

## The World IS Flat..

(continued from front page)

this world, yet there are some fundamental and fatal flaws that, though seemingly separate, are working together for social deterioration and downfall. They are "in sync" to sink society!

The Bible says that "all things work together for good to those who love God; to those who are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). But we see, above, that there are forces that work together for making the world go flat. Jesus said that though He did not want us to be taken out of the world, yet said that we can be kept from the evil in the world. **We need not go flat in a flat world!** We may be erect, straight, perpendicular in our relation to God and with our fellow man. Jesus Christ makes this possible.

The thing that messes up our internal human "gear-works" is called sin. Because we are *sin* sick, it makes us *sync* sick. Because we are not right with God, we grind gears with the entire universe, including ourselves. It is due to this basic "flat" that problems are rapidly going out of control in Britain and elsewhere. **Iraq** suffers daily disaster. **Beirut** was pulverized, with bridges, roads and buildings in ruins. But bombs are falling all over Britain—a stealth Blitz of a different, but totally devastating kind. **The nation is going utterly flat, and it is time to cry out: "Every man for himself!"**

This cry may seem as selfish as if gears sought independence and refused to work together in common, smooth unity. Far from it. Each resident needs to run to the Clockmaker and get their gears put right...completely, utterly right. This is the road to recovery— of the individual, and of the nation. *THEN*, we

may be a true help to others.

This proposal may seem idealistic, yet it is merely like levelling mountains and filling valleys for a motorway. This is exactly what the Bible said John the Baptist would do to "make a highway for the Lord." We must be personally committed to make a highway in our own hearts, and then in the nation. Everything must be flattened in our lives. Then and only then may God Himself enter the scene, better than any President or Prime Minister visiting a disaster area, and bring in the cures to address all the dreadful ills of our sick and dying nation.

### SEWER Pipe Ban!

With amazing coincidence, hose-pipe bans were threatened, or were already in place at the same time **massive volumes of water poured for days** in different locations in London and elsewhere in Britain, with no sign of engineers to repair the damage and stop the waste of precious water.

However, that such would happen to **sewage flowing freely and continuously in our streets** (like recently into the Firth near Edinburgh) is something dreadful to consider. Yet such is the case, with filth being allowed to flow in the faces, minds and hearts of all that walk the streets and enter the shops of London. Sewage may swiftly bring disease, and the moral and spiritual filth being permitted and promoted these days is resulting in such damage that even to triple the number of hospitals would fail to address the epidemic.

**It is far past time** to quit the playhouse, and be radical with curing the national ills. First and foremost, Britain needs to get back, not merely to "Christian religiosity," but in thorough repentance toward and faith in the holy God of the Bible.

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# The London Christian Standard ...and Provincial

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

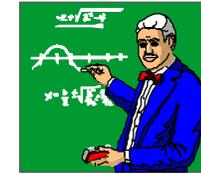
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## The World IS Flat..

(and I can prove it!)



Gabriel L. Mancino



**I couldn't be more serious with this bold declaration** though, of course, I am not referring to the earth's physical shape. Having taught English, I have a high regard for the meaning of words, and utilise word-meanings in the teaching and broadening of the students' vocabulary. One glance at my trusty old two volume dictionary let me know that the word "flat" has many meanings.

I will admit that from my dictionary **I could likewise demonstrate that the world is NOT flat—and this would not be a contradiction.** For example, they speak of the market being flat, meaning that it has little business, and without significant changes in price. Certainly, the housing market is not flat, for news reports constantly tell us so!

However, notwithstanding all its buzzing activities, this world is flat. Actually, **we must first define "world"**

here. With all the hype on global warming, etc. this universe operates like clock-work. It's the *people* that are "out of sync." Sync is short for synchronization, meaning working together in time, etc. like the gears in a clock or car. Think what would happen if things, whether in your car or your body, began working without agreement or timing with the rest!

Imagine an orchestra conducting itself without thought for the conductor or the individual members.

In music, "flat" refers to being below true pitch or being too low in pitch. With everything else in nature generally operating "in concert pitch," we humans appear to be the only team members messing up the performance!

