

# WAIT STOP STAY GO



Gabriel L. Mancino

The front page article focuses on The Day of Pentecost, which is on **20 May** this year. Jesus told His disciples to **wait** in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father. After Christ's crucifixion, they were understandably afraid to wait in the city that had just crucified their leader! Yet, if they did not **wait**, they would not receive "The Promised Gift." Having waited and received, they knew that, according to Christ's command, they were to **GO!**

Again and again, the prophet, Elijah, told his assistant, Elisha (who was to replace him), to **wait** while he went somewhere else God was calling him. **Elisha refused to stay.** He knew that God was soon taking Elijah away, and he wanted "a double portion" of God's Spirit that was on his amazing master. Elisha got what he needed... and really what the whole nation needed him to have...by refusing to wait! That scene, though an actual historical

event, was a wonderful illustration of Pentecost to come.

Elisha helped many people; sometimes by amazing miracles. Once, he helped a widow woman, whose two sons were about to be made slaves in order to pay a debt they owed. Elisha had the poor lady collect all the empty containers her neighbours would give her. Elisha had her to fill those empty bottles with oil from the little that she had in the only bottle she had in the house. She filled one after another until she had no more empty bottles, then **the oil stopped** coming out of her original bottle. She had run out of bottles, so the oil "**stayed,**" or **stopped.** Oil is a Bible illustration of the Holy Spirit. The Bible not only tells us to "be filled with Spirit," but to "KEEP being filled with the Holy Spirit." Once is not enough! **But her supply stopped.** That is a danger; a disaster.

In old age, and not long before dying, Elisha had the king to shoot an arrow out the window. It illustrated victory over the enemy. Then, he told the king to hit the arrows on the ground. The king hit three times and "**stayed,**" or **stopped.** Elisha was so displeased and told the king that he should have hit five or six times, for then God would have given them victory over their fierce and threatening enemies. **How often do we stop too soon! Listen. Obey.**

**THE SHROUD OF RUIN:** A "shroud" covers or makes something hard to see. 2 Cor. 3 and 4 compares Moses' covered face with Christ's open face where we may see and know the glory of God. It also says we may be changed into that same image by God's Holy Spirit as we look into the face of Jesus. **BUT,** we may 1) reject this privilege 2) be "religious," "satisfied" (in denial?) and/or just uninformed 3) claim union to Christ, yet not be "turned from covered, shameful things and, in addition, deceitfully changing the Word of God and in this way hide the Gospel from those who are lost and perishing" (2 Cor. 4: 2-4). **THAT is the Shroud of Ruin...TOTAL RUIN! Reject hidden coverings. Look to Christ, then shine!**

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## AFTER- EASTER SAIL!

...and right on time!

Gabriel L. Mancino



Businesses often have a Christmas **Sale** and an *After-Christmas Sale*. This can happen at Easter, too. So, what in the world is this "**SAIL!**" I am referring to? Let me tell you.

The Bible is the record of God's provided rescue of man from his greatest problem—sin. No one is exempt from the problem, nor from God's provision and offer of rescue.

God has one plan with which to achieve this goal, and doesn't need

advisors or bosses. His plan is flawless. It cannot be improved. No part of the problem or solution has escaped His attention or puzzled Him.

God's plan includes means of telling others about it. He does not rely only upon human helpers to spread the news, but contacts people all over the world, personally. Whether through His workers or by means of Himself, the message is the same, for the problem is the same and God's remedy is the same, world-wide.

"Christmas" tells of the coming of God's remedy for man's chief problem: "*You shall call His name, Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins*" (Matt. 1:21).

(continued inside)

**"HANDS-ON" EXCITEMENT:** God speaks! (Heb.1:1-3) *The Bible is the written Word of God. Jesus is "the Word become flesh and living among us" (Jn.1:14). After the resurrection, Christ's followers were able to see, touch and listen to Christ as never before! Speaking clearly of Jesus, John wrote: "which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life... that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full" (1 Jn.1:1-4). Get your hands on that, and don't let go!*

## AFTER-EASTER SAIL

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But “baby Jesus,” in later years as a young adult, was nailed to a Cross. We commemorated that event on “Good Friday,” **30 March** this year. Christ’s hate-filled enemies had worked hard to see Him killed. However, His death was particularly and supremely *God’s* Plan, not *theirs!* Man plans and may carry out his plans, yet *God* controls the chessboard.

