

# Belshazzar's Feast

Gabriel L. Mancino



familiar. **The king was killed that very night.** He promised gifts to the one who would help him understand the writing, but it was too late. Friends, there DOES come a time when it is too late, and God faithfully warns us of that.

Daniel was a young man when living in the times of Belshazzar's grandfather. Now, as an old man, Daniel is called to aid this arrogant king...well, he WAS arrogant...now the Bible says the king's knees were knocking together because of fear. You see what sin does to a person?! It makes a person feel invincible, like a superman. But at the end, you see what a fool you've been...too late. Satan's business is to keep a person so busy eating up life as with both hands—blind, distracted indifferent—and just wanting more!

**Belshazzar received an immediate death sentence with no trial.** Society has been training itself that they can plead "not guilty," etc. and get away with it. Lawyers criminally feast, too, on taxpayers money to defend liars and criminals who will further deteriorate the country. This kind of feasting is happening at every level of society. With Belshazzar, it was stopped, but too late for him. The maths of this is extremely easy to work out, and it shows the powerful hold of sin and the utter stupidity of sin, that a person would not say "All right, let's stop this right now!"

**Daniel spoke God's words directly to the king,** and said his sin was worse because he sinned wilfully against God, even though he knew what had happen to his grandfather. One Bible verse says, "These are they that rebel against the light." Another declares: "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." Belshazzar was a fool, and became a scared fool, then an eternally damned one. None of us need follow him! Let us learn this lesson and apply it thoroughly, so that we might save ourselves and many, many others.

**"WAKE UP, PHARAOH!"** Those were the words of ancient Egypt's kingly advisors after God had poured out severe plagues because of the king's refusal to obey God's command, "Let My people go." The advisors said, "Can't you see that Egypt is destroyed?" Leaders today should take a lesson and mind God...REALLY MIND GOD! It's a lesson for everybody.

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# The London Christian Standard ...and Provincial

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

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## In Times Like These

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The daily papers remind us repeatedly of the rapid moral decline in our nation, not to mention in the rest of the world. Something MUST be and CAN be done...now!

**The widespread sin of modern society, in one sense, is not new,** nor does it present an "impossible" environment into which God may not enter to help. Jesus said "with God, nothing is impossible!" Peter had asked "who then can be saved?" You see, without God's help, no one at ANY time can be saved. Yet, with God's help, even the "worst" may be saved if they truly want to be. 18th century Britain was a picture of diverse and ripe ungodliness; truly an open filth pit of sin. Yet God stepped in and gave Britain far more than cosmetic surgery. God brought magnificent change in Britain. We know that God will step into the picture again, for the Bible speaks of Him coming in judgment. Yet, we have the present time for potentially-staggering accomplishment IF we let God have His way in our lives at every level.

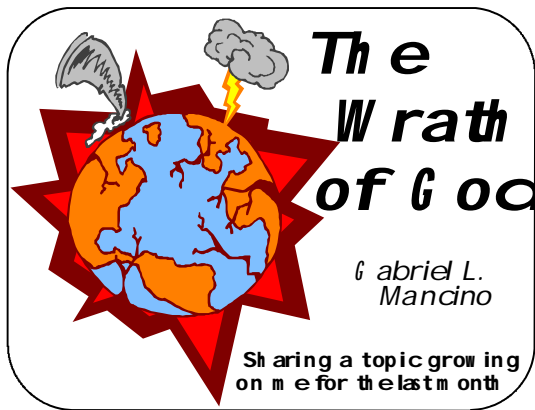
Jesus said His Second coming would be "in times like these," when He said "**as it was in the days of Noah,**" and "**as it was in the days of Lot**" (meaning in Sodom and

Gomorrah). Those times were full of idolatry, violence and sexual perversity of every sort. **You know very well** that the catalogue of sin and crime today has become open, greatly increased, economically encouraged and even legally protected! Look at the wickedness which happened during the hurricane trauma in America—wide-spread looting, rape and murder against their own suffering fellow-citizens! This is a desperate picture, but not impossible with God. True, there are sometimes stories of "good people" among them, but generally, **even those who consider themselves "good" block God from fully having His way in their lives.**

The Bible paints a very clear picture of man's sinful nature—a nature so deceitful that, unless one turns fully to God, it can fool the heart and mind of the person supposedly "in charge." Admittedly, it is rather easy to fool someone who *wants* to believe wrong is right. The Bible also paints a terrible picture of the moral and spiritual condition of this world at the time when Jesus returns.

**In order to bring the greatest help and blessing to this desperate world,** we CANNOT wait for the crowds to approve or the government to assist. However, with God's help—as Britain's history proves—even a sin-sunken society can be lifted from the depths of depravity and despair. Let's join hands and hearts with God first, and then with each other. **It is NOT impossible—even in times like these!**

**"THE ALIENS DID IT!"** Sir Francis Crick, English Nobel Prize winner for the discovery of DNA in 1962, suggested that aliens brought life to earth! *The Daily Mail* (2 Aug.) says almost 80% believe in aliens! Order Gary Bates' superb book (and/or the DVD) "Alien Intrusion" from Answers in Genesis (in Leicester) on 0116 2708400.



America's Gulf coast hurricane, as this month opened, has been considered by some to be the show of God's wrath. I refrain from such speculation, but admittedly, the idea of "the wrath of God" is an awesome matter to consider. I was born in America of Italian family, yet those who know me know that while I love the real America, I do not defend all that America does. Likewise, though I am a Christian, I do not defend all that has been done throughout history in the name of Christianity or "in the name of Jesus," nor do I defend some teachings or practises today which claim Christianity or the Bible as its basis.

