

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

## **PART 2**

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

**I PETER 4:17-18**... "For the time is come that JUDGMENT MUST BEGIN AT THE HOUSE OF GOD: and if it first begin at us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear"?

What overwhelming feelings must have flooded Paul's heart to cause him to say, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! HOW UNSEARCHABLE ARE HIS JUDGMENTS, AND HIS WAYS PAST FINDING OUT" (Rom. 11:33)! The judgments of God are so profound, so marvelous, they defy the understanding of natural man. In fact, they are so far beyond human comprehension, they elude earthly expression! Words employed in the languages of men are utterly incapable of plumbing the depths of so vast a subject. It would be like trying to determine the amount of water in the ocean with a measuring cup. The task is just too great for human methods of definition! Volumes could be written, and libraries could be filled with messages pertaining to this matter, and never come close to exhausting the issue. His righteous judgments are unsearchable, inexhaustible... absolutely indescribable!

Obviously, it requires a revelation from the Spirit to truly perceive and comprehend the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God contained within His judgments. And yet, as we draw nigh unto Christ, we find that "IN HIM are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). One may spend an entire lifetime studying the innumerable volumes of law books available, rehearsing the many varied cases and verdicts handed down from earthly magistrates and judiciaries, and yet never grasp the ability to judge righteously. But as we turn to Christ, "the Book of Life" made flesh, we learn more and more of His Godly discretion; for He is the living expression of the mind and will of the Father! He is the definitive source of righteous judgment!

Because of misunderstandings concerning the nature of Divinity, men have made caricatures of God. They have distorted certain features and attributes of Him totally out of true and proper proportion to others. Some have overemphasized the wrathful side of God's personality, until the image they have made of Him is akin to the mythological god "Zeus", ready with thunderbolts tightly clenched in His fists, to "zap" anyone who even accidentally crosses His will! They view Him as extremely violent and hostile, short-tempered and easily provoked, and as always, very fearful to approach. In their opinion, He is a dreadful character, to say the least; a sadistic tormentor, an abusive, intolerant despot who is never truly appeased, but is ever seeking opportunities to unmercifully punish mankind. By their estimation, His greatest pleasure comes from the misery and

suffering inflicted upon His subjects!

Then there are others, who have completely negated the disciplinary traits of God for what they call "love". They feel that He "loves" His creatures far too much to ever chasten or correct them, despite the plain teaching of Scripture (Heb. 12:5-11; Job 5:17-18; Prov. 3:11-12). They have perverted the right ways of the Lord through their "Dr. Spock" mentality (of undisciplined love); not understanding that the true nature of Godly love has corrective measures, when necessary, incorporated into it (experience has proven that "sparing the rod" makes for "spoiled children")! In their ignorance, they have pitted one aspect of God's divine disposition against the other; and in doing so, have made love to be a weakness rather than a strength. This humanly-devised definition of love is lenient toward sin, and totally tolerant of the trespasses of man, however offensive they may be. As they see it, any show of disapproval, or retributive action taken by God against iniquity would be a violation against man's freedom of expression; and would make God less than just. From their point of view, He is not at all concerned with the outward actions of man, since His love is unconditional. As they say, "grace covers it all"!

Either way one may lean, there is a tragic injustice committed against God's holy and righteous character. The weaknesses of fleshly, human emotional tendencies are attributed to sovereign God! He is falsely represented as a warped, distorted, unbalanced Judge, who is either too hard, or too soft. And, not only is God defamed by these perversions of His nature, but those who believe such things suffer, as well. The one perspective robs the believer of any hope for mercy in their day of judgment; while the other takes from them the confidence and security of a caring Father, who is concerned enough about the welfare of His children to correct them when they go astray. The truth is, there is absolutely no peace, no stability, and no security in either extreme.

