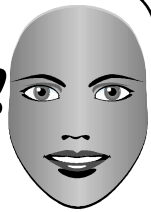


YOU'RE RESTORED!

(How is it possible?!)

Gabriel L. Mancino



One of our national newspapers had a made-up picture of **the most beautiful female**. That female's photo was a composite of supposedly the most beautiful nose, eyes, ears, chin, hair, etc. from different known female celebrities—perceived beauty queens! Oh, how different is God's evaluation of beauty. In fact, the Bible describes Jesus as the **"Altogether Lovely."** Jesus is no composite of other perceived beauties, for He needs no additions or adjustments. To look at Jesus is to see One in whom there is no room for improvement, whatsoever. That is not my religious bias and arrogance. It is simply the truth. Moses' and Aaron's rod-turned-serpent swallowed those of the Egyptian magicians. So Christ's beauty swallows the *perceived* beauty of all rivals. Our hearts may truly say of Jesus, like David said of Goliath's sword, *"There's none like THAT one—Give me!!"* (1 Sam 21:9).

"What we *seem* to be" captivates the masses today. We may glory in the external—in fading fantasies. To be this way is to be an atheist in practice. Jesus appealed to our reasoning powers with the question: **"How is it possible for you to have faith and believe while you receive glory and honour from one another, and do not desire and seek the glory and honour that comes only from God?"** (Jn. 5:44). This means that such praise-seekers... even religious ones... are cut off from God.

I believe that Jesus must have been horrified that we human beings, made *"in the image of God,"* would stoop so low as to be satisfied with the tainted and shallow praises of man, when such a **chosen compromise** as this throws dirt in the face of God and breaks His heart. Jesus' words were, therefore, more of a *cry* than a *criticism*; though criticism would be justified.

A HOLE IN THE WALL: Jeremiah (see above) wrote that a break had been made in the city's walls. Fierce enemies would now enter. His words are in the last chapter; just before his book, Lamentations. To be sure, there had been a *spiritual* breakdown in the people *inside* the walls before *outside* enemies could enter. Let's ALL take this lesson to heart before it is too late. Jeremiah warned and wept...and the clock was about to strike midnight. Thank God, Nehemiah teaches us that God can mend broken walls. **NOW!**

Jesus' business was God's business, and Christ defined that early in life when, at age 12, He asked His mother, Mary: *"Why were you looking for Me? Didn't you know... Was it not clear to you, that it is My duty to be engaged in the things of My Father's business/concerns/house?"* What the Jewish Temple and the much-earlier Tent-Tabernacle was as *"God's House,"* so are you and I to be. This is no overstatement. God is to live in you and me, so we had better keep the place clean (especially from sin). Our "house" may of necessity be *simple*, but *clean, pure, holy!* Jesus came to make that possible.

The former Temple built by King Solomon was utterly destroyed, along with the entire city of Jerusalem, by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar—at God's direction. Why? Because the Jews had perverted God's holy purposes. They were to be holy, and being holy, they were then suitable representatives of God to the nations around them. God wanted the world to see *HIM*, through *them*. But Israel sought the world's ways and the world's beauty. As the weeping prophet, Jeremiah, viewed the destroyed city, he wrote the book called Lamentations. The Hebrew word translated "Lamentations," simply means **"How!"** A beautiful city became a ruined, burned dump, and Jeremiah asks in shock, **"How?!"** And Jesus asked that crowd, and us today: **"How is it possible...?"** But Jesus, the "Son of David" came to prepare for God's House *IN US* to be **restored**, just as King David provided materials for the *first* Temple built by his son, Solomon. And Jesus, describing Himself to the crowds, said *"and a greater than Solomon is here!"*

"The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:11-32) is Christ's classic illustration of someone away from God, finding their way back to Father's arms, and is a graphic picture of sins being *forgiven* and relationship to God **restored**. Isaiah 52 and 53 foretells of Christ's ugly crucifixion, which He gladly experienced that you and I might be beautiful in front of God.

YOU CAN BE RESTORED!

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June 2008

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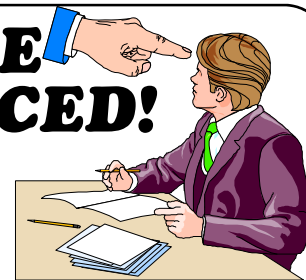
London Christian Standard **...and Provincial**

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

Gabriel L. Mancino - Editor. Printing in London since 1983
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YOU'RE REPLACED!

