

**“Mission Possible:  
Urban Decay—Angels in the Inner City”**  
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□ **This World of Pagans**

- The daughter of Bertrand Russell: “His whole life was a search for God. . . . Somewhere at the back of my father’s mind, at the bottom of his heart, in the depths of his soul, there was an empty space that had once been filled by God, and he never found anything else to put in it.”
- Bertrand Russell: “There is darkness without and when I die there will be darkness within.” (*Mysticism and Logic*)
- His daughter: “I would have liked to convince my father that I had found what he had been looking for, the ineffable something he had longed for all his life. I would have liked to persuade him that the search for God does not have to be vain. But it was hopeless. He had known too many blind Christians, bleak moralists who sucked the joy from life and persecuted their opponents; he would never have been able to see the truth they were hiding.” (In Philip Yancey’s *Vanishing Grace*, 32-33)

□ **His Love for Pagans**

- Exhibit A—God and the pagan king \_\_\_\_\_
  - Genesis 20
- Exhibit B—God and the pagan city \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jonah 4:11
  - Clark Pinnock: “. . . the book of Jonah stands in the canon to testify to the universal salvific will of God.” (*A Wideness in God’s Mercy* 28)
- Exhibit C—God and the pagan city \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jeremiah 51:44-45
  - Revelation 18:4
- Exhibit D—God and the lost city \_\_\_\_\_
  - Luke 19:35-42
  - *Desire of Ages*: “While the westering sun was tinting and gilding the heavens, its resplendent glory lighted up the pure white marble of the temple walls, and sparkled on its gold-capped pillars. . . . [which] caught the splendor of the setting sun, shining as if with a glory borrowed from heaven. Jesus gazes upon the scene . . . His eyes fill with tears, and His body rock[s] to and fro like a tree before the tempest, while a wail of anguish bursts from His quivering lips, as if from the depths of a broken heart.” (575)
- Exhibit E—God, Giuseppe, Sonya and the pagan city Bergamo, Italy
- Exhibit F—God and the pagan city \_\_\_\_\_
  - Acts 18:9-10
  - NASB: “Do not be afraid *any longer*.”
  - *Prophets and Kings*: “In every city, filled though it may be with violence and crime, there are many who with proper teaching may learn to become followers of Jesus. Thousands may thus be reached with saving truth and be led to receive Christ as a personal Saviour.” (278)

*The question is:  
Are you willing to go?*