“Easter” (**1 April** this year) celebrates Christ’s resurrection. He had plainly and repeatedly told His disciples that it would take place. Easter was followed by 40 days of “resurrection appearances” to His disciples. Having arisen *bodily*, not just *spiritually*, from the dead, He ascended back to God, the Father. He had told His disciples that this, too, would happen. “Ascension Day” is Thursday, **10 May** this year.

Yet, the Cross, Resurrection and Ascension was not “the end.” There was another event still ahead...only ten days after Christ’s ascension. Like Jesus’ birth, death, resurrection and ascension, this event was foretold hundreds of years before. That next event was the **Grand Finale** of God’s long-planned and long-promised “**Act**” of man’s long-promised rescue. In fact, this epochal and far-reaching **Act**—*first recorded in The Book of Acts in the Bible*—is still going on!

Let’s see how all of this is

linked to the “**After-Easter Sail.**” After Jesus “**sailed**” out of the disciples’ sight at the Ascension, (Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:9), something on a grand scale happened. The Bible says: “*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men*” (Eph. 4:8). God’s provision to us through Christ isn’t a **sale**; it’s a **give-away!**

The “gifts” given, as listed in Eph. 4: 8-13 (see above, compared with Eph. 3:19) are for filling man with “*all the fullness of God and of Christ*”—that is, for all who come to Him. **Can God do this?** To answer that question, the very next verse, Eph. 3:20, says that God “*is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think!*”

In the same call to receive the fullness of God, the Bible says “*Now may the very God of peace Himself sanctify you completely [make you holy, through and through] and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it” (1 Thess. 5: 23, 24). **He can! He will!***

So, Jesus ascended to the Father after His death, resurrection and 40 days of “*showing Himself alive by many infallible proofs*” (Acts 1: 3). It was upon returning to the Father that Jesus gave gifts to those who follow Him, as cited in Eph. 4:8. Those “gifts” are linked to the “Gift.” Jesus spoke of. That “Gift” is “*The Promise of the Father*” —

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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.



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“*the Comforter*” who was coming. Jesus identified the Gift: “*The Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in My name.*” (Jn. 14:16, 26; 15: 26).

Let’s look at the day this gift-giving Gift was given! It was on the Day of Pentecost; during one of the big yearly Jewish festivals; 50 days after their Passover festival. When **The Promised Gift** came, it was like God sent a shock-wave right in the middle of the huge crowd of visitors. To those stunned spectators there in Jerusalem, Peter (speaking of Jesus) gave this explanation: “*Therefore being exalted to [by] the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear*” (Acts 2:33).

Pentecost Sunday, sometimes called Whitsunday or Whitsun, is on **20 May** this year.

After Christ’s ascension to the Father, He gave The Promised Gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit then gives the gifts to us which Christ purchased with His own victorious death on the Cross and subsequent resurrection. It was an **After-Easter “Sail,”** heavenward, in order to send the Gift *and the gifts* down to all who open their hearts to receive. This is free to us all, but it cost God and Christ more than we could imagine or describe.

Jesus emphasised that cleansing from inward sinfulness was the great work of Pentecost. It was the

gift of heart cleansing, of holiness, of union and communion with God more than anything else (see Jn. 17 with Acts 15:9).

Not only did Pentecost do a specific *inward* work of cleansing from inward sin and filling with the Holy Spirit, it does an *outward* work, propelling Christ’s followers “*into all the world to make disciples*” (Lk 24:49; Acts 1:4, 5, 8)

**Let’s go shopping** in view of this **After-Easter Sail!** Famed artist, “**Banksy,**” portrayed Christ on the Cross holding shopping bags. Maybe he depicted the commercializing of Easter. Unintentionally, no doubt, **Banksy’s art** fits the fact that Christ paid the great price for our salvation, thereby purchasing and providing the gifts that I have been writing about.

If I told you that there was someone handing out **£50 notes** just down the street would you go get one? What if he were handing out **briefcases** or **suitcases full of £50 notes?** Friend, not even 10 or 100 suitcases full would buy salvation for even one person. It is a free Gift full of gifts! What an **After-Easter Sail! An endless shopping spree!**

Bible “**emblems**” of the Holy Spirit are **oil** (as in back page article), **fire** and **wind** (as on The Day of Pentecost- Acts 2), and even **water!** As the back page article shows, sometimes we must stop or stay or go, so we must listen to God. But, in a scene from 1Kings 19 (like back page), there was wind, fire and more, but not God...yet! There was “a still, small voice!” Listen to God carefully!