Gabriel L. Mancino



"YOU'RE FIRED!" sounds worse than **"You're Replaced!"**... or does it? Many British people know the name, Alan Sugar, who "stars" in the BBC TV series, **The Apprentice**. It is not my purpose to evaluate that programme or it's "star." Besides, my wife and I have never owned a TV during our 29 married years, so I could hardly judge it, anyway! I understand that contestants often receive some very harsh treatment. Viewers may just laugh it off and be glad it's not them, or just shrug it off, saying, "Oh, well, life is harsh. Welcome to the real world!"

Generations and centuries pass, sometimes bringing what history proves have been **irreversible changes** to this world. Yet time marches on — but toward *what*? Where is it taking us? **"Don't worry, we can get used to anything!"** Oh, really? That philosophy may sound good on the

surface, but many such expressions break down. Today's world is a vivid example of what it can mean to **"get used to anything."**

My wife was raised on a dairy farm. One day, while out in a field loading hay during hay harvest, one of my sisters-in-law panicked, and was letting the **large, heavily-loaded flatbed truck** begin to drift backward downhill to disaster. Suddenly, my wife's mother ran

behind the truck and tried to stop it rolling! I doubt if six men could have stopped it, but she somehow thought she could manage. **Immediate action was needed**, for the panicked sister could not seem to respond to **our cry to pull the handbrake**. I believe it was me that opened the door and pulled the brake.

Our world is sliding fast toward disaster, and the brake needs to be pulled...**but how?** To respond to that question, I will first make a comparison. Apparently, when Moses brought the Hebrews out of Egypt, God miraculously fed those people—over 1 million—*daily*, with something that had somewhat the taste of coriander. **I hate coriander!** It is not necessarily wrong to dislike certain food, and frankly, I can eat almost anything. Yet, I *do* feel bad that I cannot

(continued inside)

SUMMER BEGINNING? Where will you spend it? Look ahead. Jeremiah the Bible prophet (see back) wrote from his besieged city: *"The harvest is past; the summer is ended, and we are not saved!"* (8:20). For two years, the Babylonian army camped outside their walls, while hope of rescue evaporated. Israel would not listen to Jeremiah & other prophets. In time, the last king of Babylon faced the same fate as he literally saw *"the handwriting on the wall,"* but too late. (Dan. 5:5). Do **YOUR** eyes see any better? This truth is for **ALL!**

YOU'RE REPLACED

(continued from front page)

tolerate a main ingredient with which God fed His people for 40 years. Before you ask why I mention this, here's some more!

Through thousands of years, nations and empires have come and gone. Various factors contributed to the fall of previous civilizations. Needless to say, those former empires were **replaced** with something different. Geographical boundaries, and sometimes the type of government, were changed. Remember the children's story of the race between **the rabbit and the turtle**? Mr. Rabbit thought he would have easily won the race, but we know how that fabled story ended.

I have scattered *seemingly*-random thoughts. Now let's tie them together! I wrote in past issues of this paper regarding God's "advance notice" concerning the coming great kingdoms of the world, starting with the Babylonian Empire and its king, Nebuchadnezzar. The chronicles of world history have proven the faithfulness of God's Word in the Bible, for it has occurred through the centuries just as God revealed to the king and to the great prophet, Daniel. It appears that we are now at the closing scene of those ancient "spot-on" predictions.

Human world-planners (mentioned later) apparently hate God and *HIS* government (as in Psalm 2) even more than I hate coriander. Thankfully, it is not evil to dislike coriander! These world-planners may think as well of their perceived-cleverness as Mr. Rabbit did, yet God's Plan marches on like the turtle. Remember, "God's clock keeps perfect time!" While the rabbit slept, the turtle's pace advanced with slow, but certain steps. The rabbit had rocked himself to sleep with a false sense of security, which we might call: **The NOD Delusion!** One may sleep in *arrogance*, as well as in *negligence*.

It appears that in The Apprentice, Mr. Sugar is not very sweet, including his

fierce words: **You're Fired!** Yes, empires change and **people get used to it...or do they?** Social earthquakes take place, such as has rocked that essential cornerstone called Marriage. Various factors have been working together to erode society, greatly in part by eroding the home, marriage and the family. Husbands and wives have been **fired...replaced**. Marriage and "faithful until death" has been *taught* to be no more necessary. And the resulting attitude and response we have almost been taught to accept is **"We'll get over it!"** Oh, really? We have a **replacement...a substitute...a counterfeit** for seemingly *everything*!

One part of the scenario is "religious." **Some Muslims have told me** that as God (*in their opinion!*) **replaced** Judaism and the Old Testament with Christianity and the New Testament, so it has been God's plan to **replace** that last one with Islam and the Koran. First of all, that *opinion* is so wrong (to say it kindly), and I am writing something larger than this article to explain why. Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester says that Islam has filled the moral and spiritual vacuum here in Britain. The Bishop thinks the vacuum began in the 60s, but I would say much earlier; like 100 years before that, when the church thought it needed to "adapt" the Bible to the alleged "facts" of science, as seen primarily in Darwin's theory of evolution. Then came "higher textual criticism" of the Bible, so that before the turn of the century (1900), those training for the Christian ministry began doubting the reliability of the Bible.