The symptoms of our social sickness are everywhere. From what I said above, **I guess you could say we are "sync sick."** The word "flat" sometimes refers to a car tyre or battery. With the battery, it would mean the battery is dead; not producing electric current. And as with a car with one or both of these problems, one needs recovery and/or replacement of the item. A faithful car doesn't need replaced simply because of a flat battery or tyre. Likewise, there is so much beauty in

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**WHAT "SHAPE" ARE YOU IN? Before God created the world, it was "in its out form and void"—like all of us! "Shape" also refers to the effect and influence we have on others. So how am I being shaped, and shaping others? Bin Police and Th ough t Police are one thing, but I am far more concerned that GOD sees and hears ALL I say and do, and that I will give an account to Him one day. Let's shape up!**

**WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?! As Jesus ascended, angels asked Jesus' staring disciples: "Why are you staring into the sky? This same Jesus shall return as you have seen Him go." The 40 days of Christ's resurrection appearances is nearly over. "Ascension Day" is 17 May. Until His return, the Bible says we are to be "looking unto Jesus" (Heb 12:1, 2) & keeping REDEMPTIVELY busy! (Matt. 28:18-20).**

## FIDDLING WHILE LONDON BURNS

Gabriel L. Mancino



Legend says that Emperor Nero played the fiddle while Rome was burning. Since the fiddle (or violin) was not invented until around the 16th century, we know that this legend is false. Besides, one historian says that Nero was 30 miles away at the time (maybe burning CDs!). Others say that Nero's enemies were responsible for the burning of Rome, in an effort to bring about Nero's final downfall. God knows.

At any rate, Nero appears to be one of those enigmas with two extreme sides to his character. That he was evil, hardly anyone disputes. One writer says "A cold-blooded persecutor of Christians, an extortionist, and a debauchee, he outraged even the licentious Romans with his public wantonness." However, to show his kinder side, the same writer remarks of Nero's alleged true response to the burning of Rome as follows: "In any event, Nero acted with uncharacteristic intelligence and compassion, first helping to put out the blaze, then overseeing the design of the city and providing food and shelter for those rendered homeless. One historian claims that Nero really did set the fire himself, but out of civic responsibility rather than insanity, and that in the new Rome which he designed, and intended to name Neropolis, slums were cleared, streets were widened, and buildings were beautified."

Commenting on the above paragraph I will first remind you that even evil people may do some good. For example, the infamous Chicago gangster, Al Capone fed many, many people in soup lines during the Great Depression...but he also blew peoples' brains out! Does his "good" atone for his evil? Of course not. Getting back to Nero, another writer says of him as follows:

"In fact, the legend that Nero 'fiddled' while Rome burned itself began centuries after Nero's time, in referring to how

Nero fiddled away his time on frivolous pursuits. As a noun, 'fiddle' came to refer to a violin, but as a verb, 'fiddle' originally meant either to avoid one's responsibilities, or to commit fraud. The verb form of fiddle was what was originally meant about what Nero was doing when the great fire of Rome began. At any rate, to divert suspicion away from himself, Nero blamed the great fire on the Christians, thereby beginning a persecution of innocent people that has never been surpassed. Many were killed by wild animals before crowds of spectators in the arena, while others were tied to posts, covered with flammable material, and used as human street lamps for Nero's gardens. It is difficult to imagine a more evil man."

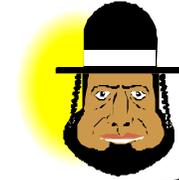
Let's be sure to learn something from this study, otherwise we too will be "fiddling" while our own city of London deteriorates before our eyes. When God's plagues hit Egypt in Moses' days, the kings' counsellors trying to reason with this hard-headed Pharaoh cried out, "Can't you see that Egypt is destroyed!?" Likewise, with the unceasing reports of lying, deceit, fraud, "fiddling" of all sorts, gross misconduct in sexual and financial ways we know very well that the government is plagued with corruption—and we may not know the half of it! However, we also know that this corruption doesn't simply abide in the halls of Westminster, but plagues the streets and homes all over this great city.

