



Satan, Satanism, Demonism, and Exorcism

Chapter 1: How Lucifer Became Satan

THE world's great "Time of Trouble," "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Dan. 12: 1; Matt. 24: 21), is witnessing, as prophesied, the greatest tide of *fear* and *distress* that the world in general has ever experienced. The structure of the old order, once considered so substantial and indestructible, has been shaking, disintegrating and falling to pieces, preparatory to the establishment of God's new order on earth (Matt. 6: 10; Heb. 12: 26-28; 2 Pet. 3: 13). This shaking and dissolution has been in progress ever since the breaking out of the first phase of the great World War, in 1914, the date the Bible indicated for it and the ending of "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21: 24; see *The Time is at Hand*, pp. 76-80, 99, 101, par. 1).

And what is the general attitude of the people as they see the old order, so unloving, so unjust and so unsatisfactory, falling apart governmentally, politically, financially, socially, morally and religiously, and the prophecy in Isa. 24: 19, 20 fulfilling: "The earth [the old social structure] is utterly broken down ... clean dissolved ... moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard [vainly endeavoring to right itself, maintain a footing and re-establish itself] and shall be removed like a cottage [a temporary frail structure]; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again"?

The Bible, as well as the general news media, answers our question: "And there shall be ... upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity: the sea and the waves [the unstable, restless and lawless elements] roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth" (Luke 21: 25-32; compare Psa. 107: 23-30; Jer. 30: 5-9; Joel 2: 1-3, 30-32; Zeph. 1: 18; 1 Thes. 5: 1-11; James 5: 1-7).

Right after this Time of Trouble has done its works of humbling mankind and preparing the way for the ushering in of Christ's reign of truth and righteousness, God, who loves the world, will "make wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he ... will be exalted among the heathen" (Psa. 46: 8-10); and "the desire of all nations [God's righteous rule on earth] shall come" (Haggai 2: 7; compare Heb. 12: 25-29; Zeph. 3: 8, 9; Mal. 4: 1-3; 2 Pet. 3: 10-13; Rev. 21: 1-6). What a joy it is to know this!

This great time of transition, the casting off of the old order, and the coming in of the new order, should be a time of great rejoicing for people in general also, but instead we find among them selfishness, insecurity, confusion, sorrow, discontent, rebellion and lawlessness on every hand. People are surrounded by frustration and confusion, no matter where they turn. Those of

even the most enlightened nations are rapidly losing faith in their governmental and other leaders. Many clamor for and obtain higher wages, profits and benefits, only to be frustrated by runaway inflation. Those who saved money find it becoming worth less and less. Those who are on fixed incomes are having a very difficult time. Pollution is met on every hand: in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, education, what we see, what we hear and what is generally believed, secularly and religiously. Many are filled with doubts and forebodings and are frightened and distressed, as they flounder in bewilderment, not knowing which way to turn.

On every hand we find such questions as: Is there a God? Is God dead, or inactive? Is He a great personality, or is He merely a good principle? If there is a personal God, doesn't He care? Why does He allow such great evils in the world? Are there angels—good spirit beings—under His control? And is there a Devil? Does he really exist as a personality, or is the Devil merely an evil principle? Are there demons—evil spirit beings—under his control? Are our dead friends and relatives really dead, or are they alive in the spirit world and able to communicate with us? If there is a Devil, why did God ever create him? These and many similar questions arise from people's confused minds.

Everyone should know that there really are supernatural powers operating in the affairs of men. God, our great Creator, and His angels are real. And Satan, the Devil, God's great Adversary, and his demons are real. Despite opposition from Satan and his demons, God is steadily working out His great and benevolent plan for the blessing of all mankind (Gen. 12: 1-3; 22: 15-18; Gal. 3: 8). And Jesus, God's "only begotten Son" (John 3: 16), really died as "a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Tim. 2: 3-6; Heb. 2: 9), and "in due time" will really "draw all men" to Himself and will enlighten "every man that cometh into the world" (John 12: 32; 1: 9).

But in this day of infidelity, with the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures generally denied, even by many religious leaders, with the Bible largely ignored, its teachings set aside in favor of human wisdom, and the younger generation raised in ignorance as to its teachings, the people, surrounded by the uncertainties of our day, are groping in confusion, reaching out for something—they know not what.

