore  
And made the Continental Shelf -  
The sea was deeper than before.)

18 Now only clouds remained on high.  
God set His rainbow there  
And made a promise to mankind:-



- 22 God chose Abram, a man of faith,  
and told him, "Move away:  
A Promised Land I'll give your sons  
- Your many sons - some day".
- 23 So Abram (Abraham) obeyed.  
As yet he had no son.  
But when he was a hundred years  
Of age, God gave him one.
- 24 Young Isaac meant so much to him  
But God meant far more still -  
He'd e'en have given Isaac back  
If that had been God's will.
- 25 So Isaac grew, and married: soon  
Two sons played round his feet.  
But in due course the elder was  
Supplanted, by deceit.
- 26 Young Jacob the deceiver took  
His elder brother's right:  
The birthright and the blessing - and  
Then fled from out his sight!

- 27 Then Jacob was deceived. He served  
For seven years to win  
The hand of lovely Rachel - but  
Alas! Oh, what a sin!
- 28 The wedding feast, the bride all veiled:  
Festivities into the night prevailed:  
But then in the morning, beside him in  
bed,  
Not Rachel. Her big sister Leah  
instead!
- 29 But things could well have been much  
worse  
Than how they were on that first morn:  
For Jacob married Rachel too,  
And in due time twelve sons were born.
- 30 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,  
Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali and Dan,  
Joseph (father of Ephraim and Manasseh)  
Asher, Gad and little Benjamin.
- 31 Now Joseph was Dad's favourite  
(As Rachel's eldest son)  
But all the others hated him  
And said, "What can be done?"





37 He recognised his brothers and  
- Forgiving soul! - said, "See:  
The land of Goshen, fertile ground,  
Is in my territory:  
Send fetch our Dad and all the clan  
And come and live near me!"

38 And so to Goshen Israel came  
And stayed four hundred years -  
Until the Pharaoh of the land  
Showed publicly his fears:-

39 "These Israelites have grown too great  
- All their male babes must die.  
Reduce their clan to servile state  
- To slavery, say I".

40 But God had chosen Moses (who  
Just then was three months old)  
To lead the nation from this state  
To where the far hills rolled.

41 The mother of Moses in spite of the law  
Hid him in the rushes and nobody  
caught her;  
But then he was found and was taken home  
By no less a person than - Pharaoh's  
daughter.

42 So Moses grew up in the Palace for  
The space of forty years, then had to  
flee  
From men who sought his life, and he  
became  
A dweller in the wilderness, until  
God saw him ready for his special  
task:-

43 "Tell Pharaoh: Let God's people go  
Into the wilderness  
To sacrifice to Him." But then  
Pharaoh applied duress:-

44 "Make harder all this people's work,  
So they've no time to think!"  
But then the river turned to blood  
And fish died - and did stink.

45 And then a second plague -of frogs -  
And then a third, of lice;  
For Pharaoh would not let them go  
To offer sacrifice.

46 Still he was hard of heart: so came  
Flies, cattle-plague, and boils;  
Hail, locusts, three days' darkness too  
Yet still the nation toils

- <sup>47</sup> For Pharaoh will not let them go:  
Until, worst plague of all,  
The death of all the eldest sons  
Upon the land did fall.
- <sup>48</sup> The Israelites had heard God's Word:  
"Unleavened bread, lamb roast:  
Eat it and put the blood upon  
The lintel and door post -
- <sup>49</sup> Angel of Death, pass over, where  
You see the blood displayed:  
Harm not those folk: they substitute  
The lamb: their price is paid".
- <sup>50</sup> Pharaoh and Egypt cried aghast  
"Up, Israelites, be gone!"  
For death had come to every door  
That had no blood upon.
- <sup>51</sup> So Israel fled toward the sea  
- The way they did not know -  
And Egypt gave them gold and jewels  
As long as they would go!

52 But hark the sound of chariots  
Speed after them amain!  
The Pharaoh's heart is hardened yet -  
"Go fetch them back again!"

53 The sea ahead - the foe behind  
Draws near - stretch out the Rod  
of God!  
At this, God draws the waters back:  
The Israelites pass on, dryshod.

54 The enemy in hot pursuit  
In chariots try to ride,  
But in the mud they all stick fast  
And perish in the tide.

55 So Israel in the wilderness  
Began a chapter new:  
Sustained by God on "manna" they  
In strength and wisdom grew,

56 And God began to teach His Law.  
Moses, to whom He spoke,  
Received two tablets made of stone  
(Tablets he later broke).

- 5<sup>7</sup> Morality, hygiene and health,  
And how to worship too  
And how man could come back to God  
- God was remaining true.
- 5<sup>8</sup> All this and more was in the Law  
Which God provided then.  
The basic points were on the tablets  
Numbered 1 to 10:-
- 5<sup>9</sup> No other gods; no images;  
Take not God's name in vain;  
Observe the Sabbath too: these four  
To God all appertain.
- 6<sup>0</sup> Honour your parents; do not kill;  
Nor make adultery;  
Nor steal; nor lie; nor covet: six  
To fellow-man apply.
- 6<sup>1</sup> Moses the great lawgiver wrote  
God's precepts in a book -  
A legislation codified  
To which the race should look:







- 7<sup>2</sup> The wise king died. A son of his,  
King Rehoboam by name,  
Ascended to the throne - will he  
Increase the nation's fame?
- 7<sup>3</sup> He followed bad advice, and men  
Raised cry, "We are not thine! -  
'Tis war!" The tribe of Judah stayed  
Faithful to David's line.
- 7<sup>4</sup> But most of Israel's other sons  
Chose otherwise, of old:  
Their new king led them far astray  
To worship calves of gold.
- 7<sup>5</sup> This kingdom, now outside God's Plan,  
For aye could not endure:  
They lost the land - the Promised Land  
But now no more secure:
- 7<sup>6</sup> They lost identity - God left  
Them scattered through the world.  
But round the Judah men God's hand  
Protectingly was curled.

