

Celebration of New Year 2005 was muted by the unbelievable death and destruction by the earthquake-caused tsunami. It was catastrophic, and we are thankful for the world-wide relief efforts being done. These deaths by **water** were followed by terrible deaths by **fire** in Argentina, which likewise brought grief instead of joy at the new year. Then also, there are other places, some well-known, others not known at all which **daily** have misery, hatred and death.

In the Bible "book" by the prophet Ezekiel, chapter 47, verses 1 to 12 we find the vision of **the river that brought LIFE wherever it went.** The water came from under the door of the Temple. After measuring about 500 metres the water was ankle-deep. After another 500 it was to the knees; another 500 to the waist, and a final 500 metres and no one could cross it—it was water to swim in! The water flowed past the altar and went into the Dead Sea where **nothing** lives, but it made even that saltiest body of water in the world fresh!—so fresh that fishermen stood around it from its north part to its south part casting in nets and catching all kinds of fish! It was like the Mediterranean! Finally, mention is made of the trees along the river's banks which gave fruit regardless of seasons, and their never-withering leaves brought healing to people. The fruit and the healing leaves were made productive only because of the water from the Temple. However, there were some "marshes" and "swamps" which could not be made fresh even by the Temple river. **That is a brief sketch of the "vision," but unless we apply it to ourselves personally it will be worthless,** as the Bible says: "but the word (Gospel) preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." (Hebrews 4:2).

Other Bible prophets, like Joel and Zechariah, refer to the type of river we find in Ezekiel 47. In the Bible "book" called Revelation, we read words almost identical to those of Ezekiel 47. Without question, the promise of such a blessed life-giving river refers to the coming and work of the Holy Spirit in the individual and in the world, for Jesus says this in John 7:37,38. Jesus also promised "living water" to "the woman at the well" in John 4. Like Jesus said to that woman, many today also do not know "the gift of God" nor the One who offers it.

Ezekiel's river came from the Temple, which simply refers to God Himself. No temple, church, mosque, synagogue, hall, etc can give that river if God is not really there. Jesus had referred to the Temple as "My Father's house," yet He later left it to those who refused to accept Him as God's Messiah by saying "YOUR house is left unto you desolate!" This is the same for any religious place including "Christian," if God has been pushed out. Though intended as a place of LIFE, it becomes a place of death, regardless of beautiful words, ceremonies, rituals, etc.

Jesus made it clear that the Old Testament, from Moses to the prophets, points to Him (Jesus). But He told His disciples before His crucifixion, that He must go so that the "Comforter, who is the Holy Ghost" could come (John 14:26 & 16:7). This is why Jesus' promise of the "rivers of living water" within us refers to the Holy Spirit (John 7:37,38).

In the Bible, we see clearly that **God works together with man** (for example, see Philippians 2:12, 13 and Haggai 2:4 and Genesis 20:1-7). In the life of the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 3), God's people and their cattle were about to die of thirst. God supplied water, but only AFTER the people obeyed God's command: "Make this valley full of ditches." Here we learn that God has abundant water, but **we must be thirsty and we must start digging** in obedience and faith! Sure, the enemies thought they saw blood because of the sun's reflection on the abundant water. Likewise, people today may think your digging has only resulted in

(continued inside on right-hand page)

Registered Charity #1092050

January 2005

A Christian paper with a world vision...yet a personal touch! **Free!**

The London Christian Standard

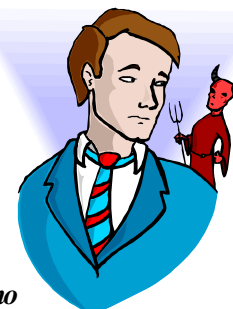
"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

Gabriel L. Mancino - Editor

421 Watford Way, Hendon London NW4 4TR Phone: 020-8202-0806

The One Place On Earth the Devil Cannot Enter!

by Gabriel L. Mancino



Let's all position ourselves during 2005 so that Satan can do us no harm. Well, we certainly cannot gain this position by abandoning our personal responsibility or paralyzing our will by trusting decisions or "guidance" to horoscopes, palm readers, etc. Getting counsel even from "good sources" can sometimes be an attempt to avoid personal responsibility. But where can we go to find safety, security and support in a world that seems to be falling to bits?

