

The Spiritual History of a Normal Christian – the Wind, the Cloud, the Fire, and the Electrum

*And I looked, and there came a **storm wind from the north**, a **great cloud** and a **fire** flashing incessantly; and there was a brightness around it, and from the midst of it there was something like the sight of **electrum**, from the midst of the fire. - Ezekiel 1:4*

God is Spirit, and because He is Spirit, He is abstract, mysterious, invisible, intangible, and unfathomable. Therefore, without the **pictures** in the Bible, it would be very difficult for us to understand God and the **spiritual things**. We need the pictures in the Bible in order to understand our mysterious God and the spiritual things. For this reason, the Bible uses many **types**, **figures**, and **pictures** to describe and portray **spiritual realities**. In our study of Ezekiel we need to see the intrinsic spiritual significance of the pictures in this book and consider them in the **light of the entire Bible** and in the **light of our spiritual experience**.

WIND

In Ezekiel 1:4 the storm wind from the north is a figure, a picture, of the powerful Spirit of God (Acts 2:2, 4a). Acts 2:2 says, “Suddenly there was a sound out of heaven, as of **a rushing violent wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.” We speak much about the Spirit as the breath, which is the essential Spirit for our life and living. However, we also need the Spirit as the wind to blow upon us **economically** not only to clothe us with power for our ministry and work but also to bring the divine life to us, to cause us to repent of our sins, and to lead us to be regenerated. We could not have been regenerated without the wind of the Spirit blowing upon us

A storm wind **from the north** blows upon us at every turn in our spiritual life. This storm wind is God Himself blowing upon us to bring a storm into our life, into our church, and into our work, causing us to be dissatisfied and concerned about our spiritual condition and to have a turn in our spiritual life. The saints have various kinds of experiences of the storm wind from the north blowing upon them to turn them in their spiritual life.

When the saints went to Russia for the first time, a storm wind from the north blew upon them and turned them to go to the former Soviet Union. During that time Brother Lee asked two co-workers and me to go to Russia for about forty days in January. He jokingly added, “Have a nice vacation.” Being sent to a cold country in the coldest part of winter was literally a storm wind from the north. So many saints went to Russia in January to preach the gospel; this greatly touched the local people. They wondered, “Who are these people who would come to Russia in January?” In the recent months a number of saints have gone to Germany for the Lord’s move. They did this because the storm wind from the north blew upon them to turn them in their spiritual lives.

God’s visitation always begins with the blowing of the wind of God upon our being. Did you not experience a storm, the blowing of the Spirit of God, when **you were saved**? Perhaps you were a young student caring for nothing but simply going to school, studying, and playing. Then one day a storm came to you. A stormy wind blew upon you and turned you upside down. This caused you to consider the meaning of human life, and you began to ask yourself about where you came from and where you were going. This was the result of the blowing of a stormy wind. **I believe that every saved person experienced such a storm at the time of conversion.** (*Life-study of Ezekiel*, pp. 27-28)

CLOUD

By staying with us as the cloud, God covers us, overshadows us, and **broods** over us to give us the enjoyment of His presence; in this way **He produces something of Himself in our daily life**. Nothing is higher than the enjoyment of God’s presence. Hence, we want God to stay with us as the cloud to cover us, overshadow us, and brood over us to give us the enjoyment of His presence. In this way He produces something of Himself in our daily life...The cloud also

signifies **God's care** for His people and **His favor** toward them; in His gracious visitation God comes to us like a cloud to care for us and to show favor to us; after God blows upon us, we sense that He is overshadowing us and exercising His care for us; we can sense both His presence and His care.

FIRE

In Ezekiel 1:4 fire symbolizes **burning power** for purging, purifying, sanctifying, and motivating in God's move; whenever God visits us, His holy fire comes to consume in us everything that does not match **His holy nature** and disposition. This burning power within us is for purging, purifying, sanctifying, and motivating us in God's move.

This fire will burn away everything other than God, for only God can pass through the burning; we all need to be transformed by being burned. We should never be afraid of this fire, for this fire is the presence of God Himself. We should pray, *"Lord, transform me by burning me. Lord, I'd like to be burned by You."* Revelation 21:18-21 speaks of gold, pearl, and precious stones. These signify the transformed elements that constitute the believers who have passed through God's burning, purging, purifying, sanctifying, and motivating fire. Gold signifies God the Father in His divine nature, pearl signifies God the Son in His regenerating work, and precious stones signify God the Spirit in His transforming work. We do not want anything of wood, which signifies our natural man; of grass, which signifies the flesh; or of stubble, which signifies the earthen source. We say no to wood, grass, and stubble and yes to gold, pearl, and precious stones.

ELECTRUM

The issue of the blowing of the wind, the covering of the cloud, and the burning of the fire is the glowing electrum—**the radiant expression of the redeeming God** (Ezek. 1:4). Electrum is an alloy of gold and silver; gold signifies the nature of God, and silver signifies redemption. A brother who works with precious stones told me that there are stones that are a mixture of **gold and silver**. Although they do not call it electrum, it is a mixture of gold and silver.

God as the light is in the Lamb as the lamp. Without the Lamb as the lamp, God's shining over us would kill us. This would be similar to being electrocuted by touching a light socket that has no bulb... Because the divine light shines through the Redeemer, the light is lovable, and we even walk in this light. Ephesians 5:8-9 says, "You were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth)." Not only were we once dark, having darkness within, but we were once darkness itself. Now, however, **we are light** in the Lord. The fruit of the light, the expression of the light, is the Triune God Himself. Goodness signifies God the Father, righteousness signifies God the Son, and truth signifies God the Spirit. Hence, the fruit of the light is the Triune God.

If in our personal spiritual experience we have the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, then whenever we gather together, we will be the vision of the electrum, having a precious treasure in us that is shining and glowing. We all want to be **shining** and **glowing** believers, those who have the radiant expression of the redeeming God glowing out of our being. As we live Him out, **He glows** from within us.

Conclusion

Both the title and the entire contents of this message are based on this **one verse—Ezekiel 1:4**. This is absolutely astounding. The **spiritual history** of a normal Christian is the **wind**, the **cloud**, the **fire**, and the **electrum**. When we wake up tomorrow morning, we need to pray that the Spirit would blow upon us as a wind, that the Spirit would cover us as a cloud with His presence, that we would experience His fire burning all the impurities out of our being, and that the electrum would be constituted into us, making us the radiant expression of the redeeming God to manifest His glory in this universe. This should be our normal experience, the spiritual history of a normal Christian. Ezekiel 1:4 is the normal Christian church life. (*Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word: Crystallization-Study of Ezekiel (1), 35-62*)