- 77 Their tiny kingdom kept alight  
The flame to fire God's Plan  
Unfolding down the centuries,  
Redeeming man by Man.
- 78 Before this Plan bears fruit there's  
still  
Ten centuries to go.  
And man, not knowing God's design,  
Oft let the flame burn low;
- 79 For gradually, as years rolled by,  
Though faith went up and down,  
The nation turned its back on God -  
The flame of faith sank down...
- 80 God sent His warning messengers  
- Men laughed and called them odd -  
But wicked kings and careless men  
Had lost the love of God.
- 81 The prophets warned: "Disaster comes  
Unless Israel repent!"  
But man was not concerned to know  
Why these men had been sent.

- 82 (Now Romulus and Remus founded  
Rome about this time:  
Much later we shall see the power  
Of Rome begin to climb.)
- 83 Disaster came. Invaders came  
And forthwith they attacked.  
The Temple - burnt. Jerusalem,  
The holy city - sacked.
- 84 The nation driven off to be  
- *Misericordia* -  
Exiles in strange land far away  
In Babylonia.
- 85 Full threescore years and ten the land  
Lay desolate and bare:  
The Promised Land, from God's own hand  
- And now, they were not there.
- 86 But Ezra, Nehemiah and  
A band of other men  
Returned there after all that time  
To build it up again.

- 87 The nation had been purified  
- To an extent at least -  
The land was rested too, before  
They came back from the East.
- 88 Despite their many setbacks they  
Rebuilt the city wall.  
The Temple, too, they built again,  
Though it was only small.
- 89 They offered sacrifices to  
Great God as theretofore:  
The daily lambs - and now the land  
Began to live once more.
- 90 The prophets had foretold defeat,  
And this had all come true:  
But they had other prophecies  
Of what's in God's purview:-
- 91 A message of Redemption Plan -  
A special Lamb of God:  
In Bethlehem - of David's line -  
A man - yet he would be divine -  
It all seemed very odd.

- 92 'Tis certain no-one understood,  
And yet they wrote it down:  
"Of David's line" - so all felt sure  
That there would be a king once more  
To wear the royal crown.
- 93 The prophets said not Crown but Lamb:  
A sacrifice. How can this be?  
God has begun to... there is still  
Five centuries before we see.
- 94 All we like sheep have gone astray,  
Turned every one to his own way;  
And the Lord has laid on Him  
The iniquity of us all.
- 95 God had begun to show His Plan  
As men grew ready to receive  
The Plan to bring men back to God  
For every man who will believe.
- 96 The nation of the Judah men,  
Or Jews, as they became,  
Faced tyrants cruel and battles long:  
Apocryphal their fame

- 97 But many years one family  
- The Maccabees - led out  
This remnant of the chosen race  
With courage and redoubt
- 98 To fight for God a holy war  
Against the tyrants' powers -  
Because the tyrants gave command:  
"Serve not your God, but ours".
- 99 By them the flame was kept alive  
Till they were told they could  
- Since so resolved to fight for Him -  
Serve any God they would.
- 100 The Roman power was growing strong.  
It seemed good to the Jews  
To make alliance then with Rome -  
There seemed not much to lose.
- 101 The Roman power was growing strong,  
And stronger every year.  
- What is this tramp of marching men  
And horsemen that I hear?

- 102 The Roman power has overrun  
An Empire vast and wide  
From Spain and Britain in the West  
Right to the Red Sea's side.
- 103 So once again beneath the thumb  
Of an external power  
The Jewish nation asks aloud  
"How long before God's hour?"
- 104 We have religious freedom, yes -  
But there's a puppet king  
Not of the line of David - where  
Is God's own man with talents rare  
As men of old did sing?"
- 105 Meanwhile in a stable a baby was born  
And laid in a manger there. Jesus His  
name.  
An angel foretold Him. Now humbly He  
came:  
A Bethlehem stable - the first  
Christmas morn!





111 For no-one could find fault in Him  
Because in Him was none:  
In Him they met a sinless man -  
The first and only one.

112 But not without a struggle was  
He God's one perfect man:  
For Satan tried to neutralise  
God's great Redemption Plan.

113 Throughout the ages Satan had  
Been watching all along  
To see that men in every age  
Consistently did wrong.

114 But now for Satan crisis comes:  
He's never seen the like  
Of this man Jesus on the Earth:  
"What's my best way to strike?"

115 Jesus was in the wilderness.  
"Hullo," says friendly voice.  
It's Satan, come to tempt Him to  
An outside-God's-Plan choice.

116 Doubt, lack of faith, the devil tries:  
Jesus rejects this bait.  
"You're tough," Satan acknowledges:  
"Look, let's co-operate!"

117 Jesus will stand for no such wiles  
And tells him, "Get thee hence!"  
So He remained the perfect man  
Who gives God no offence.

118 And so the people followed Him,  
And gathered where He spoke.  
He taught them all, "Repent; believe,"  
Not "Cast off Roman yoke".

119 "Repent? That means be sorry for  
The wrongs which I have done:  
I can't see this chap leading us  
Against Rome's garrison."

120 Some folk believe in politics  
And some believe in gold;  
But Jesus taught, "Believe in Me"  
- Look: see God's Plan unfold:-

121 "God loved the world so much that He  
gave  
His only begotten Son:  
That everyone who believes in Him  
Should not perish  
But have everlasting life."

122 He had large crowds of followers,  
But chose twelve men as special  
friends  
To be with Him and maybe see  
More clearly just what God intends.

