

# ***THE REVELATION OF RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT SERIES***

## **PART 10**

### **"JUDGMENT AT THE HOUSE"**

(CONTINUED)

**I Peter 4:17...***"For the time is come that JUDGMENT MUST BEGIN AT THE HOUSE OF GOD..."*

We know not whether you have ever contemplated this thought before, but from the moment that Adam first stepped out of the way of life, and out of the mind of the Spirit, he stepped into the realm of INSANITY. That's right; he literally lost his mind...the mind which was able to perceive reality and truth from a godly perspective. He fell from that high and lofty place of spiritual understanding; and as a result, he became emotionally unstable, and mentally ill. That is a fair and honest assessment of the carnal mind, wouldn't you say? Now, when we say this, we are not just referring to the extreme cases, as are easily recognized in society, but to the carnal mind in general. It is totally off-it's-rocker! (How else would you describe Adam's act of defiance? Only insanity would cause him to break his covenant with God, and forfeit his glorious inheritance)! In fact, this entire "cosmos", or world-system, which came into existence after the fall, actually became ONE GREAT INSANE ASYLUM for mankind! It is Adam's very own "mental institution", the establishment that came into being through his rebellion and independence! The sad thing about it is that not only was he "committed" to this realm of pandemonium, this soulish "sanitarium" situated on his shoulders, but every one of his offspring were born into it, as well! We ask you: who among us has not witnessed the madness of the carnal mind in a very real and personal way, from an "insider's" point of view? Who among us has not felt confined, or "locked away" in this "mental institution" between our ears at one time or another?

Should anyone doubt the universal delirium of this world, just take a moment to consider some of it's peculiarities. Consider, if you will, some of the freakish fads and fashions that have come along over the years; or some of the odd ways folks find entertainment. Men will nearly kill themselves to have a good time! They will expend their time, energy, health, and hard- earned money on things that are of no lasting value, in their quest to gratify and thrill the senses. In fact, they will spend hundreds and thousands of dollars on items and substances which originally cost only pennies to make...and moments to consume! They will strive to keep up with the latest designs and trends of the day, only for them to be considered out-of- style tomorrow (ten years from now, they will come back in)! Not only that, but have you noticed how some people will pay twice as much for a certain item, just because of the popularity of it's name brand, or it's "designer" label? What is it that causes folks to do such things, you ask? INSANITY, we say!

Have you ever just stopped and thought about how ridiculous some things look? And yet, they are the very things held in greatest admiration by the masses! How about some of the violent and senseless crimes committed these days? Or some of the lopsided, unjust laws being passed today, which present evil as good, and good as evil; which suppress the righteous, but empower the wicked? Still yet, have you pondered some of the bizarre projects funded by "pork-barrel" spending in Congress? Ever wonder where they get these ideas? It shouldn't take long to figure that out!

What about some of the vile and absurd subjects with which people are enthused? Nothing but INSANITY! Just listen to the topics spoken of daily on the multitudinous tabloid talk-shows, and you will understand what we mean! The more grotesque, twisted, or disturbed, the higher the ratings! Such programs are an insult to one's intelligence, to say the least! Furthermore, have you considered the vain and foolish things men esteem as most important in life, simply for the sake of pride? Some men devote their whole lives for the acquisition of wealth, fame, prestige, or titles (at the expense of their relationship with God and their family), only to die and leave it all behind! What a worthless cause! And what about the blatant perversion of judgment on moral issues? Some place more value on the life of an animal or a tree than on the life of an unborn child! Surely Solomon summed it up correctly, when he said that of things "under the sun", all was "vanity and vexation of spirit"! From the heavenly perspective, there is nothing sane in the world below! It's a raving madhouse!

What is true in the secular world is likewise true in the world of religion. Adam's "three stooges" (the religious mindsets of the Pharisee, the Saducee, and of the Essene) have come up with some mighty crazy ideas about God and His ways throughout the history of the church! O, the things men find to fuss about; the things which bring division! The things which men go to great lengths to perform, and the things they attribute to God, without their having the slightest spiritual significance in their relationship with God! Such foolishness! There is only one word to describe the multitudes of extrabiblical doctrines, practices, formulas, and rituals found in Christendom today; and only one word to describe the senseless system of man-made programs, orders, denominations, and motions of religion that have been conjured up in the minds and imaginations of men; and that is INSANITY!