### **JUDGMENT BY DEFINITION**

What exactly is implied by the word "judgment"? Generally speaking, it is one's PERCEPTION or OPINION of a thing; the appraisal, estimation, or the forming of a conclusion from evidence brought to light. Among the many definitions to be found for the term, Black's Law Dictionary gives the meaning as: "a sense of knowledge sufficient to comprehend nature of transaction". And, "the formation of an opinion or notion concerning some thing by exercising the mind upon it". This would be a good way of explaining natural judgment. It is the rendering of a verdict, or of a decision based upon the facts or ideas presented in a case. It is the act of trying matters or individuals by the powers of discernment, and the determination so pronounced. And it is the authorization and appointment of just rewards (either good or bad) to all parties brought into judgment.

The U.S. Department of Justice has chosen for it's symbol the figure of a blindfolded woman, who is holding in her hand a set of scales. This familiar statue is used to convey the idea that justice should be blind to seeming truth or falsity of a matter, based solely on appearance; that it should not be subject to passing judgment according to "the seeing of the eyes, and hearing of the ears". It should weigh all the facts carefully and

indiscriminately, and make it's decisions independent of outside influence. And it should always take the side of truth, regardless of consequence. (While this is not always the way it turns out in the courts of men, it is, nevertheless, a good illustration of the nature of true judgment).

Judgment embodies the entire system of the process of justice: trial, deliberation, verdict, and sentence. And, contrary to popular opinion, it does not always mean a negative verdict! Experience shows that judgment can also be passed in one's favor, as well; demanding reimbursement, compensation, and restitution for loss.

When we speak of "righteous" judgment, we are affixing a word to judgment which means, "to do that which is right; to conform to the standard of divine or moral law; to be in right-standing with God". Righteous judgment is judgment that is in harmony with God's will. It is unbiased and impartial; it is without partisanism or prejudice. It is never self-serving in it's sentence; it's only consideration is for objectivity and fairness to all parties involved.

In a word, **RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT IS THE PERCEPTION OF CORRECTNESS; IT IS THE ENFORCEMENT OF JUSTICE. IT IS THE ACT OF ESTABLISHING MATTERS IN THEIR PROPER ORDER; AND IT IS THE PROCESS OF SETTING THINGS RIGHT.** Righteous Judgment is truth upheld, truth maintained. It is the persuasion and declaration of righteousness, equity, and fairness, and the preservation of such. It is vindication and veracity; the conscious acknowledgment of right, and the active participation to restore it to it's proper place.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the Scriptures are virtually filled with expressions of joyful expectation for God to come in righteous judgment. "Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: **FOR HE COMETH, FOR HE COMETH TO JUDGE THE EARTH: HE SHALL JUDGE THE WORLD WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THE PEOPLE WITH HIS TRUTH**" (Psa. 96:11-13). And again, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise... let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; **FOR HE COMETH TO JUDGE THE EARTH: with righteousness shall He judge the world, and the people with equity**" (Psa. 98:4-9; also I Chron. 16:31-34). Truly, the whole creation anxiously awaits the God of divine judgment to manifest Himself; for then, He shall bring an end to the terrible reign of human oppression, and the results which have come from sin... and establish the truth, righteousness, and restoration that is so desperately needed! "When Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness" (Isa. 26:9)! Very plainly stated, when His righteous judgments are fully implemented, they will restore harmony and balance to an unbalanced world! He has given His Word on it!

## **TWO TYPES OF JUDGMENT**

We find in scripture two contrasting and diverse types of judgment: human judgment, which is based upon the carnal perceptions and impressions of men; and righteous judgment, which comes from God. Between the two, there is a world of difference! Human judgment (the motivating factor in the kingdoms of this world), inevitably brings death and oppression; righteous judgment, on the other hand (the basis and founding principle of the government of God), brings life and peace. Often, when righteous judgment is not exercised or sought after by men, God regards this as a state where there is no judgment at all. He totally ignores human judgment, because of its sorely grievous nature. Consider Isaiah's words, in regard to this: "None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity... the way of peace they know not; and THERE IS NO JUDGMENT IN THEIR GOINGS: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore, JUDGMENT IS FAR FROM US, NEITHER DOTHT JUSTICE OVERTAKE US: we wait for LIGHT, but behold obscurity; for BRIGHTNESS, but we walk in darkness... and JUDGMENT IS TURNED AWAY BACKWARD, AND JUSTICE STANDETH AFAR OFF: FOR TRUTH IS FALLEN INTO THE STREET, AND EQUITY CANNOT ENTER. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey (literally, "is accounted mad"): and the Lord saw it, and IT DISPLEASED HIM THAT THERE WAS NO JUDGMENT" (Isa. 59:4, 8-9, 14-15). As the prophet so clearly articulated, when righteous judgment is lacking, peace cannot be found. Iniquity abounds. Justice, truth, and equity have no place. Darkness and obscurity prevails. Men in their mischief wax worse and worse; and the people are forced to bear unnecessary burdens and unequal yokes, to satisfy the corrupted interests of their leaders!