123 That's Peter, Andrew, Matthew, John,  
Philip, Bartholemew,  
Two Jameses, Thomas, Thaddeus,  
Simon - and Judas too.

124 From Bethlehem - of David's line -  
- Divine, although true man:  
At last there is unfolding here  
God's whole Redemption Plan.

125 But many men would not accept:  
"We want a warrior-king  
To free us from the Romans - not  
What this strange man would bring".



- 131 But this was Friday: urgency  
Prevailed, because next day  
Was Sabbath of the Passover  
- That time when God did slay
- 132 All the Egyptians' firstborn sons -  
They kept the feast each year  
And ate a lamb, and wondered much  
When God would interfere
- 133 To free them from the Roman yoke.  
Oh, they were quite sincere:  
They sought a king - but "Jesus? He's  
A babbler - oh, dear, dear".
- 134 And so He died upon the cross  
As if He'd been a man of vice:  
The foretold special Lamb of God -  
Passover Lamb and sacrifice.
- 135 "All we like sheep have gone astray,  
Turned every one to his own way;  
And the Lord has laid on Him  
The iniquity of us all."

- 136 A being human yet divine.  
God has come down to man.  
To put man back in tune with God  
Through His Redemption Plan.
- 137 As if He'd been a man of vice  
He died: this was His Plan.  
God died for mankind's wrongs that day  
- Was killed in place of man.
- 138 He still remained the Sinless One  
Yet bore the sins of man.  
Now how will Satan cope with that?  
He knows he never can!  
"The woman's seed shall bruise  
the serpent's head."  
It was foretold.
- 139 God's Law told rules of sacrifice,  
A substitution lamb:  
Jesus was so: the Lamb of God  
For sons of Abraham
- 140 And not for them alone - He said  
"God loved the *world*, and gave  
His Son, that all men who believe  
In Him, He now will save."

- 41 - "Do you believe in anything?  
Believe in Me today.  
You seek the way for man's return  
To God? I am the Way."
- 42 His friends had never understood.  
To them this seemed like doom.  
And yet they took His body down  
And placed it in a tomb.
- 43 After the feast a woman came  
Still weeping in despair  
With spices for the body, but -  
The body wasn't there.
- 44 The risen Lord Jesus,  
Once dead, now alive,  
Was out of the tomb, and  
He saw her arrive.
- 45 And for the space of forty days  
He met them frequently,  
And spoke with them upon the road  
And by Lake Galilee

- 146 And other places, showing them  
That they were not alone;  
They found out too He was no ghost  
But had real flesh and bone.
- 147 Eventually departing  
To go back to His home  
His kingdom (for He is a king) -  
And still some men were asking Him  
"Now shall we throw off Rome?"
- 148 But, knowing better, He had told  
That, though He had to go,  
His "Comforter" would come to them  
To comfort them below.
- 149 Another promise, too, they had:-  
One day He would return  
As king, in glory and in power -  
"We think it's soon, but it's an hour  
That no man can discern".
- 150 He will come like a thief in the night:  
Come in glory with judgment and power  
- Man will be unprepared in that hour  
As he is for the thief in the night.



151 Ten days they waited, then there came  
In cloven tongues of fire  
The Spirit of the Living God,  
Transforming them entire:

152 The Spirit gave them courage, faith,  
And understanding too;  
As soon as He had come on them  
They knew what they must do:-

153 Out to the crowded market square -  
Their boldness contrasting  
With how they'd been, they told the  
crowd,  
"You crucified the King!"

154 The Spirit worked a mighty work  
Among the throng that day:  
Out of the crowd that heard God's news  
Three thousand chose God's Way.

155 And many leaders in the Church  
Objected once again -  
But this was a God-given thing  
Which they could not restrain.

- 156 Imprisonment had no effect  
    (The prisoners were set free)  
    - A deacon then was stoned to death,  
      First of the company
- 157 Of martyrs, laying down their lives  
    For following the Way.  
    There have been many since that time,  
      And still are some today.
- 158 One of the chief opponents,  
    A young man, name of Saul,  
    Received a confrontation  
      From God the all-in-all,
- 159 For God had chosen this young man  
    To have a special call,  
    And he became a leading saint.  
      He's better known as Paul.
- 160 See how God geared all to His Plan:  
    The Roman yoke spread wide -  
    State frontiers stood open when  
      The Lord was crucified.

- 161 Thus Paul made several voyages  
Telling the Way abroad,  
And Churches grew in several states;  
Though some men said, "It's fraud".
- 162 Without Rome, this could not have been  
- Nor when her power had gone.  
It seems God chose the *only* time  
When He could send His Son.
- 163 Paul - and some others - preached the  
news  
Both near and far from home.  
Paul lastly reached the centre of  
The then known world, in Rome.
- 164 The persecution which arose  
In old Jerusalem  
Made many converts flee - but see:  
They took the news with them.
- 165 So far and wide in many lands  
God's folk began to meet  
- And then the Jewish nation's hopes  
were ended in defeat:

- 166 The Roman arms put Jewry down,  
The Temple was destroyed,  
Jerusalem was sacked - again -  
Rome's soldiers were deployed
- 167 To clear resistance from the land.  
- See how the nation flees,  
Never to gather there again  
For nineteen centuries.
- 168 The wand'ring Jew, condemned by man  
To move from state to state to state,  
To suffer ghettos, envy, hate,  
And plots that would annihilate:  
They had no state - no Promised Land -  
Till 1948.
- 169 The Bible says, shortly before  
The ending of the age,  
The scattered Jew at last will then  
Regain his heritage.
- 170 But now the Christians more and more  
Felt persecution's hand  
As Satan bred discouragements  
To daunt the little band

- 171 - And now the Christian Church was  
told:  
"The Emperor on high  
In Rome: he is the mighty god.  
You'll worship him - or die".
- 172 And some who had professed the faith  
And been alright before  
Preferred to serve the Emperor  
On hearing lions roar,
- 173 But many went out - praising God -  
To their eternal home  
Via this public spectacle  
- The lions' den at Rome.
- 174 Their lack of fear of grisly death  
Left some men so impressed  
New converts came and found the Way:  
The Church withstood the test
- 175 And grew in numbers - yet remained  
A persecuted band:  
And so a whole three centuries  
She had to make a stand.