So, shall we all "fiddle away our time in frivolous pursuits" or "avoid responsibilities?" If so, we are all modern-day Neros that help make citizens like his suffering human lamps mentioned above. God wants us all to be redeeming, uplifting lights and lamps of a far different sort. Jesus said that if we follow Him, we will be "lights in the world" and "salt in the earth," which has a preserving quality against decay. It is obvious that the country is being destroyed, but once again, a total return to the God of the Bible (not mere religion!) will save burning London as God did (to cite one example) during the 18th century in the Evangelical Revival. God is the same, yesterday, today and forever! (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8). Let's not fiddle!

Nero may have destroyed Rome to make "a better world" for his people. This is likely the thinking of New Agers, the International bankers, and such like today, saying: "it's all for our good!" We had better stay with the original and perfect plans of the Divine Architect. HE doesn't "fiddle."

## DISCRIMINATION?

(Is God a  
respector  
of persons?)



Gabriel L. Mancino

Does God "play favourites?" Among many Bible verses I could list in answer, let me give this one: "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30, 31). God is "crystal clear" when He says that whatever His ways involved with man in the past (referring to Old Testament times), He now COMMANDS (did you get that word?) ALL people EVERYWHERE to repent. Then the verse explains the reason for the command, and it is not because God wishes to be pushy or dictatorial. The purpose of the command is so that you and I will be ready to face the Judgment. Read it. Imagine a person crouching in fear on a high balcony or window ledge with the block of flats wildly ablaze. Then an impassioned shout is directed to this person to get them to leap to safety into the net which is certain to hold their plunging weight. Perhaps this is a poor picture, but I'm trying to illustrate the scenario of the above verses. Many in the teeming crowds of London are glued in fear on the ledge—afraid of a leap to safety, though they know very well that the fire draws ever closer. Please "discriminate"—Which is worse? fear of God or fears that keep a person from obeying God? "The fear of man brings a snare: but whoever puts his trust in the LORD shall be safe" (Proverbs 29:25).

Some people think that Jewish people are exempt from the command of the verse at the top. This is far from the truth. The verse says "ALL!" Even in the Old Testament, God pulled no punches, telling the Jews His truth, accompanied by warning for disobedience. The Jews repeatedly failed to heed God's warnings and suffered unspeakably for it. Now, remember, God's command was for our safety, our security,

but it was through our sanctity—that is, God commands us to be holy (not just religious), and to be right toward Him and toward our fellow human beings. This was the same command He gave the Jews.

Some have the grievously mistaken idea that God now plays favourites with those who profess to be followers of the Jesus of the Bible. I am specific, because there are various distortions of Jesus about—like the one in the Da Vinci Code, the Judas Gospel, the Koran, the Bahai and of the Jehovah's Witnesses (to name a few!). Now the Encyclopaedia Britannica has joined the attack and confusion by offering a CD/DVD that purports to finally reveal the so-called "truth" about Jesus; and produced by highly educated scholars and archaeologists, etc! What's new?

Many "Christians" wrongly believe they shall go to heaven simply because they belong to the Roman Catholic Church, or some "Orthodox" Church, or that they were "born again" at one point in time, etc. First of all, YES, you must be born again, because Jesus said so, not because evangelicals invented a term. Secondly, Christians today must be true Christians just as Jesus told the religious Jews that they must be true children of Abraham. He had said that though they were biological children of Abraham, they were spiritually children of the devil because they rejected Him. The same applies to all today; including professing Christians. Labels won't save you, nor will past experience. The great Bible prophets, Ezekiel, (Chap. 18 & 33) and Jeremiah (18:7-12) will suffice to make the mind of God clear in this matter. These say that if we turn from sin, we will be saved, but if we turn from righteousness (whether an individual or a nation), then God refuses to remember any of our former righteousness—but in our sins we shall die and be lost forever. Recently, in Golders Green near where I live, a Jewish £7m fraudster was set free because he had Holocaust flashbacks while locked up. I think people had better think of the future, rather than make excuses from the past. God will play no favourites, yet will freely pardon ALL who come to Him ON HIS TERMS. Yes, that's proper discrimination!

THANK GOD,  
WE CAN TRUST THE BIBLE!