

BLUE EYES

The KEY to its CURE

Gabriel L. Mancino



Our website shows the above-eye, looking through the keyhole, as being blue!

My father told of the person that had two blue eyes; one "blew" this way and one "blew" that way! The Bible says "Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth" (Prov. 17:24). The Bible adds this: "The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. Yet I myself perceived that the same event happens to them all" (Eccl. 2:14). That last verse says 1) Foolish eyes wander unfocused and in darkness, and 2) Many things happen alike to the wise and the unwise; and whether or not they love and obey God. Is it possible to be intelligent and quite or even very focused, yet still be a "fool" or unwise in the long term?

Jeremiah the prophet was amazingly faithful to both God and man. He tried to warn the king and his fellow-Jews, but they wouldn't listen. Even little before Jerusalem's complete destruction and burning, it could have been spared...IF they would have listened to him! He addressed his words, at times, in this way: "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not" (Jer. 5:21). "Foolish people" don't necessarily lack education, natural ability or resolve.

One of the greatest national leaders of all times was Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar, who built one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. He lost his mind through God's direct judge-

ment, though God had warned him by Daniel, like Jeremiah warned Jerusalem! After his mind was restored, hear the king's words: "And at the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes unto heaven, and my understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured Him that lives for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation...At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honour and splendour returned to me. My counsellors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down" (Dan. 4: 34, 36, 37). That king was forever cured of "blue eyes!"

God can cure anybody, anywhere, at any time—if they let Him! Ancient, "blue-eyed" Israel was too busy chasing pagan idolatry of all sorts (to their own hurt!) just like much of today's world is doing.

One man in the Bible discovered how foolish he was, though he had thought others were! He admitted to God "I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You" (Ps. 73: 3,22).

God alone can "touch our eyes" in the ways most needed. St. Paul's prayer for believers stated: "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in His holy people, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe" (Eph. 1: 18, 19). An unimaginable hope, a glorious inheritance, an immeasurable power—and more, are ours, if we allow Him to enter our closed (and barricaded?) door...where He now stands (Rev. 3:20). HE is the Cure for "Blue Eyes." "Make straight paths for your feet!" (Isa. 40:3; 42:16; Matt. 3:3; Heb. 12: 13,14). Let Him in today!

Let's seek, trust, love and obey God with ALL of our hearts through ALL of 2013! Cut from ALL sin, then grow and glow for Christ and ALL people...and "speak a word in season" to them, too! (Isa. 50: 4) ...but, we must first ENTER! "You MUST be born again," Jesus said. (Jn.3:7)

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The

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

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I SAW IT FIRST!

A Thought For the WHOLE Year!

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"fairy tales" into the true Christmas story, but as I've said before, Satan likes to try counterfeiting or debasing God's Word, God's Work and God's Way. Yet, you would not empty your purse or wallet of all money simply because counterfeit money is flowing around. Do the same spiritually— i.e keep the genuine, but throw the false away!

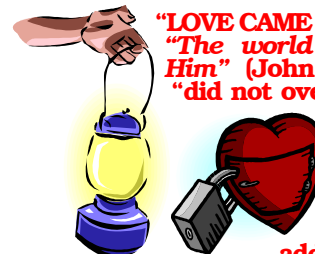
The bridge is out! Each year, the Christmas holiday that bridges from the old to the new year ends on "the twelfth day of Christmas." Since then, "the bridge" from 2012 to 2013 "is out." We may not go back, but thankfully, we can go forward to greater things!

Historically, that "twelfth day," celebrated on 6 January, is called "Epiphany," which means a "showing," "striking appearance," "manifestation." It is more-often associated with the amazing visit of the "wise men from the east" to the Christ-Child.

The world has interwoven various

The Bible record of the wise men tells that they were led by a God-given star that they had seen at home "in the east;" some say ancient Iran (Persia). But they were not the first to see that star! During Moses' time, and about 1,450 years before Christ came to this world in the flesh, there was an amazing man to whom God showed this "Star." This was only one of the things God showed this man so that he could foretell or reveal some of God's determined plan for the world's benefit.

(continued inside)



"LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS," yet the general reception was pitiful—"The world did not know Him...His own people did not receive Him" (John 1: 10,11). But John adds that the spiritual darkness "did not overcome the Light, or put it out!" Christ (God's Love-Light!) entered & continues to shine amid a darkness far worse than old-time London Fog! The world is blanketed and buried in darkness, but He who is the Light & Love of God is also the Resurrection, Life & Power who said to the man 4-days dead: "Come out!" Love's initial reception had its pitiful side, but it did not draw a total blank, for John added, "BUT, as many as received Him!" God's Love is beaming strongly into 2013. Seek the Light. Live & walk in it. Bask in it. Don't turn from it, & return to darkness. When God sees you... when He sees me... it is "Love at first sight," and He says, as Jesus said to Nathaniel, "I SAW YOU FIRST!"

I SAW IT FIRST!

(continued from front page)

The record of **this favoured man, named Balaam**, is mainly given in “the 4th book of Moses, called “Numbers,” chapters 22-24. Reference to this *especially-unusual* man, Balaam, is also found elsewhere in the Bible.