- 176 Many had fallen, and she was  
By heresies distressed;  
For many said a different way  
- And not God's Way - was best.
- 177 These growing-pains unconsciously  
Brought priestly hierarchy:  
"You must obey the Bishop now"  
- Not so originally.
- 178 An Emperor named Constantine  
Gave freedom to the Way  
And so the Church, long underground,  
Emerged into the day.
- 179 Still up she strove, developing  
A necessary Creed,  
And stating it was heresy  
To say you disagreed.
- 180 World politics now gave a twist  
- Details would fill a tome -  
Constantinople had become  
A sort of second Rome,

- 181 A seat of Roman Emperors  
With riches great - and so  
Constantinople bishopric  
Was now by no means slow
- 182 In growing great, and it became  
The first. What do we now behold?  
The Emperor will rule the Church:  
His Bishop just does what he's  
told!
- 183 This could not be. But who could  
stand  
Against this mighty power? -  
The Bishop who was set in Rome  
Was God's man for this hour.
- 184 The Church was split in two - the  
East  
(Constantinople-based)  
Soon faced a new attack -  
Mahomet's men laid cities waste.
- 185 Rome's Bishop led the Western Church  
And herein lay man's hope.  
They called him Father - Papa - or  
(His usual title) Pope.

- 186 Before Mahomet's horsemen - a  
Religion of the sword -  
The Eastern Church seemed helpless,  
and  
(Though freedom was restored
- 187 To worship in the way they knew)  
What had been rich was poor:  
The late-great Church of former years  
Developed little more.
- 188 The ancient learning of those lands  
- A culture wide and deep  
Of writers and philosophers -  
Sank to a long, long sleep.
- 189 The Roman Empire breaking up:  
Mahomet in the East  
While Teuton hordes invade the West:  
Has all man's progress ceased?
- 190 Calamity had come to man.  
Culture was at an end,  
And so was stable government  
On which man must depend



- 191 If he will grow more civilised.  
They cried in heaven that day,  
"How will man ever keep alive  
The knowledge of the Way?"
- 192 God knew the dark age which had come  
Would last a thousand year:  
War, pillage, ignorance would be  
The course that man would steer.
- 193 Some men had chosen to withdraw  
Far from the evil days  
To solitude where they could worship  
God, and sing His praise.
- 194 The world might pass these hermits by  
As men of no account:  
But gradually they organised:  
Their labours did amount
- 195 To one more step in God's strange Plan  
Running through history.  
Here's a new concept God can use:  
It's called the Monastery.

196. Culture and knowledge were preserved  
Within the monasteries -  
And knowledge of the Way, while Earth  
Bore dark-age miseries.
- 197 Light of the World? In cloister deep  
God kept a little spark,  
Its future seeming no more sure  
Than Noah's in his ark.
- 198 Augustine - Bishop - teacher - while  
The world's affairs looked black as  
jet  
He knew the Way: he taught the Church:  
The flame of God was burning yet!
- 199 Eighth century: one Boniface  
Came now: his legacy  
Was that he greatly did increase  
Power of the Papacy.
- 200 Kingdoms and empires rose and fell;  
There lacked stability:  
Men knelt as vassals to great lords  
- "Better be safe than free!"

- 201 Thus feudalism came: it seemed  
The future held no scope.  
But world events combined to give  
More power to the Pope.
- 202 A king once had to wait three days  
Barefoot on snowbound slope  
Clad in a penitent's white garb,  
To see the mighty Pope.
- 203 The fierce Mahometans still held  
Jerusalem - and all the East -  
Bold knights took arms to make Crusade:  
"In God's name she shall be  
released".
- 204 Two bands of knights, mixed military  
And spiritual their earthly hope,  
The Templar Knights; Knights of Saint  
John:  
They lived to serve the Church -  
the Pope.
- 205 Saint Francis of Assisi came  
The next on history's page;  
With followers in simple robes,  
Poor preachers of that age.

- 206 Some may have preached as Jesus did,  
But some (and heads would nod):-  
"Deny yourself, forsake the world:  
Your good works lead to God".
- 207 (That's not what Jesus preached at all!  
He says, "Believe in Me:  
Repent: hold Holy-Spirit power.  
*I've paid* the penalty".)
- 208 Simple, sincere, beloved of men,  
They wandered, bringing hope;  
And under the control of - who?  
Not Parish Priest, but Pope.
- 209 These men were sometimes eloquent  
While Parish Priest stood dumb -  
So see the power of public speech  
Under the Papal thumb!
- 210 Thus knights and preachers far and  
wide,  
And kings both great and small  
And even public argument:  
The Pope controlled them all.

- 211 But power is used for good or bad,  
And men saw in that day  
Some men who wore the Papal crown  
Had wandered far astray.
- 212 The power was not eternal: signs  
Gave warning of defeat.  
The French king's power was growing  
now:  
He moved the Papal seat
- 213 To Avignon - but many felt  
Him dethroned, far from home:  
And then in 1378  
A rival rose in Rome.
- 214 Two mighty Popes sat,  
Unable to agree;  
The Bishops deposed both of them  
But then there were three!
- 215 A mighty Bishops' Council  
Deposed the rival three,  
Lent full support to number 4:  
So ended rivalry.

