

SWINE FLU: God's Cure

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prostitute to be an ancestor of His long-promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. This act of glorious *inclusion* was repeated during the times of "the Judges," when **Ruth, the foreign lady** from nearby Moab was also included in the blood-line of the coming Messiah. Ruth was the great-grandmother of King David. "But these foreigners were 'swine'!" Oh, I'm so glad that a washed pig, doesn't *have* to return to the mud! (as in 2 Pet.2:22). Remember that!

Some organisations had set the goal to eliminate leprosy as a public health problem by 2000. Apparently impressive success was achieved toward that goal. Others set out to eliminate *poverty*, but the International bankers have a different plan.

Yes, leprosy as found in the Bible has been aptly used to illustrate sin— incurable, dangerous, tragic, and wisely (though sadly) necessitating quarantine. Oh, that we realised "*the exceeding sinfulness of sin!*" Sin, also called "the sore of the soul," taints every human on earth. **The World Health Organisation** reached their 2000 goal of "eliminating leprosy as a public health problem." They define "eliminating" as less than 1 case in 10,000 people. Leprosy has apparently been "eliminated" from well over 100 countries where this was a "public health problem." Yet, sin plagues every person in every nation on earth. Leprosy has different forms and can lay dormant for 20 years. Oh, that we understood "*the deceitfulness of sin*" (Heb. 3:13)! Sin easily fools you and will permanently damn you... *if you let it!*

Yes, **swine and leprosy** top the ancient Bible list for being a loathsome threat to the human family. Jesus' story, "**The Prodigal Son**" (Luke 15), is an object lesson on how we humans can get out of the pig pen...a far

worse "piggery" than government has put the country into (*Daily Mail*, May 9). In Luke 15 Jesus tells of a lost sheep, a lost coin and a lost man. The shepherd searched until he found the one lost sheep out of 100. The woman turned her house upside down to find the one lost coin of the 10. But no one went out to find the one lost lad of two sons. Do we *really* love God while we just leave people to die in their sins and drop into Hell without trying to reach them?

The father of that lost lad didn't go *physically* to bring his son back home. Yet the father *did* follow his son *another way*! It was the remembrance of his father's love and care for him that awoke this lost young man to the sensibleness of returning home in humble confession and submission to his loving father...and he did it!

But, the fact is that God "**OUR Father**" *DID* enter the pig pen of this world to rescue us from that which plagues us all: sin...and please get it into your head that sin is not just a religious, theological word. Look around...read the papers...and you will see the practical effects of sin. Sure, sin takes on different forms just like leprosy. The true Bible account of General Naaman in 2 Kings 5 shows us that leprosy infects even the big shots...and so does sin. It has a contaminating and deforming effect on all people world-wide, from the "dirty gutters" to the "prestigious and famous gutters." Cosmetic surgery won't help. **The Bible refers to the foolishness of putting a jewel in a swine's snout.** You cannot adequately dress-up sin.

God showed the prophet, Ezekiel "**a wheel within a wheel.**" Jesus Christ not only entered our pig pen, but experienced **the pig pen within the pig pen**; that is, He was crucified. Crucifixion, as a form of punishment, was as historically abhorred as were swine and lepers, yet Christ went the full length for us all. **He is God's Promised Cure for the worst swine flu of all.**

"THE FULLNESS OF TIME:" Christ's birth happened "*in the fullness of time*" (Gal. 4:4). The first "Pentecost" of the Church launched "*When the Day of Pentecost was FULLY come*" (Acts 2:1). "God's clock keeps perfect time!" Pentecost was a Feast called *Harvest or First-fruits*, yet also commemorated the giving of the 10 Commandments ("the Law"). But on Pentecost in Acts 2, God burned His Law NOT on stone tablets, but on men's hearts with the fire of His Spirit, just as He promised centuries before! 3,000 Feast visitors came to God through whole-hearted repentance and faith. It was a "Harvest" indeed; the very "first fruits" of what has come through the centuries. The NEXT "*fullness of time*" is Christ's return, etc! But I see that people are experiencing a different and damning "*fullness of time*"—TOO BUSY TO SEEK & FIND & SERVE GOD!