Again, in Isa. 5:7, he says, "For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant plant: AND HE LOOKED FOR JUDGMENT, BUT BEHOLD OPPRESSION; FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT BEHOLD A CRY". Though he was speaking of conditions pertaining to his day, how graphic this is of the natural inclinations of man in general, who is void of the Spirit; and how depicting this is of life under the rule of man, and of human judgment! How dark and dreadful it is! It is, and ever shall be, an offense to God; for it is in direct opposition to all that God is!

But where, pray tell, did human judgment find its start? And from whence did it spring forth? To answer this, we must turn to Genesis.

When God originally created Adam, we see that He did so by making him in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26a). As God is triune in His being (yet one divine Person), even so did He fashion His crowning creation to conform to and express that image. Adam, being one individual, was composed of a three-fold constitution: spirit, soul, and body; with each facet of his person specifically designed to communicate with and function within the three basic spheres of life: spiritual, mental, and physical. Within Adam's spirit, God specially endowed him with three faculties by which to know Him: communion, intuition, and conscience. Within his soul (mind) were three faculties, intellect, emotion, and will, wherein dwelt his personality, the awareness of self, and the ability to express himself in the world. And resident within Adam's physical body were his five senses

(sight, smelling, hearing, taste, and touch), through which he could know the world. It could be worded thus: in his spirit, he possessed God-consciousness; in his soul, self-consciousness; and in his body, sense-consciousness. We believe that many years ago Watchman Nee accurately described the faculties of the spirit in his highly enlightening book, "The Spiritual Man". He said to this effect, communion is the ability to converse with God, and to worship Him. Intuition is the sensing organ of the human spirit, the means by which we know the things of the Spirit of God. And conscience is the discerning organ which distinguishes right from wrong; "not however, through the influence of knowledge stored in the mind, but rather by a spontaneous direct judgment". (Let it be clearly understood that conscience is not a function of the mind; it is a spiritual activity). In light of this, we would say that this is the way God initially revealed His righteous judgments to man. First He impressed them upon the intuitive faculties within Adam's spirit; then He translated those impressions through the vehicle of Adam's conscience, the voice of his human spirit, to his soul, or mind. From there, his body then responded to and carried out the orders issued through the "chain of command".

We do not here have the space to expound upon these facts, but to briefly say that as his body was designed to "house" his human spirit, his spirit was designed to be the habitation of God. This was God's "Throne Room", so to speak; the centermost place from which the Righteous Judge would declare His righteous judgments; first of all to Adam (by speaking through his conscience, and wisely directing his steps), then to the rest of the creation around him. As Adam submitted to the leadership of the Spirit within, he, in turn, would "have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Gen. 1:26b, 28). His authority rested in his obedience to the clear, discerning voice of the Spirit of God.

In this state, Adam was innocent; that is, he obtained his understanding by way of divine revelation. As the Spirit of God bade him keenness of perception into the world around him, Adam's spiritual discernment, or intuitive power of judgment, was increasing daily. Whenever a question arose in his heart concerning the plan and purposes of God, he had but to wait upon the voice of the Lord God "walking", as it were, "in the cool of the day", and his answer would come. Nothing was left up to Adam to have to figure out for himself. His only responsibility was to accept God's righteous judgments as often as they were revealed, and execute them accordingly. It was God's responsibility to provide him with sufficient wisdom and discretion to rule creation. As long as he acknowledged God in all his ways, his conscience served as a second witness for right; and proved to be a safe guide to follow.