- 216 The Papacy recovered,  
Soon reigned supreme once more:  
But outside there are flutters  
Which were not there before -  
Flutters of parchments deep within  
Some ancient knowledge-store.
- 217 A thirst for learning - here at last  
A cultural new dawn:  
Like Sleeping Beauty, knowledge  
At this point gives a yawn.
- 218 And painters, readers, thinkers  
Asking, "What should we do?" -  
To some extent a spirit  
Of nationalism, too.
- 219 New intellectual spirit:  
"Science, philosophies -  
Where are there ancient writings  
Where we can read of these?"
- 220 Amid their many questions  
Men ask about the Way  
And also reach a verdict:  
"The Church is in decay".

- 21 In monasteries far-scattered,  
Preserved for this new day:-  
Libraries of ancient learning  
And culture and the Way.
- 22 "The Church is very worldly:  
It does not stand aloof.  
This - and corruption - warrant  
Reform, not mere reproof."
- 23 "Will not new culture bring reform?"  
- "Trust not the culture of the  
age  
Where Borgia, sprung from celibate  
Pope,  
Writes POISON large across the  
page."
- 24 - Yet as we see the dawn arrive,  
The Church through thousand dark-age  
years  
Has kept God's Message still alive.
- 25 But God has got His Luther,  
Zwingli, Calvin, for this hour,  
To see what is so needed, and  
Perform it, in God's power.

- 226 The just shall live by faith - not  
works -  
And Luther (young monk then)  
Upon a work of penitence  
Left it unfinished when
- 227 God's Word, which he'd been reading  
through,  
Told him: no need such works to do -  
The just shall live by faith:  
God's given man His Way.
- 228 "By faith, by faith - not works -  
believe,  
Believe in Me today.  
You seek the way for man's return  
To God? I am the Way."
- 229 Then Luther with his faith new-born  
Preached publicly the Way  
- And found that monks who do such  
things  
Will ... Here's how 'twas that day:-
- 230 The Church would grant indulgences  
Reducing - so it claimed -  
A time spent after death to purge  
The soul from all that shamed.



- 231 Indulgences for godly works  
- But money bought them too,  
So if you sinned, a money gift  
Was what you had to do.
- 232 Now, as a monk, young Luther had  
To hear confessions said.  
He told men to repent - but found  
They offered cash instead.
- 233 He wrote his points out full and  
clear:  
"If Christian men repent,  
Without a Church indulgence God  
Remits their punishment".
- 234 That point he wrote, together with  
Another ninety-four:  
And nailed them up for all to see  
Upon the great Church door.
- 235 Controversy soon raged - and when  
He said the Pope did not  
Have right divine to rule the Church,  
Some would have had him shot.

236 And soon it was made clear to him  
By men in high position  
That he'd be labelled "heretic" -  
He'd gone against tradition.

237 "You will be excommunicated  
If the Church is spurned  
Like this" - the Pope's decree, which  
Luther  
Then in public burned.

238 Clearly there had to be a split:  
He had no wish to leave  
But would not compromise his stand  
On freedom to believe.

239 The Bible - God's own Word to man -  
Brought down from times of old  
Enables man to find the Way:  
This is worth more than gold.

240 He and his fellow "protestants"  
(As they are called) made haste  
To study further God's own Word:  
The Church is Bible-based.

- 241 Some nauseating horrors  
Resulted from the break;  
And many died as martyrs,  
Burnt (victors) at the stake.
- 242 Zwingli meanwhile in Switzerland  
Preached forth the Way; but he  
And Luther on some lesser points  
Tragically disagree.
- 243 Though after Zwingli's death John  
Calvin  
Partly healed the breach  
Two Churches thus were formed - and  
yet  
The Way was preached in each.
- 244 While some men were protesting, some  
Preferred to keep their search  
Within what men began to call  
The Roman Catholic Church -
- 245 The venerable body which  
For long had given hope:  
It much reformed - but still retained  
Its teachings and its Pope.

- 2<sup>46</sup> Its teachings were expounded and  
In 1870  
It publicly proclaimed the Pope's  
Infallibility  
When speaking "*ex cathedra*" on  
Faith or morality.
- 2<sup>47</sup> Among the Protestants I fear  
That men could not agree:  
As years went by its splits and breaks  
Left it fragmentary.
- 2<sup>48</sup> Some said, "No Pope, but let us please  
Have no doctrinal strife,"  
Some said, "Conform to new Church  
rules,"  
Some lived a holy life
- 2<sup>49</sup> But wouldn't keep the rules made by  
The leaders for them all;  
And some chose this course, some chose  
that,  
And some chose none at all.
- 2<sup>50</sup> They quarrelled much among themselves  
With weighty argument:  
Men looking on saw not a Church  
But Churches Protestant.



256 Or so it seemed - no pattern could  
Be readily discerned -  
But somewhere in this sorry plight  
The flame of God still burned.

257 It even spread. The last instruction  
Jesus gave His band  
Was: "Take the message of the Way  
To all in every land".

258 And so they sent out far and wide  
To preach the news to all:  
The first time men had done so since  
Those far-off days of Paul.

259 Nigerian and Eskimo,  
Angolan and Bantu,  
Inca, Turk, Bedouin, heard the news;  
The Philippino too,

260 Auca, and peoples little-known -  
Amarakaeri tribe,  
Comanche, Tzeltel, Cakchiquel:  
From all of these inscribe



- 266 A power called electricity  
And cures for much disease  
And motor-cars and aeroplanes  
And radios and T.V.s
- 267 - Man's life grew easier by far  
Than it had ever been.  
The manual work of man and beast  
Was done by a machine.
- 268 Or was life easier? Man knew  
More pressures than before:  
He'd many a test - and in his zest  
Threw faith out through the door.
- 269 Some teachers followed other paths:  
The Way became less clear:  
"It matters not what you believe  
As long as you're sincere".
- 270 From heresy within the ranks  
There was yet more to fear:  
The doctrine "saved by works" again  
Began to re-appear...