Many, realizing the hopeless condition in the present order—called by some "the establishment"—and the inability of human leaders to solve mankind's problems, are turning to supernatural evil powers. Ignorant of how God condemns such practices, or not caring, many indulge in occult practices, such as playing with ouija boards, tarot cards, *etc.*, using astrology and fetishism, consulting with Satan's demons through fortune tellers, clairvoyants, clairaudients, spirit writers, spirit mediums (a polite term for "witches"), *etc.* Witchcraft is openly and increasingly practiced, with many covens of witches holding regular meetings.

A member of the House of Commons recently said that he believes that one-fifth of Britain's school children are in contact with witches; and it is said that about 30,000 witches in England traffic with familiar spirits. In America also the Satanic practices of witchcraft, divination, sorcery, *etc.*, are carried on increasingly, often under the less objectionable terms of psychic research, ESP, telepathy, psychometry, *etc.* While this method of deceit is captivating many who would not

be attracted by these evils under the plainer terms, nevertheless thousands of others are knowingly selling themselves to the Devil, and covertly or openly worshiping him, and thus practicing Satanism in various forms. But more on this later. Let us first examine whether or not there is a personal Devil, and, if so, how he came into existence.

IS THERE A PERSONAL DEVIL?

There are many who, repulsed by some nonsensical teachings of the creeds on Satan, have concluded not only to reject those creedal teachings, but with them the Biblical teachings on Satan, as being in their opinion identical with those of the creeds, and who as a result deny altogether that such a being as Satan exists. However, to do this is to fly into the teeth of reason as well as of experience and Scripture; for reason suggests, as the Bible teaches, that sinful acts, like righteous acts and the universe, must have been originated by some first cause. And this first cause of sinful acts, in originating them, must have been sinful; and since sinful acts imply purpose as well as cause, their originator must have been a being endowed with mind and will, hence a person. Thus reason demonstrates the personality of the first cause, or source, of sin, who, the Bible assures us, is Satan.

Experience also suggests that there are a number of invisible evil beings—evil spirits; for on no other ground can we explain a frequent happening: the sudden injection of irrelevant, unfamiliar, foreign and repulsive evil thoughts into the minds of human beings—thoughts which are not suggested by the cogitation, activities, circumstances and experiences of those into whose minds they are injected.

However, coming to the Bible, we find the personality of Satan expressed and implied in many passages and incidents. Certainly the dealings between God and Satan and the latter's connected acts respecting Job imply Satan's personality (Job 1: 6-12; 2: 1-7). The angel contending against Satan and calling upon God to rebuke him, as Satan resisted the high priest, Joshua, is in line with the thought that Satan is a personal being (Zech. 3: 1, 2). Jesus' statement respecting Satan's adopting policies foreign to his usual proceedings to bolster up his waning cause strongly implies Satan's personality (Matt. 12: 24-26). No less strongly is this taught by Jesus in His statement that Satan was once in the Truth, that he later originated falsehoods and murdered the human family, when he introduced sin into the world (John 8: 44; Gen. 3: 1-7).

But if Satan were the evil principle, as some claim, how could he ever have been in the Truth? If Satan were the evil principle and not an evil person who works through evil principles, how contrary to St. Paul's stated purpose would it have been to deliver the erring Corinthian brother to Satan for corrective stripes (1 Cor. 5: 5)! How could the Bible speak of his *devices*, unless he could think and plan, as making devices implies thought and purpose and thus personality (2 Cor. 2: 11)? Certainly in transforming himself into an angel of light from an angel of darkness, he must have thought and reasoned, which of course implies personality (2 Cor. 11: 14).

That devils believe and tremble—and so think and feel—proves that Satan, their leader, thinks and feels, and therefore is a personal being (Jas. 2: 19). His walking about as a roaring lion, seeking especially Christians as his prey, proves his personality (1 Pet. 5: 8, 9). Michael's contending with him over Moses' body, which Satan seemed to want for use as an object of worship in Israel, is in line with his being a real, personal being, and not the abstract evil principle (Jude 9). Accordingly, reason, facts and Scripture prove Satan's personality.

LUCIFER CREATED PERFECT

Originally that being was good whom we call Satan (1 Chron. 21: 1; Job 1: 6; John 13: 27; Acts 5: 3; 26: 18; Rom. 16: 20), which name in Hebrew, like its Greek equivalent—*diabolos*, whence comes our English word *devil*—means *adversary, opponent*. But Satan was not his original name. Until he sinned and led the race into sin his name was Lucifer—*light-bearer* (Isa. 14: 12). In nature and rank he was a cherub, one of the highest of all angels (Ezek. 28: 14, 16).