Enter the serpent.

We read in Genesis chapter 3, when the serpent made his subtle appeal to the Edenic couple, he did so by offering them another method to be like God, a sort of "shortcut" to their appointed destiny. What was it? Via the "tree" of KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL! "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, THEN YOUR EYES SHALL BE OPENED, AND YE SHALL BE AS GODS, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL" (verse 5)! Of course, the question would naturally arise: weren't their eyes open before this?

Yes, but only to the degree that God had enlightened them! (Now, in case you may have thought that Adam and Eve came into the world like puppies, who are born with their eyes closed, allow us to set the record straight. This had absolutely nothing to do with their natural eyes!) This "eye opening" experience speaks of the ability to discern, or to see from a judgmental point of view; to make determinations based on knowledge. (Be it known that knowledge, in and of itself, is not bad. Even the knowledge of good and evil is not wrong, if that information is obtained from God. Howbeit, when knowledge is sought after to elevate oneself to a position where God is no longer needed; or when the soul of man seeks, through knowledge, to take preeminence above his spirit, then it becomes corrupting). It was this enticement, therefore, which they considered to be "good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise", that became an obstruction to their progressive understanding of divine judgment. Oh, if only they would have been content to patiently wait upon the Lord for His heavenly perspectives! He would have completely satisfied their longing desires!

Instead, what they succumbed to was the temptation to rush ahead, and independently become "as gods"; to make their own judgments, and to decide for themselves what was good, and what was evil (based on "the seeing of the eyes, and hearing of the ears")! They desired to by-pass the witness of the Spirit, and pass their own determinations through the acquisition and consideration of knowledge... without the intervention, or the inspiration of God! Sure enough, as soon as they had partaken of the "fruit", (symbolically speaking), we read that "the eyes of both of them were opened" (to notice the natural conditions surrounding them). But what they were probably not expecting, however, was the LOSS of their spiritual perceptions, to see things as God sees them! Their minds were blinded (II Cor. 4:4), and their consciences were seared (I \_Tim. 4:2), because they ignored the voice of their spirits \_(conscience), and gave heed to the voice of their minds (reason and logic)! Their spirits were "desensitized" from seeing or hearing into the realm of the Spirit, the realm of reality. Therefore, they were limited to seeing only one side of the story!

While they thought they got what they wanted (to be "like the Most High"), the true and Living God departed from the "temple"! He abdicated the "throne" of their hearts, and removed from them the revelation of His righteous judgments! (As a result, Adam rearranged the "temple" to suit his interests; HE REMOVED THE THRONE [the seat of authority in his life] from his spirit, and placed it in his SOUL)! Now they had the opportunity to preside upon the throne, to govern themselves as they deemed fit; but they were forced to lean upon their own understanding to do so! With "the heavens turned to brass", so to speak, they no longer had the leadership of the Spirit to direct them. Therefore, they "groped for the wall like the blind" (Isa. 59:10), and stumbled headlong into a world full of illusions! (How soon they discovered that things in the physical realm are not always as they appear! They are temporal, transitory... ever changing)! Their survival depended upon the information gathered by their five senses, and however they chose to perceive it in the chambers of their imagination. They were left to exist by their intellect, their emotions, and their will... with no standard of absolutes to base anything on! What a terrible predicament they found themselves in! Because they had chosen this course, God suffered them to "eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their

own devices" (Prov. 1:30-31. Interestingly, this word, "devices", in Hebrew means, "purpose, or counsel". It's primary root means, "to advise, deliberate, or resolve; to determine, devise, or guide". How appropriately this ties into our subject)! They were abandoned to their own distorted counsels and judgments; given over to the limitations of their fleshly, carnal minds, to guide themselves through life as best they could! They now had to decide for themselves what was good, and what was evil!