271 The "Social Gospel" - neighbourly -  
Be friend to one and all  
- "But what about "Way back to God"?"  
- "Why mention that at all?"

272 We have our great tradition from  
The centuries before:  
We're members of this noble Church:  
How can you ask for more?

273 Tell me, why *should* we preach the Way?  
We don't believe He rose  
Up from the dead: such things are  
false,  
As modern science shows!"

274 "A miracle?" - "We don't believe  
In miracles today:  
You are behind the times, my dear;  
Those myths have had their say."

275 Some say, "We're most effectual  
By being intellectual -  
And so we now will bless you all  
With doctrine ecumenical!"

- 276 Old Billy Graham preached the Way,  
And, making use of all  
The aids of television, spoke  
To more men than did Paul:
- 277 And some repented, chose the Way,  
And gave to God the praise.  
The flame was still seen burning  
In those uncaring days.
- 278 God's Spirit still worked, quietly,  
Within the hearts of men  
And women on the only Way:  
He was seen working when
- 279 One day some little Christians preached  
As Jesus had decreed:  
One hearing, chose the Way - there came  
Into their ranks John Greed.
- 280 But what of all the human race  
Now millions of them, unprepared,  
Have jumped - 'twas almost overnight -  
From "cannot even read or write"  
To knowing "E is MC<sup>2</sup>"?

- 281 Within a short two hundred years  
Of making use of steam,  
Man had set foot upon the moon:  
The first stage of his dream
- 282 To travel Space - perhaps explore  
The planets of a star,  
And maybe colonise and spread  
The human race afar.
- 283 But there's another side to this  
Great progress of mankind:  
A dark side where disaster stalked  
And struck him from behind.
- 284 He'd shown his skill at making war:  
Two conflicts there had been:  
Millions were dead, millions bereaved,  
But no way could be seen
- 285 To stop the suicidal race.  
Each feared "the other side";  
So larger, deadlier weapons were  
Developed and supplied

286 To give protection - "Ours are now  
So big you need not doubt  
That - if attacked - we can today  
Wipe your whole nation out".

287 Thus man gained terrible control,  
And graduated from  
The sword and gunpowder techniques  
To make the nuclear bomb.

288 But look at 1948!  
A sign! The wand'ring Jew  
Returning to his Promised Land,  
Which blossomed then anew.

289 The State of Israel, fighting hard  
Its people to defend!  
Then into Old Jerusalem  
Their domain they extend!  
Just look! The prophets said it would  
Be so before the END.

290 But men saw not the warning signs  
Nor thought the prophets true;  
So men and nations carried on  
With what they chose to do.

- 291 And as man grappled blindly with  
The problems of the age,  
The Powers of Evil now prepared  
To make their Great Rampage.
- 292 Church Buildings seemed so empty now  
Like a great lonely vault.  
"The spirit of the age", you say?  
- It's largely their own fault!
- 293 Look at this massive building here:  
You never see it full.  
"Oh, we shall never move from here:  
It's architectural!"
- 294 So they'll erect an ugly sign  
Called "Renovation Fund",  
And so the poor blind beggar Church  
Sits - like a beggar - shunned.
- 295 But what of those who held the Way?  
Did they not shine out bright?  
- Some did, but many, tragically,  
Were in a sorry plight:



- 301 And so the Word was preached in  
Church:  
The Church was old and slow,  
And cliquey, cold and desolate -  
Of course men didn't go!
- 302 And many looked for substitutes  
In gurus and astrology,  
Aetherius and Myung Moon  
And Zen and Scientology.
- 303 Bright spots there were amid the  
gloom,  
For some whose faith was real  
Preached forth the Way - God's only  
Way -  
With missionary zeal
- 304 And some were heroes - notably  
In Iron Curtain lands  
- Which might allow a formal  
State-controlled Church, but no  
bands
- 305 Upon the Way, against the ways  
Of Lenin and Karl Marx -  
But seemingly the flame was now  
A shower of small sparks.

- 306 And atheistic Communism  
Spread across the world -  
The Russian bear and Chinese dragon  
With red flag unfurled -
- 307 And she had formed her timetabled  
World-domination plan:  
This godless ideology -  
A well-laid plan of man.
- 308 What of the Church alive in this  
Materialist world?  
She seemed like an old, tired dog  
In sleeping posture curled:
- 309 Men said the sparks were growing dull  
- If men remarked at all -  
Some thought that for the Church it  
was  
Final decline and fall.
- 310 But most no longer looked to see  
If she would live or die,  
Or merge into the world, disband,  
Or simply atrophy.





316 Ten nations join together and  
A leader they will need,  
In course of time they find a man -  
A genius indeed.

317 The Arabs never liked the Jews.  
(That's why there was a war.)  
But Mr. Genius has got  
An answer, on that score.

318 And Mr. Genius persuades  
All sides to sign a Pact.  
But he does not put faith in God,  
And, though it may seem very odd,  
The Bible has foretold this day  
When "Peace, Peace," is what all men  
say:  
It's Armageddon's prelude-day  
(From then, just seven years away!)  
Believe it. It's a fact.

319 For a time, there is peace.  
Then a war. - What, again?  
- Yes, it is. And it's bad.  
Very bad.

- 320 The Middle East again the scene  
Of carnage and dismay,  
As rank on rank of armoured tank  
Rolled southward on its way.
- 322 Down from the North the armies came:  
Arab and Russian too.  
Israel they quickly overran;  
And Sinai: right through
- 323 Across the Suez: Cairo fell:  
The Pyramids were red.  
"They mobilise in North and East -  
We must return," 'twas said.
- 324 Across the Sinai once more  
And into the Negev.  
- Then God Almighty moved His hand:  
"I'll teach them not to thieve!"