Ezek. 28: 12-19, calling him the king of Tyre, for Tyre symbolizes the present evil world, whose ruler is Satan, gives us a fairly detailed description of Lucifer before he sinned and after he sinned and of his final end—annihilation. In both literal and symbolic language his physical, mental, moral and religious perfection is set forth in vs. 12-15. The expression, thou sealest up the sum, refers to the fullness of his perfection, intellectually (full of wisdom) and physically, morally and religiously, since the word *beauty* refers to his physical, moral and religious qualities. He was such even for a while after he was made guardian angel to Adam and Eve in Eden (vs. 13, 14). More particularly are his pre-fallen moral and religious qualities brought to our attention by the figure of his being covered with precious stones (v. 13); for these and other precious stones are used to symbolize the moral and religious perfections of the glorified Church, the Bride, the Lamb's Wife, as New Jerusalem (Rev. 21: 11-21), as they are also among the stones that were set in the high priest's breastplate (Ex. 39: 10-13). V. 14 first describes his work in Eden as guardian of Adam and Eve and later describes his position and work among the heavenly hosts. V. 15 shows that he had been perfectly righteous and good from the time of his creation for probably millions of years later, even until he in Eden fell into sin. His subsequently corrupting himself is graphically described in vs. 16-18, while his final influence and annihilation in the Little Season following the Millennium are described in v. 19. Thus this Scripture gives us a comprehensive description of this cherub's history.

VARIOUS NAMES FOR SATAN

Thus so far we see him called Lucifer, the covering (protecting) cherub and Satan; but he is also called by other names than these in the Bible. It would be profitable for us to consider these, which refer to him from the standpoint of his qualities and activities subsequent to his fall. Thus he is called: Beelzebub (*lord of the fly*), the god of Ekron (*destruction*; 2 Kings 1: 3-6; symbolic of his plaguesomeness through errors [flies] on militarism, leading to war and destruction; Matt. 12: 24; Mark 3: 22; Luke 11: 15); Belial, or Beliar (*wickedness*, descriptive of his character; 2 Cor.

6: 15); devil (*adversary*, descriptive of his opposing God, the Truth, righteousness, mankind in general and the good in particular; Matt. 4: 1; Luke 4: 2, 6; Rev. 20: 2); enemy (descriptive of his spiteful course and hating attitude; Matt. 13: 39); liar, and father of lies (descriptive of his deceitfulness and originating error; John 8: 44); murderer (because by sin he murdered the whole human family; John 8: 44; Rom. 5: 12); serpent, and old serpent (because of his cunning and poisonousness; Gen. 3: 4, 14; Rev. 20: 2; 2 Cor. 11: 3); prince of this world (because he is by usurpation the ruler of the present evil order of affairs among mankind; John 12: 31; 14: 30; 16: 11); prince of devils (because he is the ruler over the fallen angels; Matt. 12: 24); prince of the power of the air (descriptive of his headship over the fallen angels as the invisible spirits organized as a kingdom over humanity; Eph. 2: 2); spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience (because he uses the wicked and disobedient as his servants and tools; Eph. 2: 2); tempter (because he entices to sin, error, selfishness and worldliness; Matt. 4: 3; 1 Thes. 3: 5); the god of this world (descriptive of him as the ruler of the present evil order of affairs; 2 Cor. 4: 4); and wicked one (whose character has been rightly described by the words Milton puts into his mouth: "evil, be thou my good; good, be thou my evil"; Matt. 13: 19, 38). Thus we see that his Biblically given names accurately describe his character, works and office. And surely a being correctly characterized by such names must be the supreme of all sinners and evil doers.

As Lucifer came from the creative hand of God he was good, and God did not make him so that he had to sin. God on the contrary gave him a disposition favorable to righteousness and averse to sin. This naturally raises the question, How, then, could he have sinned, if there were no sin in the world, and no sinful propensities in his make-up as he came from the creative hand of God? The possibility of his sinning lay in the fact that he was endowed with liberty of choice. As one of the highest of the angels (Isa. 14: 12), he had as his subordinates some of the other angels, from whom by Divine arrangement he received the honor and obedience due to his station in relation to them.