Up until this time, all they had known were the positive aspects of God's righteous judgments. But because of their disobedience, the Lord allowed them to experience it's painful consequence: DEATH. "But the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). Death to their bodies? Yes, eventually. But immediately (and more tragically), DEATH TO THEIR SPIRITS! Rom. 8:6 says, "TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH..." (which death speaks of separation from the life of God, and blindness to the things of the Spirit of God; I Cor. 2:14)! The Amplified Bible clearly renders this passage: "Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death --- death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter". In other words, the "death" that they experienced was a severance from the realm of life in the Spirit. You might say that they were like spiritual "zombies"... dead, and yet alive! They had lost contact with the "real world", the realm of the heavenlies!

Beloved, it is important to see that even though God unquestionably loved them, they still incurred the penalty of His judgments! To be sure, there is just no getting around them! They are all-encompassing, overshadowing every activity under the sun! There is not one area of life that is not covered by them! Understand this, that God's righteous judgments are for the ultimate good of His people, with their best interests in mind; but woe unto the man who blatantly rejects His will! The same word that brings blessings upon our lives can also bring a curse! And what greater punishment can there be than to be given over to our own devices? "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee" (Jer. 2:19)!

### **THE LIGHT OF THE CANDLE**

We read in Job 18:5-6, "Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine. The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and HIS CANDLE SHALL BE PUT OUT WITH HIM". How true this was with Adam! Whenever he transgressed God's command, THE LIGHT WITHIN HIM WENT OUT! His tabernacle was left in gross darkness, and the fire of his "candle" (may also be translated as "lamp") was extinguished! The glory had departed!

What does it mean when it says, "his candle shall be put out with him"? It speaks of the absence of divine inspiration. In Prov. 20:27 we read, "THE SPIRIT OF MAN IS THE CANDLE OF THE LORD..."; and Job 32:8 says, "But there is a spirit in man: and THE INSPIRATION OF THE ALMIGHTY giveth him understanding". Therefore, to have one's "candle" put out would mean that there was no quickening of the Spirit, no inspiration from the Almighty, no light to impart revelation knowledge, and no evidence of God's manifest Presence. It is scripturally connected with the loss of vision, or of sight.

This was the sad state of mankind; not only for Adam, but for the vast majority of his offspring, as well. The light had gone out in the temple; and the dark night of the soul began. "Darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people" (Isa. 60:2b). Truly, this was a lamentable period in the history of mankind. However, anyone who has any understanding at all of God's ways knows that "He sends forth judgment unto victory" (Matt. 12:20)! For sure, the sentence passed upon "the Adam family" was well deserving; but in the long run, God saw to it that "judgment shall return unto righteousness" (Psa. 94:15)! "I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished" (Jer. 46:28)! His correctional system is designed to bring reform, not rejection!

### **SPARKS OF INSPIRATION**

In the days following, certain among the sons of men longed for God to open their eyes, and "relight" their "candle". And periodically, we see God doing just that (at least in a measure). We hear David say by faith, "For Thou WILT light my candle: the Lord my God WILL lighten my darkness" (Psa. 18:28). And, "Thou art my LAMP, O Lord; and the Lord WILL lighten my darkness" (II Sam. 22:29). As a result, we read how God answered that prayer in I Kings 15:4; "Nevertheless, for David's sake did the Lord God give him A LAMP IN JERUSALEM, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem...". And He confirmed that promise by way of prophecy in Psa. 132:17... "There (in Zion) will I make the horn of David to bud: I HAVE ORDAINED A LAMP (Heb. "candle") FOR MINE ANOINTED". Of a truth, when David's son Solomon ascended the throne of Israel, HE BECAME THE LIGHT OF JERUSALEM! His request to God, and God's response to him, was a declaration of this. "Give therefore thy servant AN UNDERSTANDING HEART TO JUDGE THY PEOPLE, THAT I MAY DISCERN GOOD AND BAD; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said to him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life, neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; BUT HAST ASKED FOR THYSELF UNDERSTANDING TO DISCERN JUDGMENT; behold, I have done according to thy words: lo I HAVE GIVEN THEE A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING HEART, so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee" (I Kings 3:9-12)! There is no doubt that God honored His word on this, for afterward we read, "All Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and THEY FEARED THE KING: FOR THEY SAW THAT THE WISDOM OF GOD WAS IN HIM, TO DO JUDGMENT" (I Kings 3:28)! So great was the light Solomon walked in, that the kings of the earth traveled from afar, just "to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart" II Chron. 9:23; also Psa. 72). To God be the glory!