There seems to be no end to the gimmicks, tricks, and fund-raising tactics used by certain in the religious community. You name it, and it has probably been sold in the name of Jesus! "Holy water" from the River Jordan; dirt from the "holy land"; "scarlet threads"; "miracle billfolds"; "anointed handkerchiefs"; "special holy oil"; "prosperity dolls"; trinkets and tokens, bobbles and bric-a-brac, etc., etc., all claiming some unique ability to deliver the recipient from their problems, troubles, and woes! What a farce! This would surely be humorous, were it not for the fact that year after year, untold multitudes fall for these bogus blessings sold by the merchants of Babylon! Why? INSANITY, no doubt! How else could we explain it?

When Jesus entered into this Adamic "asylum" in the days of His flesh, He did so as "Chief Orderly". He came to bring order in the midst of confusion, peace in the midst of

disturbance, and sanity to a troubled world. In fact, He originated "the shock treatment"! He shocked men with His words, and stunned them with His power! He startled them with His ability to bring true deliverance to the captives, and to those who were "enemies in their own minds, by way of wicked works"! His power over insanity was abundantly illustrated throughout the gospels, as He ministered to the man who lived among the tombs of Gadara, and restored him to his right mind (Luke 8:27); as He set at liberty the lunatic boy (Matt. 17:15); yea, and as "they brought unto Him all sick people...and those which were lunatic...and He healed them" (Matt. 4:24). But rather than leaving them in an unresponsive, listless, and zombie-like state (as do the shock treatments of this world), He charged them with hope. The current He imparted to them gave them hope that by the process of transformation, they, too, could rise up in the newness of life, and put on the very same mind that was in Christ Jesus! They could begin to walk as He walked, talk as He talked, and think as He thought; in the sanity of the mind of the Spirit! He promised them a release from their mental and psychological bondages!

Beloved, that same promise is extended to us. Though at times it may seem otherwise, we are persuaded according to scripture that if we have been born again, we have the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16). It is not something we are waiting for. It became our possession the moment we were baptized in His Spirit! However, our own personal experience shows us that we have not yet apprehended it as an unwavering and perpetual state of mind. We still vacillate between two minds, and halt between two opinions. This is because the Lord has allowed the continued expression of the mind of the flesh, at least for the time being, that He might teach us some valuable lessons in the process. Despite some people's wishes, the new birth is not a frontal lobotomy! Christ did not remove a portion of our brain when He saved us! Nor did He do away with the carnal mind. We still have the potential of thinking the same way we used to, before our conversion experience, if we so choose. But thanks be unto God, Christ has given us an alternative! Certainly He could subdue the old "man of sin" in a moment; we have no doubt that His spiritual "strait jacket" could bind old Adam up in a hurry! And we are grateful for the fact that though the old man rages at times, seemingly out of control, God has restrained him in measure (He has him, as it were, in a "padded cell", to keep him from completely destroying himself)! Imagine how things would be, if He had not! But obviously, God has a purpose that is being fulfilled through the entire ordeal; and in due season, when the time is right, and all the necessary lessons have been learned, He shall make His power known!

In every generation, however, and throughout this entire dispensation we call "the church age", Christ has strategically placed His saints in special positions, and used them to certain degrees and varying measures as "orderlies" in the world. Though oftentimes they were misunderstood, considered "beside themselves", that they were the ones mad (Acts 26:24-25), they have been responsible for keeping the peace during times when otherwise the world around them would have completely "flipped out"! Now, this has been accomplished through a people who, though they possessed the mind of the Spirit, were, themselves, still going through their own personal time of deliverance. They were still experiencing the inner conflict between the flesh and the Spirit, and struggling for stability within. But you can believe that in the end of this age, when the battle is finally

won within us, He will begin through us, to tear down the INSANE ASYLUM around us, and to establish His Kingdom in it's place! Hallelujah! Not only is this our hope, but also the hope of all creation!

## **THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED**

Throughout the Scriptures, and especially in Psalms and Proverbs, we see a distinct contrast made between the righteous and the wicked. Typically, when we speak of them, we usually think of two widely different groups in the world, who possess widely differing interests. We generally think of them as two morally opposite groups of individuals, who have two different outlooks on life, and who are headed toward two different destinations. And they are! Surely no one in their right mind (the mind of the Spirit) would argue with that. But may we make a suggestion? When we speak of "THE RIGHTEOUS", we are not just referring to a group of individuals, but to Him Who is THE source of all righteousness...Christ! "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS" (I John 2:1)! He is the Righteous, the Holy, the Upright, and the Perfect, in the truest sense of the definition! Therefore, if anyone else fits into that description, or is worthy of that title, it is only because He has made them thus! Otherwise, "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:10)! No one would ever be considered righteous, were it not for Him! His inward influence, and the motivation of His indwelling presence, is what makes men righteous! There is no other way outside of Him!

