

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God

4305 Bretton Bay Lane
Dallas, Texas 75287-6712

Copyright October 14, 2005
Jim Ash letter No. 78

V-972.267.7187 F-972.267.7399
email: jimash3@sbcglobal.net

HURRICANE KATRINA

Wednesday evening, August 31, 2005, I was in a church service attended by fewer than one hundred people. At one point the pastor in charge, who was discussing the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina on the costal areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, asked if anyone gifted in the prophetic had an answer on "why this happened?" There were a few minor responses but none that were conclusive and there was no "thus says the Lord."

The next day I did pray and ask the Lord about Hurricane Katrina, who or what caused it and why. While in prayer the *following* morning (September 2) God gave me a prophetic word in answer to my prayer. But before I give you His answer, here are some things for your consideration.

On September 3, 2005, a good friend of mine forwarded to me an email he had received concerning Katrina that was originally sent to "Undisclosed recipients," (apparently a mass emailing) by someone who wanted the opinion known. The original email was sent by someone who quoted an individual with a high profile position in a Christian organization. The email contained some apparent facts concerning sinful activities in New Orleans and pointed out that the past three mayors of the city had endorsed and welcomed visitors to Southern Decadence.

According to the email, Southern Decadence is an annual homosexual celebration attracting tens of thousands to the city and to the French Quarter of New Orleans. Because the email was apparently widely circulated, I feel free to quote the following excerpts without violating any intrusive rights of the individuals involved.

"This *act of God* (Katrina) destroyed a wicked city (New Orleans), stated Repent America director Michael MarcavageMay this *act of God* (Katrina) cause all of us to think about what we tolerate in our city limits, and bring us trembling before the throne of almighty God, Marcavage concluded."

In the communication, believers were urged to

pray for the ravaged city. The statement that God sent hurricane Katrina to punish the people of New Orleans because of the wickedness of homosexual activities in that city disturbs me. Noticeably absent from the email was, "thus says the Lord."

The factually stated information concerning the sinfulness of New Orleans is certainly deplorable. New Orleans, referred to as the Crescent City is also called Sin City. Chapter one of the book of Romans defines God's wrathful condemnation of sexual sins and perversions including homosexuality and its deviated means of sexual gratification. But the conclusion that sinful activities in New Orleans caused God to send Katrina to devastate the Gulf coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, I wish to examine.

God's attitude toward sexual sins and sexual perversions is also demonstrated very forcefully in the eighteenth and nineteenth chapters of Genesis. The record there reflects that Abraham contended or interceded with God concerning the destruction of Sodom. Sodom was a wicked city. The Bible record of the activities of a roving band of homosexual men (sodomites) in that city is unthinkable reprehensible.¹ Abraham's nephew, Lot, his wife, their two daughters and two sons-in-law lived in Sodom.

Because of the wickedness of that city, God sent two angels to announce to Lot the impending destruction of the city and warned him to take his family and flee the city prior to its destruction. The record reflects that when Lot warned his two sons-in-law of the impending destruction of the city, they thought that he seemed to be joking and stayed in the city. Lot, his wife and their two daughters fled the city but his wife lost her life as they fled because of disobedience.² After their departure, the Lord rained brimstone and fire out of the heavens on Sodom and Gomorrah so that everyone in the cities and everything that grew on the ground was destroyed. How many righteous were destroyed? Some say none.

An interesting thing about the destruction of

¹Genesis 19:4-11.

²Genesis 19:17-26.

Sodom and Gomorrah is Abraham's contending or interceding with God on the destruction of Sodom because Lot and his family lived there. The record states that Abraham came near to the Lord, stood still and said, "Would you also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"³ Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would you also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? For be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of the earth do right? So the Lord said, 'If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.'"

The record then reflects that Abraham had the courage (or the audacity) to continue to question God. He then asked of God the same question about the destruction of Sodom but reduced the number of the righteous to forty-five. God's answer was the same: "No." He would not destroy Sodom if forty-five righteous were in the city. Abraham then "walked" God down from forty-five to forty, thirty, twenty and lastly ten righteous. God's answer was still the same: "No." He would not destroy Sodom if there were ten righteous in the city.⁴ (There were six in Lot's family.)

This is the pattern by which to measure or judge the destruction of hurricane Katrina. ***God did not cause the devastation of the city of New Orleans*** (regardless of its sins), ***the gulf coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama by hurricane Katrina!*** There are many righteous saints of God in those three states that bore the brunt of Katrina's destructive forces. God is not two-faced! He is not double minded! He did not set one standard for the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and then change His rules for the destruction of New Orleans! It is preposterous, unbiblical and unreasonable to conclude that the mass destruction of human life and property caused by hurricane Katrina was instituted by God.

Let's look at the cause of the storm.

Here are some known attributes or characteristics of Satan as recorded in scripture:

1. He is the god *of this world*.⁵

³See Genesis 18:22-33 for the complete story of Abraham's interceding on behalf of Sodom.

⁴After Lot, his wife and two daughters left Sodom, Sodom and Gomorrah were totally destroyed by God because of deviated, uncontrolled sexual lusts.