Various and sundry others received "sparks" of divine inspiration upon their lives, whose testimonies are scattered throughout the pages of the Old Testament. We could speak of Daniel, whose anointed wisdom and godly discretion brought him to greatness in the courts of Babylon. Or of Joseph, whose ability to interpret dreams correctly brought him

out of the prison house, and into a place of authority in Pharaoh's house. Moses could doubtless be mentioned, who was inspired to be "as God" to the people (Ex. 18:19), judging among them, "to make them know the statutes of God, and His laws" (verse 17). Or we could cite from the Book of Judges, whose record bears a list of characters who were quickened by the Spirit to differentiate between good and evil for the people of God. Or take any of the prophets, who were unctioned as God's \_"mouthpieces" to faithfully declare His divine decrees. These, and others, were touched by God in special ways to reflect the light of truth to their generations. But speaking of mankind in general, we may safely conclude that they were abiding in blindness and darkness, in the region and shadow of death. They were oblivious to the right ways of the Lord, or of His righteous judgments. They had lost their sense of perception.

We know, however, when Jesus came on the scene, it could rightly be said, "the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath light shined" (Isa. 9:2)! Yea, He came for the express purpose of being "a Light unto the Gentiles (nations); to open the blind eyes; to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house" (Isa. 42:6-7)!

It would have seemed, therefore, that the very life that He manifested, and the words that He spake, would have been enough to open the eyes of the blind. Yet it was written, "In Him was life; and the life was the Light of men. And the Light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (Jn. 1:4-5)! What an amazing fact! Those who sat in darkness beheld the Light, as He manifested the life of the Father. But obviously, they could not comprehend it! It would take more than just seeing and hearing Him in the natural for their spiritual eyes to be enlightened. They needed to be personally illuminated with truth!

Unlike any before Him, Christ was Incarnate Wisdom; He was the Living Revelation of God's righteous judgments! He spake no lie when He said, "BEHOLD, A GREATER THAN SOLOMON IS HERE (Matt. 12:42b); for while Solomon possessed a measure of wisdom, He received not the Spirit by measure" (Jn. 3:34)! He was the very Personification of Divine Light, "the FULLNESS of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9)! He was more than just a "lighted candle", so to speak; He was "THE TRUE LIGHT, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (Jn. 1:9)! Praise God for that!

As we stated above, though, His purpose for being manifest was more than just to BE the Light; He came to IMPART the Light! He came to illumine men in their darkness, not merely by TEACHING men of His ways, or simply by DEMONSTRATING them; He came, that they too, might be FILLED WITH, AND ACTUALLY BECOME LIGHT! Jesus declared this purpose, when He said to His disciples, "YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, a city that is set upon a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men LIGHT A CANDLE, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; AND IT GIVETH LIGHT TO ALL THAT ARE IN THE HOUSE. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:14-16)! Though at that time they may not have seemed to be "enlightened ones", Christ spake as though they

were. He knew that in due season, their eyes would be opened, their spirits would be quickened, and then they would burn brightly with the glory of the Father! They would see things as He did!

Elsewhere, Jesus spake, "THE LIGHT OF THE BODY IS THE EYE: therefore when thine eye is single, the whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light that is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, AS WHEN THE BRIGHT SHINING OF A CANDLE DOTHS GIVE THEE LIGHT" (Lk. 11:33-36). Again, He used the metaphor of lighting a candle to describe the inspiration and impartation of divine light. But what did He mean by having "a single eye"? The eye, of course, is the organ of vision. Naturally speaking, it is one's optical sense of perception, or discernment. If one's vision is "single", that is, focused directly and singularly upon the object of light, then his entire being will be filled with light. But if he has an "evil eye" (as did Adam), this suggests that he has allowed something else to catch his attention, to distract his focus, to divide and divert his view. Darkness will distort his judgment.

