

# THE DAY SHOPPING STOPS

Gabriel L. Mancino



**What a shopping list!** That Bible verse, just above (Rev.18:13), shows man becoming mere merchandise... human livestock. This is "human trafficking" to its maximum! In that striking scene, the glamorous damage had run its course...and had *also* run out of time.

**Shopping is a part of our life.** Yes, some "love it" and some don't.

Revelation 18 (in the last book of the Bible) tells of a day that will change shopping forever. It tells of the sudden fall of "that great and mighty city, Babylon" and gives the reasons why...and, yes, it *WILL* matter to us.

Babylon's doom is announced by "a mighty angel having great authority." The angel's message, "Babylon is fallen!" was not merely foretelling a future event. Babylon was *already* fallen—on the inside, and so must eventually fall, that is, be destroyed. Jesus spoke of certain people as being "condemned already!" and told why (Jn. 3:18). The same is true about all humanity and about *each* of us, unless we receive God's own provided remedy.

Babylon's **dazzling merchandise**, which attracts people world-wide, is then stopped forever. God lists the **wide assortment** of items in its **grand inventory** which was now to be shut down. It included **gold**, precious stones, metals, items of various wood, valuable cloth, ivory, marble—you name it—spices, wine, fine flour and wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, AND "the bodies and souls of men!"

But right now, there *IS* time, there *IS* hope and there *IS* opportunity to get totally right with God.

In Revelation 18, tragedy strikes with eternal finality for those who are "at home" in Babylon. Babylon has enough alluring variety to attract and to damn us all...*unless!*

Starting with verse 20, we read of indescribable and endless rejoicing! The rejoicing is coming from those who stood faithful to God, and to His Christ. It is through Jesus that God provides and offers rescue from sin, and our guaranteed welcome and entrance to be with Him forever.

"**Buy up** the time!" and "**Buy up** the **opportunity!**" sound like market place shouting. Yet, these are other translations of the old English Bible verse: "*Redeeming the time, for the days are evil*" (Eph. 5:15). The **opportunities** and **time** God gives us come and go. One day, they will be gone forever. The **time** to act is **today** (Heb. 3: 7,13,15); even "**now**" (2 Cor. 6:2). God's merciful "market place" has the best Bargain the world has ever known. **Let's Go Shopping!**



**"WITH ALL YOUR GETTING, get understanding"** (Prov. 4:7). "**BUY THE TRUTH, and do not sell it**" (Prov. 23:23). Prov. 4:7 also says "*Wisdom is the principle thing,*" but this wisdom 1) Comes from God through Jesus: "*Christ is our wisdom*" by God - (1 Cor. 1:30), and 2) it "*is first pure, then peaceable...*" (Jam. 3:13-18). Jesus said "**BUY** from Me gold...that you *MAY* be rich!" (Rev. 3: 18). **IT'S TIME TO SHOP!!**

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## FACTS ABOUT FEAR



**To fear or not to fear, that is the question!**

Gabriel L. Mancino

**No, Shakespeare didn't say that!** In his play, **Hamlet**, he wrote "To be or not to be, that is the question." There *are* many good quotes about fear available. Yet, even "good quotes" generally address only one aspect of "the question!"

**USA President F. D. Roosevelt** said "There is **nothing to fear**, but fear itself." True, but not entirely. The Bible repeatedly tells us that "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of*

*wisdom..*" (Job 28:28; Ps. 11:10; Prov. 1:7; 9:10. See also Isa. 11:2; 33:6).

**As Christmas speeds toward us**, I recall the words by the angel to those Bethlehem shepherds watching their sheep: "**Fear not**, for I bring you good news of great joy, which shall be to all people. For there is born to you this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord!" (Lk. 2: 10, 11).

**Jumping from "Christmas" to "Easter,"** we hear the same comforting words. A few days after Jesus was crucified and His body was placed in that cave for burial, the announcement was made to those **faithful female followers** of Christ: "**Fear not**: for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the **(continued inside)**



**AMUSEMENTS:** To "muse" means to "think," and "A," as in a-theist, means "one who does NOT believe in God. So, "A-muse" could suggest NOT thinking. Could this well describe the heart of much of society's mad pursuit for "amusement;" otherwise called entertainment? Many may argue that various amusements do require much thinking, and are not simply for "stupid" people. True, but only partially, for when we stand before God, the unprepared "*thinking*" people will realise, and say: "*I didn't think!*" This will be far worse than Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors, and that will **NOT** be **AMUSING**.



## FACTS ABOUT FEAR

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dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Look, I have told you” (Matt. 28: 5-7).

