

“What you don’t know won’t hurt you” is an old philosophy of life. It IS good NOT to know some things! There are *other* things that we *should* know...and the sooner, the better!

A teacher took exam questions from the supporting textbook, and not from the main text only. Students were to have read both. On exam day, he told them: “I don’t want to see what you know. I want *you* to see **what you don’t know!**” Corner-cutters were caught out.

Surprises can be good. Others may be devastating; even tragic. Some involve other people. Some may not. Those on the receiving end **don’t know** until it happens, but sometimes not even *then*. In Christ, God “*lived for a while among us*” (Jn.1:14), yet the people “*did not know Him!*” (Jn.1: 4,5,10,11). **What they didn’t know, hurt them.**

Jesus spoke to a group of people that had a very mistaken idea of their true condition. With perfect precision, the Lord cut like a surgeon to bring a cure. To those self-flattering people, He said:

(continued inside)

Heaven’s Windows (continued from inside)

Again through Jeremiah, God said: “*O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD*” (Jer. 22:29). God wasn’t talking to the ground (“*O earth*”), but to the world’s people...to you and me. Are we listening... “with our inner ear?”

No nation on **earth** is guiltless or exempt, so, God says “*O earth, earth, earth!*” No individual, philosophy or religion is exempt. No matter how well a person tries to hide, none will escape (Heb. 2:3; 10:28, 29; 12:25; 1 Thess. 5:1-9), but those that enter “God’s ship,” like Noah...and that stay on board! (Matt. 7:21; 24:13; 25:11; Lk. 6:46; 13:25; Jam.1:22; Heb. 3:6,14; Col. 1:23).

Just like those **two mountains**, there are **two windows** available. God puts the choice before us...“*this day*.” Heb.3: 7,13,15 says “*While it is called Today*.” (or, “*While today lasts*”).

“**Black holes?**” The worst are not in *outer* space, but *inner* space...in human beings. Apparently, nothing can escape the gravitational pull of **black holes**; not even light. Yet, God’s light penetrates man’s **black holes**; providing escape from the pull of sin, Satan, self, the world, *and* spiritual ignorance. We need **open windows of heaven’s blessing**, and to love, trust *and obey* God... *as we walk with Him* (Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5).

MORE FACTS ABOUT GOD’S BLESSING (continued from front page bottom): St. Peter tells us: “*The Lord is not slow in keeping His word, as He seems to some, but He is waiting in mercy for you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all may be led to repentance*” (2 Pet. 3:9). The Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, says “*For this cause the Lord will be waiting, so that He may be kind to you; and He will be lifted up, so that He may have mercy on you; for the Lord is a God of righteousness: there is a blessing on all whose hope is in Him*” (Isa. 30:18). There’s so much more I could share. God’s window of mercy is open. It’s your move.

Registered Charity #1092050

JULY-AUGUST
2016

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421 Watford Way, Hendon London NW4 4TR Phone: 020-8202-0806
Website: www.londonchristianstandard.com

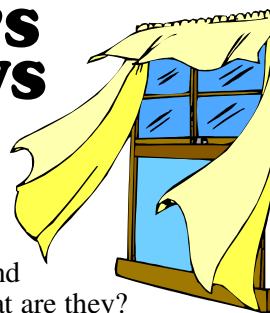
HEAVEN’S WINDOWS

Gabriel L. Mancino

“Black holes” are some of the most amazing things found in **outer space**. What are they? Are the “**windows of heaven**” also in outer space? The Bible mentions **two kinds**. What are they for?

God instructed Moses about **two special mountains**: Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim. Each had a unique purpose, **like the two windows**. God linked a blessing to Mt. Gerizim and a curse to Mt. Ebal. He said by Moses: “*See, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse.*” (Deut. 11:26, 29).

God’s blessing was conditioned on their **obedience**. Peter said that God gives His Holy Spirit to those that **obey Him**. (Acts 5:32). Hebrews 5:9 says



that Jesus “*became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.*” To please God and to get to heaven, **obedience** is a “must-have.” *So is faith.* (Heb.11:6)

“**Heaven’s windows**”— **both kinds** — are ready to pour out upon all people and nations today... in far larger measure than we could ever imagine. What is poured out depends on our obedience to God.

***See more thoughts on this point, below and on the back in red print.**

When God sent the Flood in Noah’s day, the Bible says “*the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up (burst open/came bursting through), and the windows of heaven were opened.*” (Gen. 7:11). Those were only “**windows**” of **blessing** to Noah and his family, for only those on Noah’s huge “ship” were safe. (Matt. 24:37ff; Lk.17:26ff; Isaiah 24:18).

By the prophet, Malachi, God calls
(continued inside)

FACTS ABOUT GOD’S BLESSING: *see middle-right paragraph, above. God often “blesses” (*gives special help to*) even those who disobey or reject Him. He does this to help people see His undeserved goodness, and as a result, repent (turn from) of all their sins and give their lives to Him. St. Paul says: “*Is it nothing to you that God had pity on you, waiting and putting up with you for so long, not seeing that in His pity God’s desire is to give you a change of heart [lead you to repentance]?*” (Rom. 2:4). God has a loving desire and design for us all, yet will not force us. He gives us the authority and ability to choose.

Heaven's Windows

(continued from front page)

us to trust Him, saying: *"And see if I will not open unto you windows in heaven and pour out a blessing that you can not contain!"* (Mal. 3:10).