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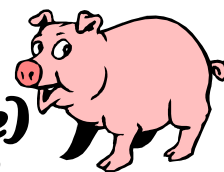
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"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

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SWINE FLU: (God's Cure)

by Gabriel Mancino



This article is not to "humour," nor to declare that "swine flu" is a God-sent judgment. However, "swine flu" freshly reminds us of *the worst* pandemic lurking. Apparently, **every UK household** is to receive an NHS leaflet regarding swine flu. We got one. I could wish people were as much concerned about the worse "pandemic" of which I am now writing.

Various non-vegetarians will not eat "swine" meat. Some ancient Jews would not even say the name of the animal, but simply refer to "that thing!" Sadly, in some radical books of Muslims and Jews, even other *humans (other than themselves!)* are referred to in horrific terms! But some "not religious" people likewise speak terribly of others without just cause. Mixing pigs and people, or monkeys and men is equally an affront to God and man.

In "the Law of Moses," God forbade eating "unclean animals," in contrast to "clean animals." Long before, Noah was told by God to take two of the "unclean," yet *seven* of the

"clean" onto the Ark. (Gen.7:2). But among the "unclean animals," swine seem to have won first place for disgust.

Prompting dread, disgust and even quarantine, was the formerly-incurable disease: leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease. It seems that ancient Jews had practically equal abhorrence for lepers and pigs. While God had given a briefly-worded ban on eating pigs, He went at length regarding the various forms and stages of leprosy, and what to do with those who contracted it. People who had the disease were tested and quarantined, and if confirmed, were kept isolated from the general public. Houses irreparably plagued with leprosy were tore down. The "plague" of leprosy sent a message so clear and so drastic that it was long seen as a "Bible type" illustrating "the plague of sin" itself.

It became "**normal**" for *some people to interact with foreigners only if and when necessary*. And to have to associate with *certain others* was almost a torture and disgrace! It is rare for people to get **the full picture of God's love for all people**, even in Old Testament times. Shortly after Moses' death, the first city conquered under the new leader, Joshua, was Jericho. From that city, God saved a **foreigner-prostitute** and her entire family, plus chose that

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PIGS & PENTECOST! Peter said "No way!" Thankfully, God woke him up and gave him a lesson of His love for all people, outshining all prejudices. Peter had "**his personal Pentecost**," but 1) though Pentecost is *personally* experienced, yet it urges us out in redeeming love to *others*, 2) Peter's heart was beyond his head, but both need to be given to God, otherwise "*self*" will be an obstacle against God working in and through us. In His lesson to Peter (Acts 10), God commanded him to eat "unclean animals." No way? YES way! Be sure you are **TRULY** Christian, awake, listening & trying to reach others; not hard-hearted nor hard-headed.

Earthquake!

Gabriel L. Mancino



Like the front page article, this one makes reference to a threat to human life, while using the subject to make valid and extremely important spiritual application. Early April found Italy traumatised by an earthquake. Southern Italy has been hit with earthquakes for centuries, including Europe's worse in 1908. China now relives the horror of the quake a year ago that killed nearly 90,000! People try to answer questions regarding the matter, like what causes them, where are the danger zones and can they be predicted. I saw internet videos of "strange lights" in the sky just prior to China's devastating earthquake last year.

In speaking of "the signs of the times" leading up to His Second Coming, Jesus listed increase of earthquake activity. Many people know this. The last book of the Bible, "Revelation," makes repeated reference to earthquakes, the last of which is as follows: "and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great" (16:18). Some imply that these "earthquake judgments" will not be literal earthquakes, but world-wide upheaval or chaos like the world has never seen before. Frankly, anyone is out of their mind who would enjoy such global turbulence, or say, "See, there isn't any real earthquake!" I remember a strict Jew once telling me that Jesus was wrong about Jerusalem being destroyed by the Romans, because Jesus said "not one stone would be left on top of another."

Listen! Jesus' words indicated horrific destruction, and He was "spot on." If you had been there, I can just imagine you looking around in shock and amazement and gasping out, "There's not one stone left on another!" Dear friend, trouble IS coming, and we had better get ready now, and stay ready.

Actually, in the Bible, God refers to other earthquakes, in the Old Testament as well as the New, that can help us in life now and troubles that are yet to come.

Moses faced a scary scene like the one described in Revelation, though he was at the mountain where he got the 10 Commandments from God. Hebrews 12:21 says "And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I am exceedingly fearful and trembling.'" Friend, I play no psychological games with you. James 2:19 informs us that even demons have enough sense to tremble, for though they "believe in God," yet they are workers for God's "competitor," Satan! "Believing in God" or not, those who do not submit to God's authority are working for His competitor, just like the demons. Heb. 12:25-29 says, "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.'" Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire."