⁵See 2 Corinthians 4:4.

2. He is the prince of the power *of the air*.⁶

3. He comes to steal, *kill and destroy*.⁷

4. He was a *murderer from the beginning*.⁸

5. The *whole world lies under the sway [power] of the wicked one (Satan)*.⁹

6. He has a plurality of evil spirits at his command.¹⁰

7. Evil spirits under the command of Satan are endowed with *talents, power and knowledge*.¹¹

8. He deceives the *whole world*.¹²

At the cross Jesus took back the authority that Adam relinquished to Satan when he (Adam) sinned. Having lost his *authority* on the earth, he (Satan), nevertheless, as our adversary, goes about over the earth as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.¹³ He was cast out of the third heaven, is still at large, and now resides or conducts his activities in the first or terrestrial¹⁴ heaven and the second or celestial¹⁵ heaven.

Satan, a murderer and deceiver from the beginning, who is the prince of the power of the air (in the first and second heavens), under whose sway (power) lies the whole world, came to steal, kill and destroy – to devastate – the Gulf coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama with Hurricane Katrina. He is the one who causes so called "freaks of nature" or certain violent, destructive weather extremes.

Here are three other interesting examples of the destructive power of the enemy.

(1) One day Jesus and his disciples got in a boat to sail across lake Galilee.¹⁶ While they sailed, Jesus fell asleep in the stern of the boat and a storm

⁶See Ephesians 2:2. The *air* is where all destructive weather extremes and all illicit TV porn and radio transmissions originate.

⁷See John 10:10.

⁸See John 8:44.

⁹See 1 John 5:19.

¹⁰See Matthew 8:28; 9:34; 12:26; Luke 11:18, 19.

¹¹See Matthew 8:29; Mark 1:24.

¹²See Revelation 12:9.

¹³See 1 Peter 5:8.

¹⁴The terrestrial heaven is the air space or atmosphere immediately over and surrounding the earth, the bottom of which is the ground or water (seas, oceans, lakes, rivers, etc.).

¹⁵The celestial heaven is of or pertaining to the sky or visible heavens occupied by celestial bodies.

¹⁶For the complete story of Jesus calming the storm see Matthew 8:23-26; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25.

arose. As the boat began to fill with water the disciples awakened Jesus to the calamity. He then arose and *rebuked*¹⁷ (spoke authoritatively to) the wind and the raging of the water and they ceased and were calm.

(2) Three Gospel narrators reported that Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law who was in bed with a high fever. Only Dr. Luke reported exactly what happened. He reported that Jesus *rebuked* the fever and it left her and immediately she got out of bed and served them.¹⁸

(3) A man whose only son was possessed with demons, which caused the child to have seizures, foam at the mouth, be thrown down and bruised physically, came to Jesus' disciples for help. The disciples were unable to cast out the demons. The father then went to Jesus for help. Jesus *rebuked* the unclean spirits and cast them out (which healed the child) and gave him back to his father.¹⁹

When Jesus stood in the stern of the boat on Lake Galilee, He did not *rebuke* God to quell the storm. He *rebuked the prince of the power of the air (or his agents – demons) who caused the storm on Lake Galilee, the fever in Peter's mother-in-law, epilepsy in a small child and Hurricane Katrina.*

Satan is not omnipresent but he has the authority to dispatch myriads of demons over the whole world to do his dirty work.

And yet, some would say that God allowed or permitted Hurricane Katrina and so was therefore to some degree responsible. Here is the answer to this dilemma which I repeated in one of my recent *letters*, but since it is apropos to this *one*, I will repeat it in brief.

Several years ago I asked God why it took Him so long to get from Adam's sin in the garden of Eden to the cross (almost 4000 years). He replied because the war that is still in progress, which began when Adam sinned, is being conducted along the lines of the

laws of the creation of cherubs.²⁰ God also said to me that He could take exception to some of His laws. For example, He made an axe-head to float²¹ and turned the sundial back ten degrees,²² but could not change the laws of the creation of cherubs which govern the war in progress because they are fixed in place. God cannot do anything in this war with Satan which would violate His previously spoken laws governing cherubs since Satan is a fallen "anointed cherub."²³ He is governed by His own spoken word and must remain within the boundaries (the laws) of His word or His word would not be truth.

After Adam's failure with Satan, under the laws of the creation of cherubs, God sent His only Son to deal with Satan. At the cross, Jesus regained the authority Adam had relinquished to Satan, by disarming him (Satan) and the principalities and powers, including fallen angels and demons of every rank under Satan's authority. Then prior to His ascension, *Jesus gave that same authority to believers.* For that reason, believers today must use *their authority to deal with the enemy. That is why God was estopped from intervening with the storm on Galilee and Hurricane Katrina because He had delegated that authority first to Jesus, who then delegated it to believers today.*

The laws spoken into existence when cherubs were created govern all the activities of cherubs, even to one who falls. God Himself is therefore governed by His Word or His own laws and cannot go beyond them, that is, beyond the laws which govern fallen cherubs because His word is truth. Satan is a fallen cherub and even though his *authority* was legally stripped from him by Jesus at the cross, he still is free to go about over the earth as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.²⁴ That's why it took God almost four thousand years to get from Adam's sin to the cross and that's why Satan has the authority and the power to cause disturbances *in the air* such as Katrina, the storm Jesus quelled on Lake Galilee and other extreme, destructive weather disturbances.