An assistant to Israel's king gave an unbelieving reply to God's promise of food *within 24 hours* for the entire starving population. That man said: *"Even if the Lord would open windows in heaven, might this thing be?"* (2 Kings 7:2). God's prophet, Elisha, told him that it *would* happen, but that he would not get any. In fact, he was trampled to death, as people rushed to get the God-provided food.

Another way *"the fountains of the great deep are broken up"* is the most important of all! *These fountains* are the ones within a person like you or me, *"broken up"* in true repentance to God.

Most people **do not know** what "godly sorrow" is. *This* sorrow, preceded by "conviction" (see Jn. 16:8), is initiated by God's Holy Spirit, and leads to true repentance. Along with true "saving faith" (Acts 20:21), this sorrow brings salvation from sin and acceptance with God. In 2 Cor. 7: 9-11, we get an idea of what this process involves and accomplishes. Psalm 51 is a spot-on "selfie" on repentance, done by King David and "shared" with us all!

Hosea the prophet, using **"farm language,"** gives God's order: *"Plant for yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your hard and only-slightly-ploughed ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, until He comes and rains righteousness upon you"* (Hos. 10:12). Similarly, God said by Jeremiah: *"Get your unworked land ploughed up, and do not plant your seeds among thorns"* (Jer. 4:3).

God rewards genuine humility,

confession, brokenness and faith with **opened windows of heaven's blessings**, as Malachi 3:10 said earlier.

Moses announced God's conditional blessing, ending with this impassioned appeal: *"I call heaven and earth to testify this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live"* (Deut 30:19). *That* sounds like God wants to give us *Life*, not just *trouble*, as some people think...and say.

Repeatedly, God calls us to Life. He told the prophet Jeremiah to tell everyone: *"Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death"* (Jer. 21:8). They didn't listen. As a stern corrective, God allowed Jerusalem to be destroyed and the nation to be enslaved for 70 years. God is calling to us today. Are we listening, with our ears, hearts...yes, with our whole body and being? Shouldn't we be?

Jesus told the Jews: *"And you will not come to Me, that you might have life"* (Jn. 5:40). Like Jeremiah, Jesus wept over Jerusalem, yet they refused to repent. So, in 70 AD, about 40 years after Christ was crucified, the Romans came, utterly destroying Jerusalem... *this time worse...* just as Jesus foretold. Scattered Israel did not become a nation again until nearly 1900 years later!

God was working amid Old and New Testament times. No, He didn't quit working after Rome destroyed and scattered Israel. Though He may *seem* inactive, uncaring or even non-existing to some, God is still working today. (Job 33:14-30; Ps. 74:12).

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Never doubt in the darkness what God has shown in the light.

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.

What You Don't Know

(continued from back page)

"But you do not know!" What they didn't know would hurt them... forever... and the Lord knew it. He told them their *true* condition, then offered His sure cure. (Rev. 3: 17- 22).

Man is "on God's operating table;" **not knowing** or completely in denial of any serious illness. Most are under the tranquillizing effect of *"this present world"* (Titus 2;11,12 & 1 Jn. 2:15-17).

Babylon's last king was a man who both *knew and didn't know!* Read Daniel 5 and you will see what I mean. His great sin helped bring the end to the Babylonian Empire. Babylon was destroyed. The king paid with his life and maybe his eternal soul. He made an earthly and eternally fatal cocktail and God made him drink it at the great party he held, though **he did not know** it was his last night alive. **Many**, yes, even **most** people are in this king's shoes: *"weighed on God's scales and found lacking"* (Dan. 5:27).

Jesus said that at the time of His return, the world would be like the world of Noah's day. Listen how He described those people: *"But they did not know, until the Flood came, and took them all away."* (Matt. 24:39).

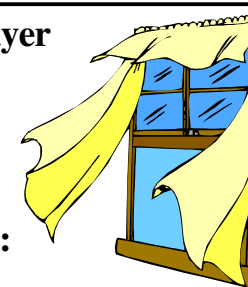
Hear Christ's words to Jerusalem, as His death approached: *"And when He was near, He viewed the city, and wept over it, saying, If you had known, even you, at least in this your day, the things which belong to your peace! But now they are hid from your eyes"* - (Lk.19:41). He emphasised *"even you."*

To that **unaware** and **unsuspecting** woman, Jesus said, *"If you knew the gift of God and Who it is that speaks to you, you would ask Him, and He would give you living water!"* (Jn. 4:10). What a wonderful surprise!

Read her amazing and true story. In **ignorance** and **prejudice**, she put up defences. **She simply did not know.** But Christ helps us abandon our defences, like He did for this woman...if we will just let Him.

There was one window in Noah's Ark. God commanded it. By it, God brought proof that the danger was over. **There are things we do not know.** Yet, **we can know** by experience that God's window and His door of mercy and grace are open for every person that will come. **Enter His door and make yourself at home.** (Jn. 10: 7-9).

**Isaiah's Prayer
To God
For The
Windows
Of Heaven
To Be Open:**



"Oh that You would brake the heavens open, that You would come down...to make Your name known... that the nations may tremble at Your presence!" (Isa. 64:1-5)

About 700 years after Isaiah lived and prayed this prayer, God **DID** "come down," in Christ, to make Himself known among all nations in the most perfect way possible.

"Tremble" starts *transformation*, away from sin and into union with God... on **GOD'S** terms. *This* is the path to the greatest greatness for any individual or nation. If, *today*, God answers the above prayer, with a fresh, spiritual, even *unprecedented* visitation, let's not resist Him in any way, for such an awakening happens only as God, in mercy, opens the windows of heaven. Oh Lord, do it even now!