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*For further details of these events  
see "The Book of Destiny" by John A.  
Greed, published [1979] by St. Trillo  
Publications, 92, Hillside Road,  
Portishead, Bristol: price £*

325 Such cataclysm never hit  
A mighty force before.  
The troops fell on the desert sand;  
Each one had passed death's door.  
The tanks and mighty weapons all  
Were silent, by the score.  
The whole world saw what God had sent  
(A "hail", white-hot, is what is meant)  
And what He sent it for.

326 To Israel, something happened then,  
And many men were sealed  
From all the Israel tribes, to be  
Servants of God their shield.

327 But still the war was fought,  
worldwide:  
The bombs on Russia fell,  
And Europe, and America.  
An overture of Hell.

328 But though a global conflict raged,  
The world somehow survived:  
One third of Earth was burnt, and  
famine  
Stalked as men revived

- 329 And death was very widespread  
Through pestilence and dearth;  
But life, trade, joy, continued:  
Men married, wives gave birth,
- 330 But - what was that great shudder?  
Could it have been a bomb?  
We've never known one that big!  
And where did it come from?
- 331 And then, with ghastly horror,  
Men thought that that great force  
Had been a fatal blow: their Earth  
Was moving off its course!
- 332 There had been dreams of setting out  
Upon conquest of space  
From Earth, man's base; but - horror -  
see  
Destruction of the base.
- 333 And, reeling somewhat, Earth flew on.  
- If ever in my motor-car  
I drive against the traffic-flow  
I crash before I travel far:



338 Still man stayed unrepentant. But  
Two Witnesses came then  
With powers like prophets had of old,  
And they tormented men;

339 And drought as never known before  
They called down on the Earth:  
Of crop of corn and even growth  
Of grass there was a dearth,

340 So when the Beast from the abyss  
Left both of them stone dead  
Mankind was glad - for half a week -  
But then was filled with dread:

341 Their corpses still unburied lay  
- 'Twas ignominious -  
When "Come to heaven and leave the  
Earth!"  
A cry came, glorious!

342 Alive they went, in public view:  
Then further horrors came,  
In some ways like those gone before  
But they were not the same.

- 343 I am abbreviating much;  
Some things I'm leaving out.  
The Bible gives more detail - of  
Whose truth I have no doubt.
- 344 And Satan stood upon the Earth.  
Impressive, mighty he appeared,  
Knowing his time was short. There was  
A dynasty - seven heads up-reared -
- 345 Across the world. 'Twas called the  
Beast:  
Out of the depths came he.  
And Satan vests the evil Beast  
With great authority.
- 346 Men worshipped Satan; furthermore  
They worshipped too the Beast,  
Who warred with those upon the Way  
(For still these had not ceased)
- 347 And they were overcome, and yet  
They would not worship it.  
They still said Jesus would return  
One day when He saw fit.



348 Then there He was! The Lamb of God!  
He seemed to be the one.  
But no! His purpose was: deceive;  
This one was not God's Son.

349 This Prophet False did wonders great  
- A sort of Frankenstein -  
He made men make an image of  
The Beast. Now here's a sign:-

350 Unto the image of the Beast  
He then gave speech and breath:  
And then could make men worship it  
- Or have them put to death.

351 The Temple in Jerusalem  
- For God it had been built -  
But scarcely was it finished when  
- Monstrosity of guilt -  
The image - that vile abomination -  
Made it a spiritual desolation.

352 And whose is this image? - What man  
so devious? -  
This Satan - this Beast? - It's  
Mr. Genius!

- 353 The Temple in Jerusalem  
- The Jews were just appalled,  
For *scarcely* was it finished when  
The image was installed.
- 354 When Israel cried, "It shall not be!"  
The Beast moved swiftly, and  
United Nations forces came  
And occupied the land.
- 355 The valley of Jehoshaphat  
Is where the armies stood.  
Jerusalem is right close by:  
They've come to shed her blood.
- 356 A slaughter in Jerusalem  
And many thousands flee  
- And look! The Mount of Olives splits!  
- Like Moses at Red Sea,  
God's hand has opened them a path!  
That way will make them free.
- 357 The "valley of decision"  
Jehoshaphat is named:  
And multitudes decided  
That they could not be blamed

- 358 For swearing their fidelity  
For better or for worse  
To that king-god - that 666 -  
That Mr. Genius!
- 359 Hail to Mr. Genius!  
God for Age Aquarius!  
You vanquished wicked Israel's God  
And left Him impecunious!
- 360 (The impecuniosity  
Of Jew and Christianity  
Is just a very temporary  
Phase.  
'Twill end in less than thirteen  
hundred days!)
- 361 So pressing on still further,  
He spread his hand worldwide.  
It seemed not Earth nor heaven  
Could stand against his tide.
- 362 In statesmanship and eloquence  
He won men with his charms  
- But also knew of occult arts  
And drugs, and force of arms.

363 So Satan ruled upon the Earth  
In war and politics:  
The "Inter-faith World Church" (rich,  
new,  
Led by the Pope) is with him too  
- Great leader 666!

364 - Count "A" as scoring one-o-o  
And "Z" as one-two-four  
(Count "I" and "J" as one, not two,  
Just as the Latin scholars do,  
So "N" comes out as one-one-two  
And "S" is just five more)  
Count up the letters "GENIUS"  
And see how much you score:-

365 "G" makes a score of one-o-six,  
And "E" makes one-o-four;  
"N" one-one-two, "I" one-o-eight,  
"U" one-one-nine, be sure:  
"S" one-one-seven. Thus six-six-six  
No less - and yet no more!