Over and over again, in both Old and New Testaments we hear those words, **“Fear not!”** from both God Almighty and from Jesus.

In the Bible, **“fear”** often has the idea of deep reverence and respect. The Bible compares respect that one should give to a parent, to the respect one should give to God. In that comparison, it says that it is all the more reasonable to **“fear”** and submit to our heavenly Father who has His highest purposes and our own greatest good in view for each one of us! (Heb. 12: 5-10).

In that same chapter, the writer concludes, *“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”* (Heb. 12: 28, 29).

In the verses, above, the word **“grace”** is used in connection with **“godly fear.”** This reminds me of that tremendous old hymn-song, **Amazing Grace**, in which we find the following words:

*“It was **grace** that taught my heart to **fear**, and **grace** my fears relieved.  
How precious did that **grace** appear, the hour I first believed.”*

**Until God “turns the lights on”** for us, we won’t even know we have a problem. So, that songwriter said

that God “turned the lights on!” He taught the heart to fear! But he also says that the God who helped him to see his need, *also met* that need, *relieving* his fears by His great heavenly supply: **Amazing Grace!**

Hebrews 10: 27 uses the word **“fearful”** as part of the understandable response of those who are “caught out” in sin by God. He concludes in verse 31 saying *“It is a **fearful** thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*

By making the following simple comparison, Jesus made it easy for us to get a clear and correct understanding of this supreme matter: *“And I say to you, My friends, do not be **afraid** of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should **fear**: **Fear Him** who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, **fear Him!**”* (Lk. 12: 4, 5).

Many people will be banned from heaven due to fears that kept them from giving their hearts and lives to God. In the short list of the type of people who are barred from heaven, **“the fearful”** head the list, along with murderers, liars and “the worst of the worst!” (Rev. 21: 8). Is that surprising? People often fear other people and consequences more than they fear God. Yes, respect *for* and worshipful **“fear”** of the Lord that loves us is the beginning of wisdom.

**“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16, 17)**



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.



## HAPPY HURRICANES

Gabriel Mancino

**In contrast to horrific hurricanes** not long ago that killed and that caused utter destruction in the West Indies, USA and elsewhere, I want us to consider a great future hope!

**When war** (or a storm) **is over, people usually rejoice**, though damage remained and suffering continued. The picture, above, is of one of the **two well-known WW2 British fighters, the Hurricane and the Spitfire**. I have seen old photos of happy crowds at the war’s end, for despite unthinkable losses—including here in Britain—there is general rejoicing when war ends.

A day is coming when unimaginable rejoicing will begin and never end. **The Big War** will then be over forever! Sin is a **declaration of war** against God; a rebellion against His government. It always *has* been. Satan started it, but our first parents, Adam and Eve, linked us all to **“the enemy camp,”** and most people keep enlisting! Many are eagerly awaiting the **“News Flash”** that will inform us that **The Big War** is over.

US Marine Major General Butler said many years ago: **“War Is A Racket!”** In the sense I am using it, Satan’s War Is A Racket, too, in order to send as many people to hell as he can by means of his deadly and damning weapon: sin.

In a sense, when a person dies, the war is already over. Death stops

a person from sinning, and therefore, from resisting, rejecting and rebelling against God. But the Bible clearly tells us that there is something *after* death, for which we must prepare.

Yet, death often gives no advance notice, and can come suddenly. We will *certainly* get no advance notice when Christ will return!

As it relates to getting right with God (being saved from sin), and as it relates to getting prepared for the return of Christ, the Bible always says NOW! NOW is the time to get saved! NOW is the time to be ready for Christ’s return...and *keep* ready!

Whatever the details may be and however they may take place, the end of **The Big War** will assemble all people that ever lived. Each of us must appear in front of God. It will be a moment of unthinkable rejoicing for many, yet unthinkable horror for far more. That huge and horrified population will come to that final assembly, never having abandoned **“the enemy camp.”** They *could have*. We *all* can, if we will. But, they never came out openly, and “waving a white flag” of full surrender to God, the Supreme Commander. In this context, **it will pay to have been a deserter from “the enemy camp!”**

I want all of my readers, and their families and friends, yes, and even their enemies, to be part of the happy, rejoicing crowd when this ongoing **Big War** is over. But there *must* be full surrender, first! *Then*, instead of **Spitfires and Hurricanes**, we may see a fly-past of angels overhead. “What a day that will be!” “Happy Day! Happy Day!” If we hope to be there in that rejoicing crowd, we must surrender NOW to the Supreme Commander, obey His commands and trust His wise and loving leadership. **“It will be worth it all!”**