The same is true concerning "THE WICKED". We know that there are those who are considered wicked, because of their willful participation in the works of darkness. They practice sin; and are therefore called the children of darkness. However, when we speak of the wicked, it should be understood that though groups of individuals may fit the description, there is a source for all wicked behavior...and that source is found in ADAM! "And then shall THAT WICKED be revealed..." (II Thess. 2:8)! The Adamic nature, whose working (empowering or energizing) is "after the working of satan, in all manner of lying signs and wonders", is both the channel and motivating factor behind all forms of wickedness in man!

This perspective will cast a new light on a great many of the passages found in Scripture concerning the Righteous and the wicked, and on their determined destinies. (Note: We readily acknowledge that not all scriptures which mention them are applicable from this angle. Those exempt should be obvious, such as Prov. 25:26, Prov. 28:10, and such like. However, this fact should not disqualify or negate the truth we are now presenting). Not only in the outer, external world around us, but also in the inner world of our humanity, in the hearts and souls of those who have been born again, both the Righteous and the wicked have made their habitation. They, as well as their "offspring" (i.e. the many inclinations, propensities, mannerisms, and methods of life associated with them) populate our own "little" internal world, and inhabit the earth in which we live. Therefore, seeing that we have the outward world as an example and reflection of inward realities, we need not tell you of the incompatibility that exists between them. That should be apparent to anyone who has ever observed the masses! At any given moment,

in some part of the world, the wicked are vigorously opposing the righteous, and the righteous are steadily resisting the wicked! But the disharmony without bears witness to the condition within; it provides ample evidence of their inward existence! "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts which war in your members?" (James 4:1). With such strong surges of opposition between heart and mind, "the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh", who can deny the actuality of their indwelling presence?

Dear saint, we must never lose heart. We know that sometimes it seems that life will always remain the same, with this conflicting duality of natures struggling, as it were, throughout the various "nations" and "continents" of our being. And sometimes it seems as if our private world will always remain a "war-zone", as long as we live in "the earthy house" of these tabernacles of flesh. "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars...for nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...all these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matt. 24:6-8). Since the vast majority of our inner experiences have been marked with warfare and contention, we understand how some may have grown accustomed to this condition, and come to accept this as the way life will continue to be. But we know and are persuaded that in the dispensation of the fullness of times, there shall come a time of total separation, and an end of all strife. We have this promise: "the Righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth" (Prov. 10:30); and "the Upright shall dwell in the land, and the Perfect shall remain in it. But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it" (Prov. 2:21-22)! One thing we can rest assured of is that there is an appointed time, and a day of judgment prepared for THE WICKED! His days are numbered!

### **"THE BREATH OF HIS MOUTH"**

But how is it that this judgment is accomplished? And how shall the wicked be cut off from the earth, and transgressions rooted out of it? Certainly, there are many different ways revealed in the Word. But looking back to II Thessalonians, chapter two, we are privileged to see two specific ways in which God judges the wicked. "And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming..." (verse 8). Though both are actually parts of the same process, we will deal with them individually, in their respective order.

First of all, what exactly does Paul mean by "the spirit of His mouth"? The Greek word used here for "spirit" is "pneuma" (Gr. # 4151), and is translated as various words throughout Scripture. Among the most common are spirit, breath, and wind (these terms are oftentimes interchangeable in the Bible). This word "pneuma" is where we get such words in the English language as pneumatic (that which is of, pertaining to, or effected by air, wind, or breath), pneumonia (a disease related to the lungs), and pneumology (the study of the respiratory organs). As is apparent, all of these words basically have to do with the subject of breath, wind, or air. The reason why "pneuma" is also translated as "spirit" is because of the close characteristic associations between spirit and air. There are a great number of similarities between them.