366 Yes, Satan ruled upon the Earth  
As Emperor and deity  
- And through his man the Prophet  
False  
He ruled the whole world's treasury.



- 372 A spinning-top, knocked over, soon  
Will right itself again:  
Applied to solar gravity  
That principle seems sane?
- 373 The Earth seemed less off-balance and  
Would probably survive:  
Why should men think the ending of  
The age would now arrive?
- 374 Life carried on, in those dark days,  
With trading, travel too:  
For if man would not turn to God  
What else was there to do?
- 375 Those "horsemen" reached Euphrates, that  
Great river in Iraq.  
Its very broad though shallow flow  
Could maybe hold them back?
- 376 And then a trumpet-sound, worldwide!  
And those upon the Way  
- That persecuted, faithful band -  
Rose up to heaven that day  
- Or (as their prison-guards exclaimed)  
"Got spirited away".



- 382 As reeling like a drunkard Earth  
Goes hurtling off her way,  
And radiation-hazard from  
More bombs grew day by day,
- 383 Men fled the planet's surface and  
They hid themselves for fear  
In caves - "O shut us in, and hide  
Us from God's Wrath, in here!"
- 384 But: every mountain moved! Came hail,  
And blood and 'quake and fire  
And thunders, voices, lightnings - yet  
The Earth remained entire.
- 385 I must abbreviate so much  
But mention must be made  
Of how the mighty city (which  
In culture and in trade
- 386 Was at the centre of the Earth)  
In one hour was laid low:  
Civilisation's centre - gone.  
Men saw that it was so.



- 387 Civilisation too had gone:  
She with the city fell.  
The merchants saw that men no more  
Would seek to buy and sell.
- 388 The Earth had suffered blood and pain  
And searing heat (no doubt  
She'd passed - off course - too close  
the sun?)  
- Then came the final rout:-
- 389 The King of kings and Lord of lords:  
As Judge and Warrior-king  
To rule the nations He arrived,  
From heaven He rode with mighty power  
In righteousness - *The King!*
- 390 So preparations on the Earth  
To combat this new foe  
Brought kings and armies and the Beast  
To gather forces: so
- 391 Came Armageddon - where the King  
Of kings and Lord of lords  
Won final perfect victory o'er  
The force-of-evil's hordes.

392 (He will come like a thief in the night:  
Come in glory with judgment and power  
- Man will be unprepared in that hour  
As he is for the thief in the night.)

393 There is a punishment for man,  
To last eternally.  
It's like a burning sulphur lake  
And has no remedy.

394 The Beast and Prophet False were cast  
Alive into this lake,  
To punishment which has no end,  
To torment none will slake.

395 And Satan, bound, was cast away  
Into the deep abyss;  
Chained for a thousand years he lay,  
To wait for his release.

396 The Earth at peace a thousand years:  
The strifes of ages cease.  
From war - by sword or nuclear -  
At peace, at peace, at peace.

- 397 Immediately there came to pass  
In this millennial age  
A sign of Glory - see who ruled  
The nations' heritage:
- 398 Those men who worshipped not the Beast  
Nor image of the same;  
Those men without "Mark of the Beast" -  
To them first, Glory came,
- 399 With those beheaded for the Way.  
- These folk with Jesus reigned  
Upon the Earth as priests and Judges:  
Victory was gained:-
- 400 In that First Resurrection they  
With Jesus at their head  
Controlled the nations of the Earth  
- Control divinely led.
- 401 So: Peace. The thousand years rolled  
by.  
Satan came forth once more  
And stirred men up, deceiving them:  
The World is wanting War!



- 407 But went into the burning lake  
Without a remedy.  
Eternal punishment began,  
And lasts eternally.
- 408 The fire will never purge away  
Man's wrongs: the pain is great,  
But this fire is not meant to purge,  
Nor to annihilate.
- 409 This is unending Second Death  
Into eternity:  
Those who reject the Way have no  
More opportunity...
- 410 There were more lost than saved that  
day -  
Look - there - I knew those four -  
They were kind, decent, honest folk -  
They ran a grocery store -
- 411 And now they're in the sulphur lake -  
The lake of no return.  
How strange that gentle friends like  
those  
Eventually should burn...

- 412 And yet, like all the human race,  
They'd done wrong, in their day.  
- Jesus has cast *my* wrongs far off:  
God gave mankind His Way.
- 413 - They cannot label God unjust  
When Jesus on the cross  
Paid such a price! The Bible said  
That wrongs would bring this loss:
- 414 - Where are you going - reader -  
friend -  
Weren't you upon the Way?  
- Make sure your name is in the Book  
Of Life, for Judgment Day.
- 415 And all whose names are in the Book  
Of Life: the glorious dead:  
Rise up to the Eternal Life  
Just as it has been said.
- 416 Now heaven and Earth are passed away,  
For God makes all things new -  
New heaven, new Earth, Jerusalem  
The Golden comes in view -

- 417 A city built by God, and there  
No mourning, crying, pain;  
And God shall wipe away all tears  
And we with Him shall reign;
- 418 And no more death. All promises  
Fulfilled, and all is new.  
And now, the crowning joy of joys:  
See: God Himself - in view:
- 419 Not as it was of old on Earth  
In discord and in night,  
But we can meet Him face to face  
In harmony and sight.
- 420 There is unending, glorious Light  
- No need of moon or sun -  
God's glory, and the Lamb, shed Light  
Wherein no night can run.
- 421 Unending Light, unending Life  
Into eternity.  
We who are His are brought to His  
Eternal purity.





## THE WAY:-

424 Some folk believe in politics  
And some believe in gold:  
But Jesus says, "Believe in Me:  
*I've paid* the penalty.

425 Just turn from sin to Me this hour -  
You'll find there's Holy Spirit power  
And you'll belong to Me:  
*I've paid* the penalty."

- - -