



## "Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries  
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.5, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

01/22/08

### Program 19 – “Eve of Destruction” © 1965 P.F. Sloan

Barry McGuire, formerly with the New Christy Minstrels, recorded this protest song in the summer of 1965. It soon rose to #1 on both the Cash Box and Billboard charts. "Eve of Destruction" was written by P.F. Sloan at age 19; he also wrote "Secret Agent Man", recorded by Johnny Rivers and The Ventures. McGuire's vocal track was "thrown on as a rough mix" -- not intended to be the final version, but a copy of the recording "leaked" out to a DJ, who began playing it. The song was an instant hit; as such, the more polished vocal track that was at first envisioned was never recorded.<sup>1,2</sup>

#### About the song:<sup>1,2</sup>

- Initially offered to The Byrds. The Turtles recorded it shortly before McGuire
- Dire warning of imminent apocalypse, expressing frustrations and fears of young people during Cold War, Vietnam, nuclear arms race, and civil rights movement
- Drew fire from conservatives who claimed it was unpatriotic and scared children  
"I have felt it was a love song and written as a prayer because, to cure an ill you need to know what is sick. In my youthful zeal I hadn't realized that this would be taken as an attack on The System!" – songwriter P.F. Sloan
- A group called The Spokesmen formed solely to record and release an answer record entitled "The Dawn of Correction" (see attachment to these notes)

#### About Barry McGuire:<sup>1,2</sup>

- Wrote the New Christy Minstrels' biggest hit "Green Green" in 1963
- Recorded 1<sup>st</sup> version of "California Dreamin'" in 1965, with the Mamas and Papas singing the background vocals
- Became born-again Christian in 1971 after years of drug addiction  
"I was looking for the answer to the 'Eve of Destruction,'" he told Rory McClannahan in the *Albuquerque Journal*. "I didn't want to be a Christian, I didn't even like them." After reading about the life of Christ, however, he realized "that was the answer to the whole thing."<sup>4</sup>
- Recorded several Christian albums; has toured with 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of Acts
- Continues to sing "Eve Of Destruction" in recent years, with references to contemporary tragic events such as the Columbine High School massacre

The Bible tells us what the future holds for this world, and it's not a pretty picture! While this song describes dire conditions of the mid-1960s, the lyrics can be readily updated to depict, e.g., today's threats of poverty, disease, war and terrorism. In the words of a classic oldie – "You ain't seen nothin' yet"! Let's look at "Eve of Destruction" in the context of Scripture...

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eve\\_of\\_Destruction\\_\(song\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eve_of_Destruction_(song))

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry\\_McGuire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry_McGuire)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www2.gol.com/users/davidr/sloan/aboutsongs.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.musicanguide.com/biographies/1608003886/Barry-McGuire.html>

The eastern world, it is exploding  
Violence flarin', bullets loadin'  
You're old enough to kill, but not for votin'  
You don't believe in war, but what's that gun you're totin'  
And even the Jordan River has bodies floatin'

- At that time in the US, voting age was 21 in all but four states, vs. 18 today
- Reference to Middle East conflict, even before the 6-day war of 1967

But you tell me  
Over and over and over again, my friend  
Ah, you don't believe  
We're on the eve  
of destruction.

Don't you understand what I'm tryin' to say  
Can't you feel the fears I'm feelin' today?  
If the button is pushed, there's no runnin' away  
There'll be no one to save, with the world in a grave  
[Take a look around ya boy, it's bound to scare ya boy]

(Chorus)

Yeah, my blood's so mad feels like coagulatin'  
I'm sitting here just contemplatin'  
I can't twist the truth, it knows no regulation.  
Handful of senators don't pass legislation  
And marches alone can't bring integration  
When human respect is disintegratin'  
This whole crazy world is just too frustratin'

(Chorus)

Think of all the hate there is in Red China  
Then take a look around to Selma, Alabama  
You may leave here for 4 days in space  
But when you return, it's the same old place  
The poundin' of the drums, the pride and disgrace  
You can bury your dead, but don't leave a trace  
Hate your next-door neighbor, but don't forget to say grace

**Some signs preceding Jesus' return:**

- "...in the last days **perilous times** shall come" -- 2 Timothy 3:1
- There will be **warfare** across the world -- "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" -- Mark 13:8
- "...there will be **famines and earthquakes** in various places" -- Matthew 24:7, NIV
- **Seeking peace** -- "For when *they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape*" -- 1 Thessalonians 5:3
- **Moral decay** -- "...men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" -- 2 Tim. 3:2-5
- **Evangelism** -- "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" -- Matthew 24:14

**Final Thoughts:**

The British group *Marmalade* sang, "The world is a bad place, a bad place, a terrible place to live". How true, ever since our original parents sinned and were cast out of Eden! But Christians need not fear the signs around us that lead up to the day when our Savior will return for us. Until that day comes, let's simply be watchful and ready. There are millions of souls who still need to trust in Jesus Christ!

- Selma, where Bloody Sunday took place March 7, 1965; marchers beaten back
- Refers to 1965 mission of Gemini 4, which lasted just over four days
- Hypocrisy among Christians

*"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" -- Luke 21:28, NIV*

## **“The Dawn of Correction”<sup>5</sup>**

by The Spokesmen

- Written by Raymond J. Gilmore, John Madara and David White (The Spokesmen)
- David White was formerly with Danny & The Juniors
- Released September 18, 1965
- Entered the Billboard Top 40 the week of October 9, 1965 and stayed for 3 weeks, peaking at #36 the week of October 16, 1965
- Answer song to Barry McGuire's "Eve of Destruction"

The western world has a common dedication  
To keep free people from Red domination  
And maybe you can't vote, boy, but man your battle stations  
Or there'll be no need for votin' in future generations

So over and over again, you keep sayin' it's the end  
But I say you're wrong, we're just on the dawn of correction

There are buttons to push in two mighty nations  
But who's crazy enough to risk annihilation?  
The buttons are there to ensure negotiation  
So don't be afraid, boy, it's our only salvation

So over and over again, you keep sayin' it's the end  
But I say you're wrong, we're just on the dawn of correction

You tell me that marches won't bring integration  
But look what it's done for the voter registration  
Be thankful our country allows demonstrations  
Instead of condemnin', make some recommendations  
I don't understand the cause of your aggravation  
You mean to tell me, boy, it's not a better situation?

So over and over again, you keep sayin' it's the end  
But I say you're wrong, we're just on the dawn of correction

You missed all the good in your evaluation  
What about the things that deserve commendation?  
Where there once was no cure, there's vaccination  
Where there once was a desert, there's vegetation  
Self-government's replacing colonization  
What about the Peace Corp. organization?  
Don't forget the work of the United Nations

So over and over again, you keep sayin' it's the end  
But I say you're wrong, we're just on the dawn of correction  
But I say you're wrong, we're just on the dawn of correction

So over and over again, you keep sayin' it's the end  
But I say you're wrong, we're just on the dawn of correction

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.lyricstime.com/the-spokesmen-the-dawn-of-correction-lyrics.html>