It was proper for Lucifer to desire and to receive such honor and obedience in harmony with God's order. But it seems that Lucifer permitted his mind to dwell overweeningly on the desirability of receiving such honor and obedience, and thus he failed to keep such desires in proper subjection to higher sentiments, like the desire to please God above all things and the desire not to receive honor and obedience from others unless it should be according to God's arrangement. Failing to keep the desire of receiving obedience and honor subject to the two desires just mentioned, the more he kept the desirability of receiving honor and obedience from others in his heart, the stronger by exercise this desire became, and the more it reached out for exercise toward some who were not, to the extent that he craved them to be, put by God into his charge.

SATAN'S GRADUAL DEFLECTION

Thus a craving for more honor and power than God arranged for him to have gradually *grew* in him (1) by a failure properly to subordinate the desire for honor and obedience to certain higher qualities, and (2) by extending such a desire toward persons and things beyond the limits

of their Divinely arranged relations to him. As he contemplated the race of mankind and its possibilities, such growing *ambition* began to see in the human family a possible dominion from which he could gain further honor and obedience than God offered him.

We have already mentioned in the foregoing that as "the covering [protecting] cherub" he had been given a limited guardianship over the human family in Eden (Ezek. 28: 13-15). The *limits* of this guardianship were too confined for that degree of exercise of his desire for honor and obedience to which his ambition by this time had grown. Therefore to gain more power over the race than God had commissioned him to exercise, his ambition, by now the controlling quality of his heart, prompted him to lead unfallen mankind into sin, as the only way by which his ambition could be gratified. (For a more detailed description of his fall and his temptation of Adam and Eve into sin, please see *Creation*, pages 102-106.) Thus externally he rebelled against God through his inordinate ambition grasping for the exercise of Divinely unsanctioned power and rulership, as the growth of the seed of an improperly controlled desire for honor and obedience from others. This is the way the Prophet describes his gradual fall into sin: "Thou hast said *in thine heart* [desires], I will ascend," *etc.* (Isa. 14: 12-14). Unholy ambition brought it about.

We may reasonably assume that at the outstart Lucifer did not intend to go so far as he has gone; for his course gradually turned him into an implacable enemy—Satan, *i.e.*, enemy, opponent—of God and man. There is a proverb to the effect that whoever says A must in time say B, *i.e.*, whoever concedes an inch to wrong for advantage will have to go further in wrong to secure his ends. Satan has gone further than B. He has now proceeded as far as Y, and at the end of the Millennium he will go to Z, the full limit of evil, whereupon his destruction will ensue (Heb. 2: 14). The course that he has taken has wrought fearful havoc with his own once holy character and fellowship with God and all in harmony with Him, and as well has involved many angels in sin with its evil results, and has brought sin and ruin upon the human family. His course has made him most cunning instead of wise, most unjust instead of just, most selfish instead of loving, and most obstinate in evil instead of powerful in good. As a result he is the most conspicuous example of depraved character in the universe—almost the synonym of sin itself. It is true that he has attained his ambition for rulership over the human family under the present evil world (Gal. 1: 4; John 12: 31; 14: 30; 16: 11; 2 Cor. 4: 4; Eph. 2: 1, 2), and for princship over the fallen angels (Matt. 12: 24; Eph. 2: 2; 6: 11, 12), yet at what a terrible cost to himself and to all his underlings! Surely his is the chief example of "vaunting ambition overleaping itself"! Let us avoid imitating him.

The following is from Satan's advice to "his nearest mate," as conjectured by John Milton in "Paradise Lost":

Whereto with speedy words the arch-fiend replied:
"Fall'n cherub! to be weak is miserable
Doing or suffering: but of this be sure,
*To do aught good never will be our task,
But ever to do ill our sole delight,*
As being the contrary to His high will

Whom we resist. If then His providence
Out of our evil seek to bring forth good,
Our labour must be to pervert that end,
And out of good still to find means of evil;
Which oft-times may succeed, so as perhaps
Shall grieve Him, if I fail not, and disturb
His inmost counsels from their destined aim."