Most of our more modern translations use the word "breath" in place of "spirit" in this particular passage. For example, the Williams translation reads, "For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work, but only until he who has been holding it back has been gotten out of the way. Then the representative of lawlessness will be uncovered, and the Lord Jesus will destroy him with the breath of His mouth, and put a stop to his operations by His appearance and coming". The Amplified says it this way: "For the mystery of lawlessness--- that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority---is already at work in the world, but is restrained only until he who restrains is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one (the Antichrist) will be revealed, and the Lord will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by His appearing at His coming". This choice of the word "breath" is most appropriate, and is in accordance with many other passages (especially Old Testament prophecy), as we shall shortly see.

We all know of the importance of air, or wind. It is one of the vital elements of nature. Without it, man would not exist long upon this earth. He was designed to respire, to inhale air into his lungs, thus converting it into breath. However, wind, in general, because of its properties of weightlessness and invisibility, is used in a number of places to bespeak emptiness, or vanity. "And this is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that laboreth for the wind?" (Eccl. 5:16). "We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the earth fallen" (Isa. 26:18). "Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: their molten images are wind and confusion" (Isa. 41:29). "O remember that my life is wind; mine eye shall no more see good" (Job 7:7). "For He remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again" (Psa. 78:39; also Prov. 11:29; 25:14; Job 6:26; 8:2; 15:2; Hosea 8:7; 12:1). By these, and many other scriptures like them, we see that as it relates to men, God often uses wind to describe uselessness, or that which is unprofitable.

However, as it pertains to God, we see that the winds of God are never without purpose. They are sent forth to accomplish His will! "Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling His word..." (Psa. 148:8). And again, "the Lord hath His way in the whirlwind and the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet" (Nahum 1:3). They proceed at His command (Psa. 107:25), and "returneth again according to His circuits" (Eccl. 1:6)! Yea, He "gathereth the wind in His fists" (Prov. 30:4), and governs both their direction and velocity!

A survey of the Scriptures reveals that the breath, or wind of God can be either constructive or destructive. In Genesis, we find that after the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, He "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7). In the Psalms, David said that the host of heaven was also made by "the breath of His mouth" (Psa. 33:6). In Ezekiel, as the prophet looked over the valley of dry bones in vision, we read where the Lord said unto him, "Prophecy, son of man, and say unto the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breath upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army" (Ezek. 37: 9-10). In the gospel of John, we see that after Jesus

appeared to the disciples behind closed doors, "He breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (John 20:22). And in the Book of Acts, we read where after the disciples had gathered themselves in an upper room, "suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting...and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2: 2,4). As is plain to see, each of these passages attest to the positive side of God's wind, or breath. They show that it can bring forth creation or recreation; initiation or restoration. By it, He can either form or refashion, start or perpetuate.

At the same time, however, His breath can be destructive. For instance, we read in Exodus 14 that in order for the Israelites to escape their adversaries, "the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided". All He had to do was exhale, and the waters became a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left! Howbeit, as soon as they reached safety, and their enemies pursued them into the sea bed, the Lord simply blew again, and the waters returned! "With the blast of Thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea...Thou didst blow with Thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters" (Exo. 15:8, 10). What glorious deliverance, and what horrible devastation came that day! "For He commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof" (Psa. 107:25). His might is matchless! Then, in Jer. 51:1, we read, "Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against me, a destroying wind; and will send unto Babylon fanners, that shall fan her, and shall empty her land...". This was certainly not a pleasant, desirable wind He was talking about, neither was it a cool, gentle breeze, but the howling winds of destruction and desolation. Likewise, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, He said, ""At that time shall it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, a dry wind of the high places in the wilderness toward the daughter of My people, not to fan, nor to cleanse, even a full wind from those places shall come unto Me: now also will I give sentence against them" (Jer. 4:11-12). And speaking to those who had sought security in their own strength, building up their "walls" with the untrustworthy materials of human ability, Ezekiel prophesied, "Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall...and a stormy wind shall rend it... I will even rend it with a stormy wind in My fury" (Ezek. 13:11, 13). Not only does God take credit for the "winds" of change, by bringing them out of His very own treasures (Psa. 135:7; Jer. 10:13; 51:16), but He also decides what they shall accomplish, in a positive or negative sense, once they have been released! Make no mistake about it: He's the real "Weatherman"! Glory to God!