Many people are afraid of dying. Many others are depressed with living! Whatever tries to oppress us, we can position ourselves so that Satan can't succeed with his attacks. But where?! St. Paul gives the bold answer: in "the love of God that is in Christ Jesus." If Satan could enter "the love of God," he would cease being the devil! People can do all sorts of things—religious things... even church things, yet not be living in "the love of God in Christ." **That's the place!!** Living there means loving and obeying the Lord. And if we are in that position, nothing can enter

our victory in Christ to hurt us. However, we may choose to abandon our position and security by disobedience and unbelief...and many do.

We must enter into His safety, then stay put— growing and glowing and then going to share Him with others. St. Jude closes his "Letter" near the end of the Bible encouraging us to "keep ourselves in the love of God!" He then makes it clear that Christ alone is able to keep us "in the love of God." Like other places in the Bible this shows us God's part and our part. In others words Jude says to us all, "You do your part, then God is able to keep you from falling." Our success is to live in union with God through Jesus as Jesus tells us in John 15.

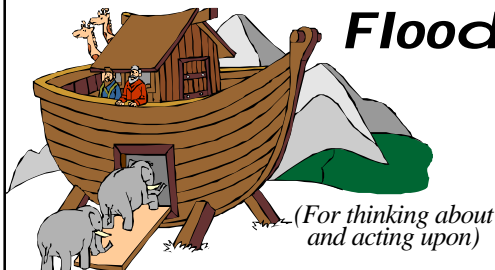
God Himself instituted marriage— and along with it, the Home. They are symbols of love and commitment, founded upon man's love and commitment to God Himself first! It is no wonder that proper Biblical marriage and the family have been attacked, undermined and ridiculed, for it is God's own example of our love and commitment to Him. In His love we find protection and security. To those away from God, God calls saying, "Come back, for I am married to you!" **What a position!**

"No in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, nor the world above us nor the world below us, neither anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39).

The London Christian Standard Friendly, Faithful & Free!
Jesus once answered His opposers, "You can predict the weather by looking at the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs concerning these times!"
Dear Friends, It is high time to get ready and keep ready.

Will Further Things Happen Which Are Even More Unbelievable Than the Horrific Tsunami? The Bible says yes, but it also points us to The Firm Foundation which cannot be shaken by the worst storms... and THAT is where we must stand!

The Unbelievable Flood



(For thinking about and acting upon)

by Gabriel L. Mancino

Who would have believed that within one single hour the Twin Towers, as large as they were, would fall into heaps of rubble and buried bodies? **“Who would have believed?” could be asked of many things, bad and good.** The devastation of the Asian tsunami goes beyond powers of description or comprehension. The 1976 China earthquake killed 255,000 “officially” and 655,000 “unofficially.” The 1970 Bangladesh flood killed 300,000, and the cyclone-caused flooding of the Yangtze River in China in 1931 resulted in over 3 MILLION deaths by flooding and starvation! How could one predict these events? The 1987 hurricane, Britain’s worst storm in 300 years, came without our being forewarned.

Predicting such disasters is apparently not easy. The medical and educational professions, too, have demonstrated limited understanding and capacity for error, though many try to do their best. **Thailand meteorologists** said that tourism officials had complained that earthquake warnings hurt tourism! For financial reasons they didn’t want people to know of approaching danger! Are warnings taken seriously anyway? The bold-print warnings on cigarette packs seem to have little or no deterring influence. And as far as earthquakes go, people still live and work in and visit Japan where tremors are a daily occurrence. But are you and I safe since we don’t live in Asia nor California nor yet in Japan?

The Christmas season ended not long ago. The true Christmas story of Christ’s birth includes the matter of the wise men from the east who found the Christ child because of the prophet’s prediction hundreds

of years before. Numerous predictions came true surrounding the birth of Christ. God’s Word is reliable! Yet, the same Book which predicted Christ’s *first* coming also foretells His *Second* Coming which has very important characteristics that we all should seriously consider and act upon.

Jesus Himself said that His Second Coming would be, in some ways, like the **times of Noah**, which Jesus never quoted as a fairy tale! He said that the people of the world died when the “flood came and took them all away.” He said “they knew not until the flood came!” **Why was the world ignorant** when faithful Noah, who Peter calls “a preacher of righteousness,” warned them during the 120 years it took to build that enormous “boat?” I believe the Bible makes it clear that the general public reacted to Noah’s warnings like people today with the cigarette warnings. Normally, no one will knock the cigarette out of your mouth, and no one pushed people inside the Ark in Noah’s day. In reference to the general public in Noah’s day, Peter says they were “wilfully ignorant,” meaning that in regard to Noah’s warnings they simply, regularly and purposely turned their brains off.