¹⁷The meaning of the word *rebuke*, translated from the Greek word *epitimao* (Strong's #2008), is to censure, admonish, rebuke and by implication, to forbid.

¹⁸For the story of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law, see Luke 4:38, 39; Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-34. Dr Luke is the only writer who mentions that Jesus *rebuked* the fever, meaning the evil spirit who caused the fever, cast it out and Peter's mother-in-law was made well.

¹⁹See Luke 9:38-42 for the complete story.

²⁰Satan is a fallen cherub. See Ezekiel 28:12-19.

²¹See 2 Kings 6:5-7.

²²See 2 Kings chapter 20. It is interesting to me that the prophet Isaiah was the intervener in both of these two occasions when God made an exception to His laws.

²³See Ezekiel 28:14.

²⁴See 1 Peter 5:8.

When Satan fell, he was cast out of the third heaven and now operates in the first and second heavens. And that is where the weather extremes originate. The first and second heavens will remain his area of authority and operation until the midpoint of the Tribulation when he and his fallen angels will be cast down to earth.²⁵ Then is when his activities will be stepped up exceedingly as reported in the book of Revelation. After the Battle of Armageddon, Satan, along with his fallen angels who are still at large, will be cast into the bottomless pit for the Millennial reign²⁶ after which he will be released for a short while prior to being cast into the lake of fire forever²⁷. Only then will his authority, power and influence be eliminated from the earth.

About nine months ago God spoke to me and said that Satan is now in control of the earth. This is not in conflict with the writing of the apostle John who wrote, "We know that we are of God and the whole world lies under the sway (power) of the wicked one."²⁸ This means that his attacks will be stepped-up culminating with the Battle of Armageddon.

Does this mean that no good will come from the devastation of Katrina? Absolutely not. The two best examples I know of in the bible are Joseph and Jesus.

Jealousy prompted the brothers of Joseph to kidnap him and sell him as a slave to the Ishmaelites for *twenty shekels of silver*. Years later, after Joseph had been made Prime Minister of Egypt, famine brought his family to Egypt for grain. When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers who had kidnaped him and sold him into slavery, Joseph said, "But as for you [his brothers], you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."²⁹

The same thing occurred in the life of Jesus. Satan put in the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus for *twenty pieces of silver*. Satan surely thought he had the victory when Jesus went to the cross. But what Satan intended for evil, God intended for good.

Good will come out of the destruction of

Katrina. What Satan intended for evil, God will surely bring forth Good.

If you can accept it, the power to deal with or the power to rebuke a storm as Jesus did in the boat on Lake Galilee, *is given to every born-again believer*. Here is proof: Jesus said "Behold I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions [demons], and *over all the power of the enemy [Satan], and nothing shall by any means hurt you*."³⁰ Therein lies the call for spiritual maturity and wisdom. Jesus was given authority over Satan and his demons by God, the Father. Through these words of Jesus, as well as the Great Commission as recorded by Mark,³¹ believers today are given the same authority.

When the next hurricane appears on the horizon, I would like to see Spirit filled believers come together (not in one physical location necessarily, but in the Spirit) in a united, concentrated effort to do precisely as Jesus did in the boat on Galilee that day. Imagine the power of 10,000 Spirit filled believers simultaneously rebuking the hurricane because our brothers and sisters lie in its pathway. Someone who reads my letters needs to start networking on that specific project now. It has great possibilities. See the enclosed spiritual warfare prayer supplement as a suggested prayer.

God's rhema word on Katrina given to me on 9/2/05

"My son, the hurricane *Katrina* is no different from the Tsunami that devastated Sri Lanka and the southeast coast of India last year. Did I not say to you that 'Satan is now in control of the earth?' He is the one responsible, the same as He was responsible for the tempestuous wind and the high waves that began to fill the boat that day on Galilee. I was asleep in the stern of the boat and when the disciples awakened Me, I arose and *rebuked* the wind and the sea and said 'Peace, be still' and there was complete calm."³²

"No, My son, I did not cause *Katrina*; the enemy did. And he is in control of the earth. This is prophesied in scripture, as you know. **So just be prepared for additional signs and unusual occurrences**. The enemy is destructive in all his ways for he comes to steal, kill and destroy. That's his job. His way is that of destruction, Mine is of construction. So be not afraid, I will take care of you. Trust in Me

²⁵See Revelation 12:9.

²⁶See Revelation 20:2, 3.

²⁷See Revelation 20:7-10.

²⁸1 John 5:19. The word *sway* is translated *power* in the Amplified version.

²⁹Genesis 50:20.

³⁰Luke 10:19.

³¹See Mark 16:15-18.

³²See Matthew 8:26, Mark 4:39, Luke 8:24.