Before we go any further, allow us to clear up any misconceptions that might arise. When we speak of "the breath of His mouth", we are not suggesting that God is literally huffing and puffing up in heaven somewhere, creating solar storms, the jet stream, or the different weather patterns on earth. Nor are we referring to the blowing of some preacher's breath in your face! (We don't know about you, but we have not heard of a single case where the "man of sin" has ever "fallen out", or been "slain in the Spirit" through this procedure)! What we are speaking of, however, are the various ways of

God's Spirit, and the means by which we are moved into conformity to His will. The "breath" of God typifies the moving of His Spirit; it expresses the different ways He uses to effect our lives, and to uncover the hidden depths of our beings. Just as when "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the deep" during the formation of the natural world (Gen. 1:2), whirling and swirling about the darkened depths of the sea, even so does He now, in the hearts and lives of His new creation people! He blows upon our lives to reveal our hearts, and to ultimately fashion us into His Image!

From the moment we first received the Spirit of Christ, the "four winds of heaven" began to "strive upon the great sea" of our souls (Dan. 7:2). They may have come in the form of external circumstances or situations, or in the form of internal conditions or dealings, forcing us to take notice of them. They may have come from the north, south, east, or west (naturally speaking, winds from the mountains and sea to the north and west of Jerusalem could bring refreshing showers to water the earth...but were also known as the direction from which storms came! Likewise, desert winds coming from the south and east could drive away the bitter cold of winter, and bring warmth to germinate the seed in the ground at planting time...but they could also sear the land and dry up the vegetation in the time of harvest)! They may have come in the form of apparent blessing and prosperity, or trouble and adversity. But all were designed to perform a necessary work in us, to show us ourselves, and to compel us to take refuge in Him. You see, His winds are able to blow things into our lives, or blow things out, depending on our particular need at the moment. They are able to alter our internal "climate", with the various "high and low pressure systems" that build in our "upper atmosphere". (Ever experienced a "tropical depression" inside? How about a drop in temperature, due to the "wind chill factor")? But one thing they will never do is leave us unaffected! They are responsible for ushering in the different "seasons" of our spiritual lives!

The winds of God blow from many directions; and yet, each course accomplishes a different work in the plan and purposes of God. In His wisdom, He is right on time; He knows exactly when to release them in our lives, that they might perfectly fulfill His will. This is clearly seen in Rev. 7:1-2, as John beheld four angels "standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree". As he witnessed this awesome sight, he overheard another voice, saying, "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads". Once the sealing occurred, the winds picked up, and judgment began!

As all this pertains to us, we see that though we were certainly not without testings and adversity before our conversion experience, the Lord purposefully reserved certain trials and circumstances to come into our lives until after He had first "sealed us in our foreheads", that is, given us the mind of His Spirit. And aren't we glad! Knowing our limitations at the time, He understood that we would never have been able to bear up under such intense pressures with our natural reasonings alone! Some of the storms we have been made to pass through would have absolutely swept us away a few years prior! Therefore, He waited until after He had given us the mind that was able to properly judge all things (I Cor. 2:15-16), before He released the full force of His winds upon us! This

was all done in mercy, having our best interest in mind! You see, the ability to understand the purpose of our tests helps enable us to pass them! It helps to equip us with the right attitude toward our trials, that we might be able to bear them (I Cor. 10:13)!

As we said, when the four winds blow across the face of our earth, and as His Spirit moves upon the face of our deep, there is a revelatory process that occurs. The Lord makes manifest our true state; He uncovers the secrets of our hearts! "And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the Lord, at the blast of the breath of His nostrils" (II Sam. 22:16). Be it known that when the time comes, and the Lord gets ready to reveal the "channels" (habitual pathways) of our "sea" (soulish realm), and to discover the "foundations" (elementary principles) of our "world" (that is, what our life is really built upon, i.e. motives, impulses, attitudes, and desires), He does not need an interrogation team, a psychological evaluation, or even a DNA test to tell Him! He simply "breathes" upon us, and exposes our deepest feelings! He can show us precisely what makes us think the way we think, act the way we act, or do the things we do, by merely creating the proper atmosphere! Once this is accomplished, and we see ourselves as He sees us, He then gives us opportunity to judge ourselves by the revelation of righteous judgment! Hallelujah!

The Lord is out to show us that the only sound mind is the spiritual mind. Until we truly see this, we will be inclined to defend the carnal mind, to cover up for it, and to make excuses for it. Nevertheless, our prayer should be,

*"Breathe, Spirit, breathe!  
Reveal this man of sin!  
Consume this foe, this man within,  
Breathe, Spirit, breathe!"*

Be it so, Lord, according to Thy Word! Hasten Thy Word to perform it! Hallelujah!

to be continued...

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