**READ MORE ABOUT THIS
ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS: As stated at the bottom of the next page, there was "a shaking" at the crucifixion and resurrection, but it didn't stop there. There was a mighty shaking on the original "Day of Pentecost" (Acts 2) and again in chapter 4! God doesn't stop this shaking, Praise His name, for it is for our greatest good. Yet leaders and people resist as in Acts 4:16,17, though "an undeniable miracle" had been done in front of their eyes. 100 such miracles would not convince such people. Oh, the hardness of man's heart! And what of many professing Christians?! Judgment will begin with us! (1 Peter 4:17,18). God could send a "tsunami of glory" that can and will wash away ALL sin in its path. Let's co-operate with Him, and promote it!

PENTECOSTAL Earthquake!

"Pentecost Sunday:" 31 May

"HE shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost and with FIRE!" (Matt.3:11)

Gabriel L. Mancino



meet your God!" (4:12). The very first verse of the book of Amos tells the time-period of his ministry: "in the days of King Uzziah...two years before the earthquake."

The prophet, Zechariah, foretold the birthplace of the Messiah, His Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, that He would be sold for 30 pieces of silver and that He would be pierced (on the Cross). But Zechariah also foretold the fear that would grip the people of his own day, saying: "and you shall flee as you fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah" (14:5). The people had vivid enough recollection of it that such a comparison spoke directly to their knowledge and experience.

The word, "Pentecostal," (above) is not referring to "Pentecostal churches." Such groups get their "label" from the first "Pentecost," recorded in the Bible (Acts 2). Yet, professing Christians should know that even in the spiritual realm "not everything that glitters is gold!" This includes various outward characteristics that resemble the genuine, but are merely superficial religious cosmetics. Elijah, the prophet, is called The Prophet of Fire, being known for that dramatic contest on Mt. Carmel wherein "the God that answers by fire" was the true God. Yet, not long after when he was hiding from the Queen's death squad, God tried to speak to him (1 Kings 19). God approached His man by the customary ways that are "symbols" of God's Spirit: fire and wind. God even used an earthquake, but as with the fire and wind, the record says, "but the Lord was not in the earthquake!" Last of all, God used the manner He purposely wanted to use at that time, and "His man" could tell the difference. It was "a still small voice!" Neither quietness nor noise alone are proof of God's presence with us, and we had better be able to tell the difference!

The "Earthquake!" article on the left mentions Moses' "I exceedingly fear and quake (tremble)." He wasn't alone. I wish there were more. "God's mouthpiece," the prophet Amos, is the one through whom God called to us all, saying: "and because I will do this unto you, prepare to

But there was a greater earthquake in King Uzziah's day than the one referred to by Amos and Zechariah. It happened "in the year King Uzziah died," and is told by Isaiah the prophet. That earthquake was the one that happened inside Isaiah himself, and trust me, it measured high on God's Richter Scale! Read it in Isaiah 6. In that chapter, we have the revealing to Isaiah of God's holiness and Isaiah's UNholiness! God is seen making provision for Isaiah's cleansing of heart and tongue, after which Isaiah's ears were finally open to hear God's call to reach out faithfully to the rest of the people in behalf of God's holy love for mankind. Friend, what I am describing here for you is exactly what happened in Acts 2 on the first Day of Pentecost: holiness, cleansing from sin and sending out to reach others with God's message. I am afraid that many who profess to know God live day after day with unclean hearts and mouths and ears that cannot hear. To us all Christ says what He said to each of the 7 churches in Revelation 2 and 3: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches."

EARTHQUAKE FAULTLINE: An earthquake at Christ's crucifixion (Matt.27:54) and later resurrection (Matt. 28:2) brought different Roman soldier responses. The 1st worshipped! The 2nd group lied. Jesus lifts any true seeker to true peace with God, for He IS who He claimed and showed Himself to be. A "fault line" is a long crack in the earth's surface. Earthquakes usually occur on them. Adam's Fall instantly created a Fault. That fault is called sin. Thankfully, God can send an earthquake your way to get you out of the sin business and ready to meet Him, and help others to do so, as well. Man is "cracked," both superficially and deep in his heart. Earthquakes are frightening, but, this one alone will lift us to the place of Safety!

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.