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Chapter 2: Satan's Empire

SATAN'S EMPIRE—HOW CONSTITUTED

How graphically the Prophet (Isa. 14: 13, 14) describes the various features of his ambition: "Thou hast said in thine heart, [1] I will ascend into heaven [I will make myself an exalted ruler]; [2] I will exalt my throne above the stars [angels (Job 38: 7)] of God [I will become the king over the angels (Matt. 12: 24)]; [3] I will sit also upon the mount [Kingdom (Dan. 2: 35, 44, 45; Isa. 25: 6)] of the congregation [people. I will become the ruler of the human family], in the sides of the north [as spiritual, invisible ruler]; [4] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds [I will put myself out of reach of all trouble]; [5] I will be like the Most High [I will found an independent empire in which as God's rival I will be supreme, and will be His equal]"! Yes, he has founded an empire having two phases, (1) an invisible phase, consisting of the fallen angels under his leadership, as the higher and controlling phase of his empire, and (2) a visible and subordinate phase, consisting of three departments: oppressive governments, predatory aristocracies and false religions, as the visible representatives of the invisible and ruling fallen angels among men. The earthly phase of his empire has three classes of representatives corresponding respectively to its three departments: rulers, aristocrats and clergy, who are the officials in these three departments. (For more details on the rulers of Satan's empire, please see *Creation*, pages 107-110.)

SATAN'S "DIVINE RIGHT" ERRORS

Satan has set forth the principle of the "Divine Right" as the foundation principle of his empire, and has given this principle in three forms: the Divine Right of rulers, the Divine Right of aristocrats, and the Divine Right of the clergy—one form of the principle of the Divine Right for each department of his empire. These three forms of the doctrine of the Divine Right were calculated to make the masses blindly subject to the classes as a matter of Divine sanction and obligation. How well the three forms of the Divine Right were calculated to keep the masses, indoctrinated with the error of the Divine Right, in subjection to Satan's representatives, and thus to him, becomes manifest on even a casual consideration of what the three forms of this principle mean. By the doctrine of the Divine Right of kings, Satan caused the following thoughts to be taught by his mouthpieces, especially by the clergy: (1) the kings are God's direct appointees, vicegerents and representatives; (2) they do exactly what God wants them to do; (3) therefore God sanctions all their acts (which means, *e.g.*, God sanctioned all the acts of the Czar and the Kaiser!); (4) therefore the people are in duty bound to obey without question everything their rulers require! The principle of the Divine Right of rulers was calculated to keep the people

subject to those rulers on whose selfishness Satan could depend to advance those governmental policies that he wished advanced, and thus he would control the people governmentally by the Divine Right doctrine.

By the doctrine of the Divine Right of the aristocrats, he caused the following things to be taught, especially through the clergy: (1) It is the Divine good will and pleasure that practically the whole earth and its riches be owned and administered by the aristocrats; (2) that these act as "the stewards and almoners of the Almighty" in dispensing on their own terms to the bulk of mankind, as their slaves, serfs or employees, of the surplus of earth's bounties; (3) that God sanctions the aristocrats' administration of things; and (4) that the masses should, therefore, be content with their lot and with what is dispensed to them by these "stewards and almoners of the Almighty." The principle of the Divine Right of the aristocrats was calculated to keep the people subject as slaves, serfs or employees to the aristocrats, on whose selfishness Satan could depend to advance those aristocratic policies that he wanted advanced, and thus he would control the people economically and socially by the Divine Right doctrine.

By the doctrine of the Divine Right of the clergy, Satan caused, especially by the clergy, the following thoughts to be taught: (1) God speaks to the people through the clergy; (2) therefore they are His mouthpieces giving forth the Truth; (3) He sanctions their teachings; and (4) therefore the people should with blank, unquestioning minds believe and practice the clergy's teachings. The principle of the Divine Right of the clergy was calculated to make the people subject to the clergy, on whose selfishness Satan could depend to advance those religious teachings and practice that he wanted advanced, and thus he would control the people religiously by the Divine Right doctrine.

Of course, the doctrine of the Divine Right as Satan has caused it to be taught is false as a whole and in its three forms, but it has been calculated to keep the race subject to Satan since the flood, until very recent times; when the war debates largely set it aside throughout Christendom.

SATAN'S CUNNING MANIPULATIONS

For the good of his empire Satan has always seen to it that, compatibly, with the successful operation of his empire's three earthly departments, some law and order existed; for he was too shrewd to allow anarchy to reign in his kingdom, well knowing it would result in wreck and ruin for his cause. Hence there has from the outstart been in his empire civil law, guarding especially the rights of the leaders in state, religion and aristocracy, or, as it is now usually called, Capital. This has prevented anarchy from setting in among such rulers. And only then has he tolerated the setting aside of civil law when it interfered with such overturning of governments, religions and aristocracies as he decided should be overturned for his empire's good.