With natural disasters such as this recent tsunami, there seems to be little or no warning. However, this was not the case with the people of Noah’s day. Are we clever enough to learn from history? I recall some advertising boards a few years ago comparing the size of the human brain and the supposed-size of a racist’s brain. We may think that peoples’ actions sometime suggest a lack of common sense or lack of proper thinking, and perhaps there is good reason for the assessment. But how should a person honestly assess the thinking of someone who fails—for *whatever* reason or reasons— to get ready to face God?

I read that the vast area around the Pacific where many earthquakes and volcanoes occur is called “**The Ring of Fire.**” That is an ironic name for the fact it is connected to floods of **water!** As many of us know, whereas the world was destroyed by The Flood in Noah’s day, it is set to be completely destroyed by fire in the end...and be sure, “God’s clock keeps perfect time!”

What can a person like me do to help other people get ready? Of course, death

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

itself will take many people *even before* the Second Coming of Christ, so each individual must get ready and keep ready now. Can I force them? No. Three of the godliest men who ever lived were **Noah, Daniel** and the suffering man named **Job** (pronounced Jobe). But in reference to His judgment threatening to fall at that time, God repeatedly said through **Ezekiel the prophet** (chapter 14), “*Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, says the Lord God.*” At the beginning of that chapter God had revealed that the public leaders had “*set up their idols in their heart, and by keeping them in front of their faces are letting these wicked stumblingblocks lead them into sin.*” But it’s not just leaders, then or now, for many members of the general public do the same thing!

I recall the anger and shaking fists of some who protested the man running back to warn coming drivers of the horrible pileup in dense fog on the M25. The Thai meteorologist said the tourism officials would be angry if they gave an earthquake warning and it didn’t happen. **What a gamble!** Even from a *thinking* gambler’s standpoint, it would be utterly ridiculous NOT to get ready if you weren’t sure if there is or is not a Heaven and Hell and Eternity. And as I’ve said before, the Bible only says one good thing about Hell: Nobody needs to go there. Personal neglect of one’s spiritual life is by personal and repeated choice. If one considers my words to too blunt, I would ask how I may “dress them up” to get offended people to love and obey the Lord?

What **Peter** asks us about end-times with logical precision could be asked of us regarding general preparation to meet God: “*Seeing these things (the earth, etc) shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all godliness and holy conduct... Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, the home of righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing you look for such things, be diligent that you may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless*” (see 2 Peter 3:10-14).

ACT TODAY – KEEP READY

“Flowing Water of Life”

(continued from back page)

damage to yourself. No way! The world is wrong again. But don’t expect a little water on the surface!

It is amazing that the waters in Ezekiel 47 made even the Dead Sea come alive so that it became full with diverse fish like the Mediterranean! God can bring life to “the dearest person” if they will just come to Him in unconditional surrender and faith. But notice: everywhere the water went, it brought life...**EXCEPT** for some marshes and swamps. Likewise, there are people today who are “dead-set” on remaining dead! And God will not force anybody to go to heaven. But determining to go to hell shows clearly the stupidity of sin.

Another amazing thing is that “Ezekiel’s river” got deeper and deeper WITHOUT any other streams flowing into it along the way! You see, God alone is the Creator and Sustainer or all true life. No other person or group can add ANYTHING to His complete and sufficient life-giving work.. Jesus declared, “It is finished!” No wonder the woman said to Jesus, “Give me *this* water!”

My wife has been teaching piano lessons at our local Church of England Primary School for several years. Just before breaking up for Christmas, she overheard a Grade 6 lesson on earthquakes being taught which confirmed a tsunami news report I read on the Internet after the disaster. Apparently a 10 year old girl who had learned the same lesson saw evidence of the threatening disaster and alerted her mother to leave the beach “NOW!” As a result, I understand that as many as 100 people were spared by that young girl’s alertness and the fact that she took to heart what she was taught by reliable sources.

This young British girl serves as a great lesson of even greater things...if we will listen and act. The life-giving water Ezekiel saw and that Jesus promised is available to all, NOW! The water flowed past the altar, which was God’s place for sacrifice. God Himself supplied us with the Life-giving Sacrifice and Altar which is Christ. As the old church song says, we may be “**Plunged in the Godhead’s deepest sea, and lost in His immensity!**” In HIM is life!