Christianity can never really continue as a moral and spiritual uplift and safeguard to communities and nations as long as it only exists culturally, rather than experientially. True Bible Salvation (what Christianity is supposed to be!) brings life with a capital L, to be lived out in all the passion and purity seen in Christ. *This* Christ-life formed in us is what Jesus died to make

MAKING CLAY POTS: God has Jeremiah paint a perfect word-picture of what I try to share in this issue. In chapter 18, a pot-maker made an imperfect pot, then remade it into one that was good. We are ALL "mud-jars"—humans made of the earth. Of course, clay pots are then "fired" to receive irreversible and permanent change. Even after God "remakes us," He allows us to go through "fires" of difficulty for purity and maturity, for *OUR* changes remain only as we continue, yielding in loving, trusting submission to the God of refining fire!

YOU'RE REPLACED! (continued)

possible as a free Gift! No drapery of external Christianity—from *dead ritualism to frothy pseudo-evangelicalism*—can do *in and through* men and nations what God intends. We must experience and live out the reality of **"The Real Thing!"**

If the "professing church," whatever branch they identify with, fails to diligently and whole-heartedly seek to walk AS Christ, then Jesus says **"You're Fired!"** "But Jesus would never do that!" you may say in shock. Oh yeah? Read Revelation 2 and 3, and see for yourself. Yet, in loving faithfulness, not only does Jesus point out the failures, He extends the cure for the terminal illness...and that remedy is *NOT* another "religion," nor "the endless doctrine of self-indulgence" that Bishop Nazri-Ali referred to. Jesus says **"Repent or be Replaced!"** If Jesus says **"You're Fired!"** there will be no appeal to argue "unfair dismissal." Christ's Tribunal is final. **But you need not be fired.**

Of course, you know that you also cannot lose a job you never had in the first place. In other words, **you cannot be fired, if you were never hired.** To be completely faithful to you, however, there IS a Fire for both the fired and the unhired—Hell. Yet you need not *fear*, for God will be *fair*...that is, unless you are determined to have your own way... then yes, you had better fear. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"* (Ps.111:10; Prov. 1:7; 9:10). Of course, drunk men may still have "courage" to enter a lion's cage. Those that are truly mentally handicapped have no reason to fear God's wrath, for He overlooks their condition as He would a little child. But sin that is allowed to remain and grow, brings a rebellion and an idiotic "courage" like the drunk man with lions.

I must inform you (*including Muslim readers*) that the ancient foretelling of those coming empires, spoken of in Daniel, tells of one last empire, and it is *NOT* religious.

To the contrary, its leadership thinks to take God's place! The way our society is going is perfectly paving the way for such a godless, God-substituting world leadership. And all the while, society in general follows blindly like sheep or like a herd of cattle, munching earthy things with hearts and faces *down*, rather than *heaven-ward*.

The European Union slowly emerged on the tail of previous changes in Europe, stealthily removing national sovereignties and currency. Now, shocking things are developing in America with what is called **The North American Union** (NAU), in which the national sovereignty of the US, Canada and Mexico are planned to be radically "altered." A new currency called **the Amero** has already been developed. **A superhighway** from Mexico to Canada, owned and operated by Spain may soon be a reality. I hear that **the U.N. is being called to the USA to deal with racism.** Give me a break! Who is behind all of this? This *real* **"Axis of Evil"** appears to be the end-time world-empire controllers spoken of in Daniel. These will be like you have never seen before, and are *EVEN NOW* controlling world governments and, therefore, nations—first of all *economically*, but also *industrially and militarily*. Can you fight that? They don't think so. **Yet we CAN win against this evil, but it is because GOD HAS ALREADY REPLACED US!**

One song says it well:

*"I was guilty with nothing to say,
and they were coming to take me away;
but then a Voice from heaven was heard
that said:*

*'Let him go—take Me instead.'
And I should have been crucified.
I should have suffered and died.*

*I should have hung on the cross in disgrace,
but Jesus, God's Son, took my place!"*

YOU'RE REPLACED!

...if you will receive it!

HOW CAN WE WIN THE WAR against the world-power network mentioned above? Our former Jewish GP told me that if Jesus came to bring peace He failed miserably.

I replied that his faulty conclusion is because he is only looking at half of the Bible predictions about the coming Messiah. Christ's *first* coming was to bring peace to the *individual*. His *second* coming will bring peace to the *entire world*. Our part in today's battle against evil is to allow God to win completely in our own hearts! Total surrender!

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.