John the Baptist referred to Jesus as "the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world." John's statement is based on Old Testament prophecy foretelling the coming of the Messiah, and John was spot on. Jesus is God's "tender lamb" which He Himself promised and provided for our salvation "from sin." No other person in history, past or present in any country or in any religion...or for that matter, even in the pages of international mythology, has equalled Jesus Christ, God's tender Lamb. In this objective acid test, all others pale in comparison. As He mingled with people—rich or poor, individual or crowd, moral or immoral, we see the very person of God among humanity and its needs.

The Bible tells the glorious story of God's salvation through Jesus in, what we

could say is a past, present and future telescope. We see the past, as throughout the Old Testament, the Messiah was foretold in bit-by-bit glimpses of prophetic information. Then, in the "Gospels," we can see and listen to Jesus for ourselves—and, oh what we miss, if we do not take it to heart and apply it to life! Yet elsewhere in the Bible, notably in the last book called Revelation, we see more about Jesus and about His future "Second coming."

In Revelation, we see "the Lamb that was killed before the foundation of the world." We see Him there in His glorified splendour. However, we also see in the Revelation what is called "the wrath of the Lamb." I do not have space for details, yet both God and Jesus are seen in the Bible with the various aspects of their nature, etc. We see their holiness, their justice, goodness, truth, etc. One aspect does not contradict or exclude another, for all the aspects of their nature work in perfect harmony.

Throughout the Bible panorama of the history of God's salvation plan, we see God's Law and God's grace. Law is easy to understand. Grace, some have said, is God's favour we do not deserve. Grace has also been defined in its other side, as the enablement God gives a person to be changed and to continue living in loving obedience to His Law. So, in "grace" we see favour and power.

Yet, the Bible says clearly that no one on earth deserves nor can obtain this favour or power except through God's designated way which He lays out in the Bible. Jesus already tells us of those who try to "climb in some other way," but calls them "thieves and robbers!"

John, Jesus' disciple, tells us that if we do not love and obey God (which is the outcome of real "faith" or belief) then "the wrath of God rests on us already!" The picture is like someone sitting on what used to be called "Death Row," and it was just a matter of time before the execution. We need to realise that we are held over

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timeless eternity by a very thin thread. "Readiness" for eternity is not according to one's earthy emotions or mindsets. "Readiness" for eternity is measured and determined by the Landlord of eternity, and that is God.

Entrance into the "good" side of eternity is permitted by God's bridge called "grace," as I mentioned earlier. Prior to the receiving of grace, all of us are rebels against God's law; like it or not. Types of "sin," are irrelevant, for a rebel is a rebel, regardless of the cosmetics one uses, and it follows that lost is lost. "Lost" here means one is heading for the "bad" side of timeless eternity, but remember, the destination is determined by man's decision now "in this present world."

Without humbling ourselves and unconditionally surrendering to God, no one deserves the "grace" I mentioned. John, "the apostle of love," says that if we say we love God and have fellowship with God, yet walk in disobedience to God, we are liars! That's pretty easy to understand. In other words, you can't drive north and south on the M1 at the same time. If we are living in disobedience to God, regardless of what we believe, or say we believe, we stand condemned already in God's hall of justice and it's just a matter of time before we find ourselves in eternal Hell.

I meet more and more people who appear to be making the deadly mistake of thinking they shall be "approved by God" simply because they ARE "good" or religious, etc., or that they are NOT a Hitler, or Al Capone, etc. Jesus informed some serious, Biblically-knowledgeable people, who had apparently worked hard for Him, that they lacked the most important ingredient, and therefore they had the choice to repent or go to Hell. Others had earlier made the fatal error of classifying sins and thereby giving themselves the "all clear." To these Jesus gave the shocking reply: "Yet I say to you, that unless you repent, you shall all likewise go to Hell." True, the old English Bible says "shall all likewise perish," but the context makes it clear that He means "in Hell" just

as clearly as one plus one equals two.

God's wrath rests upon sin, not upon man. What stupid person would run around on a hilltop in a raging thunder storm holding a 20 foot metal pole? Hold the pole and you get the shock of your life...and death! Sin is even more stupid to hold onto, for the Bible makes it clear: "It is appointed unto man once to die, after that, the Judgment."

Were those thousands killed along the American Gulf Coast more evil than the other parts of the USA? No. In fact, many "lost souls," still escaped with their lives. Some remarked that the hurricane destruction was "their tsunami." I understand that a week-long "gay festival" was to begin in New Orleans on Sept. 1. If that was God's wrath on homosexuals, then why didn't God strike Manchester here, or Rio in Brazil, and other places where such "gay festivals" are being held? I told you that God's wrath is on ALL sin, and that DOES include the homosexuals, and lesbians, but also all the other things listed in the catalogue of rebellion against God. Whether some may think they are "not in the gutter," the gutter is in them if they keep sin on board. This goes for everyone—on the street, in the office, at home or even in a "place of worship."

Terrible things have happened throughout history, but certainly we have witnessed awesome terrors of various sorts in recent times. But friends, mark it down: None of these things compares to what the book of Revelation calls "the 7 bowls of God's wrath." I've been told that New Orleans is like a "bowl," which is under sea level, but nothing we have yet seen compares to the wrath of God which appears on the near horizon.

The incredibly rapid increase in "open sin" is a clear sign that God's wrath and Judgment is near. Sure, sin of all sorts has been around all the time, yet at this moment in time, "the stops have been pulled out." Big sins and little sins, open sins and hidden and covered-up sins will all be exposed and judged. No one needs to go to Hell. Get the "metal pole" out of your hands, for the storm is here.

We've begun and are adding items to our own web site: [www.londonchristianstandard.com](http://www.londonchristianstandard.com)

We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 5:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.

Another "super thriller" to read : Frank Peretti's THE OATH. Here you see that sin has a payday!