This condition is prevalent among unregenerate men. And it certainly was among the disciples. They were no different than anyone else! This was apparent from some of the irrational and unjust judgments they made while Christ was yet with them! How foolish they must have felt at times! Quite often their determinations were not singularly focused from the perspective of righteousness and equity; it was obvious that they were greatly affected by mere appearance! However, Christ had the answer to their "eye" problem; He knew exactly how to remove the "scales" from their eyes!

In Jn. 16:16, the Master revealed a wondrous truth, which, had His disciples understood it at the time, would have caused them to rejoice. What was it? "A little while, and ye shall not see Me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see Me, BECAUSE I GO TO THE FATHER". In order for us to understand this, we must needs resort to the original language. Interesting to note is that the word translated twice as "see" in the above passage IS NOT THE SAME IN BOTH PLACES. Jesus actually employed TWO DIFFERENT WORDS IN THE GREEK to make His point. The first word for "see" (Gr. #2334) means, "TO BEHOLD AS A SPECTATOR"; the second word (#3700) means, "TO GAZE WITH WIDE OPEN EYES, AS AT SOMETHING REMARKABLE; TO STARE AT; TO PERCEIVE, OR DISCERN". Of a truth, during His Incarnation, His disciples (for the most part) were merely "spectators"; they beheld the Light, but never really understood it. They were still in the dark about this mysterious, Spirit-led life! But soon, He was telling them, all this would change. Jesus said, "A little while, and ye SHALL NOT see Me"; that is, in the manner that you have been accustomed to. "Again, a little while, and ye SHALL see Me"; but in a whole new way! Because He was "going to the Father", that is, returning to the realm of Omnipresent Spirit, this would make it possible for Him to return unto them IN SPIRIT ESSENCE. When He did, not only would He be able to be WITH them, but IN them! He could fill their "temples", and take His rightful place upon the "throne"! He could reestablish His position of authority within their spirits; and thereby guide them by His Holy Spirit! And as He purified their hearts

(by the revelation of His righteous judgments), He would restore them to the same state of innocence that Adam walked in before the fall. Then they would be able to "see" or discern Him WITH WIDE OPEN EYES! "Blessed are the pure in heart: for THEY SHALL SEE GOD" (Matt. 5:8; obviously, the ability to "see" God has to do with the condition of one's heart)! They would be able to "see Him as He is" (I John 3:2); understanding, as never before, His just assessment of every issue! As a result, they, too, would be able to look right into the realm of reality; seeing things truly as they are, rather than how they appear! The "eyes of their understanding" would be enlightened; and they would be enabled to judge with righteous judgment!

That purpose was definitely initiated on the Day of Pentecost, when He descended upon them in flaming fire in the Upper Room. As they were gathered "with one accord in one place", we read that "THERE APPEARED TO THEM CLOVEN TONGUES LIKE AS OF FIRE, AND IT SAT UPON EACH OF THEM. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:3-4)! Praise God! What a breathtaking scene this must have been, when God "lit" ONE HUNDRED TWENTY HUMAN CANDLES ALL AT ONCE! Talk about excitement! Our God really knows how to put on a show!

This event marked the beginning of a new relationship with His people; and placed Him in a position where He could deal more directly with their hearts! He cleared their consciences of all previous guilt (Acts 24:16; Rom. 8:1; Heb. 10:22); and provided a means to keep it that way (I John 2:1; 1:9)! This the former order could never do, "as pertaining to the conscience" (Heb.9:8-10)! Now He could instruct and discipline His sons by the convictions of His indwelling Spirit; and in doing so, set His "house" in order! O what a glorious day!

So much could be said concerning this, but we will reserve some of our thoughts, for now. It almost goes without saying, however, that God is even now performing an awesome work in the hearts of His elect; and He is using His righteous judgments to accomplish it! Truly, JUDGMENT BEGINS AT HIS HOUSE; but the very thought of that should cause us to rejoice! For the final result shall be a people who are "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10); a people who are educated in the way of wisdom! Hallelujah! He is preparing a people who shall rule FOR Him; because He rules WITHIN them! Praise God!

to be continued...

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