In Num. 22, God “**opened the eyes**” of **this man who was dangerously blind** to his personal sin. He was blind to *how much God hates sin*—especially when God had been coming into his life (even though he was not Israeli!). He was also blind to *the damning consequences* of his personal sin. God took the blinders away! **What a favour this is, when God does this for a person!** In Num. 24, as he prepared to speak God’s truth and reveal some of God’s foretelling, **Balaam referred to himself four times as “the man whose eyes God opened.”**

The tragedy of tragedies is that Balaam ended up fighting against God, though God had truly opened his eyes! He died in that rebelling, compromising, betraying condition, though he had openly stated his praiseworthy desire in the prayer: **“Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!” (23: 10).**

Many people, in their most sensible moments, have this same desire. None but God knows the true spiritual condition of a person’s heart, including when they are dying. For many, death comes suddenly, with no time to pray. For many others...even facing death..., there is (or *seems to be*) no inclination to seek God and His forgiveness. Then, too, many are so drugged-up in hospital due to their physical condition...perhaps *terminally ill*...that they seem totally incapable of praying. Yet, innumerable people, freely walking the pavements, are as drugged-up, but with Balaam-like allurements blinding them and keeping them detoured from truly obeying God.

Balaam said that God had opened his eyes. God had! **Many people today... many here in London...have had God to give them glimpses of reality, just like Balaam.** If you dress up scary later in the year, at Halloween, just forget all well-known scary models. There is no scarier model than Balaam, whose eyes were opened by God, who openly stated the best eternal goal, but who died in antagonism against God. Yet most people walk in his skin all year, not just in October.

About 27 years ago, our GP told me some of the moral, philosophical, hair-splitting “helps” to decision-making found, as I recall, in the Jewish Talmud. He gave an example, asking **“Which person should own a particular object: the one who picked it up, or he who actually saw it first?”** I guess I was supposed to be impressed. He also stated his opinion that if Jesus came to bring *“peace on earth,”* then He failed. The poor GP himself *failed*— 1) to have God-opened eyes when reading Scripture itself, and 2) by elevating and glorying in the Talmud instead. This same GP, standing at our bedside as my wife was in labour, told us bluntly: **“This baby is dead.”** The GP was **“dead wrong,”** and we knew it. He was **“dead wrong”** about Jesus, too.

The point of my sharing, above, is that **Balaam saw the star first!** He saw it through the “telescope of prophecy,” over 14 centuries before the wise men. **But Dr. Balaam was “dead wrong”** to take the course of action that he chose. He gambled and lost. The “late-comer” wise men, didn’t gamble—they obeyed! **And they obeyed God, not King Herod.**

Herod and Balaam had the same spirit and heart. Herod killed children in the vain attempt to stop and silence God. Balaam tried to kill his donkey, that was trying to save his life and his soul. Yes, Balaam saw the star long before the wise men, but he failed to follow as *they* did. **Be truly wise, with open eyes... AND obedient heart and ready feet!**

*NOTE: The term, “dead wrong,” (above) simply means “completely wrong.”

ANOTHER STAR

Gabriel L. Mancino



To walk in loving obedience to God is a Way of Life that has been attacked since the Garden of Eden. From the Garden of Eden to the New Testament Book of Acts, that fight continued. It still rages today.

Satan wasted no time trying to destroy God’s work in the first century. He had done the same in The Garden of Eden. The first century apostle warned those early believers of **another Jesus... another Gospel... another Spirit**” (2 Cor. 11; 4 & Gal. 1:6-8). “Counterfeit Christs,” preached in the first century, were spread in later centuries and are still being promoted today.

A similar thing appears to have happened with the Star that led the wise men to the Christ Child, which had been foretold by Balaam (mentioned in the front page article). **The prophet, Amos**, like the other Bible prophets, recorded God’s faithful, “zero-tolerance” judgement upon Israel’s sins, as well as His loving pleas for their repentance and return. Listen to God’s rebuke from Amos 5:

21 “I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell the sweet fragrances in your solemn assemblies. 22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. 23 Take away from Me the noise of your songs; for I will not hear the melody of your viols. 24 But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. 25 Have you offered unto Me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? 26 But you have carried

the portable shrine of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which you made to yourselves. 27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, says the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.” **Wow, that is powerful!**

God is completely disgusted at religious “worship” *carried out in vain show, empty ritualism or froth, and hypocrisy.* That goes for sacrifices, music, the whole thing. God is no less appalled at the various ways He is treated by the *non-religious crowd*—ignored, mocked, denied, neglected. But it was *not* with religious hypocrites in mind that God asks, *“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now, if the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”* (1 Pet. 4: 17, 18).

The world is predominantly following **“another star.”** The *TYPE* of that “*other star*,” is irrelevant. Jesus clearly stated *“No person can serve two masters!”* Many professing Christians of all sorts, and non-Christians as well, need to take Christ’s words seriously. The “herd” follow **“another star”** and its beams of *apparently-fulfilling* pleasure. **“Stars,”** celebrities, business big-shots and high politicians linked together not long ago in obvious and planned agreement in bold, public support of ways of life (relating to sex and marriage) that directly defy God.

“Angel-faced” Stephen confirmed the history of **Israel’s idolatrous star worship** as he confronted the guilty religionists (Acts 6: 15; 7: 42, 43). For his faithfulness to both God and man, he paid with his life, but prayed for those who killed him, just as Jesus had done (v.60). **Stephen followed THE Star... not “another star”... and pointed us all to It.** * Look and Live!

*John 3: 14 with Numbers 21: 4-9

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.