Also, Satan has introduced some laws for the regulation of the "rights of the common people." These, however, have always been made first of all to serve the interests of the statesmen, clergy

and aristocrats; and subordinately to such interests they have been made to serve those interests of the common people that were calculated to keep them subject first of all to his own interests and thereafter to prosper in a measure their interests, and that, again, subject to his dominion as the executioner of the race (Heb. 2: 14).

These limitations have always made his governments, religions and aristocracies oppressive and exploitative of the common people, and have allowed more or less of crime and other invasions of the common people's rights, which Satan on general principles encouraged in individual cases, partly because it was in his interests to corrupt the race and partly to arrange for the execution of penalties on exceptional cases, in order to strike fear into the hearts of the people, as a tribute of respect to his laws. Thus he has been an angel of both light and darkness, accordingly as it best served his ends (2 Cor. 11: 14, 15).

SUPPORTING DOCTRINES OF SATAN'S EMPIRE

An empire based on such principles and using such means for its perpetuation, naturally must be one of much evil, even as the Scriptures call it the power of darkness—sin and error (Col. 1: 13). While he greatly deceived the people by the doctrine of the Divine Right of rulers, clergy and aristocrats, he knew that these of themselves were not sufficient to continue his rulership over the race. He, therefore, found it necessary to advance three other doctrines to support the superstructure which he built upon the foundation of the three forms of the Divine Right. We call the three above-given doctrines the fundamental doctrines of Satan's empire and the following the three supporting doctrines: (1) The dead are not dead, but are alive; (2) they have become spirits and as such are conscious; and (3) they are either in bliss or in torment. Early in the history of the race, even in Eden itself, Satan set forth these three falsehoods, for which Jesus called him a liar and the father of lies, and for whose acceptance by Eve, resulting in sin and death coming upon the race, Jesus called him a murderer (John 8: 44).

Note carefully the language in which Satan first clothed these three supporting errors of his empire (Gen. 3: 4, 5): (1) "Ye shall not surely [really] die [you will only seem to die; actually, you will live right on, even though seemingly dead, *i.e.*, the dead are alive]; ... (2) Ye shall be as [like the] gods [angels (Psa. 97: 7, compare Heb. 1: 6; — 197 times angels are called gods in the Hebrew of the Old Testament), who are spirits (Heb. 1: 7), *i.e.*, the dead have become spirits—they exist as angels], (3) knowing [experiencing] good [bliss] and evil [torment]."

Satan's design in using these three errors as the supporting doctrines of his empire is very apparent. He knew that if he could deceive the race on these three subjects he could deceive them into believing that certain other errors were true and certain truths were false, and that certain wrongs were right and certain rights were wrong. This done, he would promise rewards for the next life to those who would, under the deception that his errors were true and his wrongs were right, accept his errors and practice his wrongs, and threaten with eternal torment those who refused so to do. So, too, would he threaten torments for the next life to those who would accept God's truths (misrepresented as erroneous by Satan) as true, and practice certain of His

commands (misrepresented as wrong by Satan) as right; as he would also promise eternal bliss to those who would not so do.

Thus deceptively he would by hope of reward for compliance and by fear of torment for non-compliance, to be realized in the hereafter, enlist the people to believe and practice his errors; and he would, by misrepresentation of the source and character of God's teachings and by hope of reward and by fear of torment in the hereafter, deter the people from believing and practicing God's truths. Thus he would enslave the race to his will and prevent their doing God's will! In this dark plot he succeeded with the bulk of the human family (2 Cor. 4: 4; 11: 3, 14, 15; 2 Thes. 2: 9; 2 Tim. 2: 26). Thus by the three errors under consideration he mightily supported his empire and its foundation errors on the Divine Right.

THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

The above considerations show us that Satan's empire is founded on and supported by errors. And by these he has worked mightily in the hearts of the children of disobedience throughout the duration and territory of his empire (Eph. 2: 2). But an empire so founded and so supported must be an evil one, even as all history attests; for the course of Satan's empire is marked by every evil word and work. Corrupt indeed have been the majority of the rulers, aristocrats and clergy of his empire. The history of "the present evil world" (Gal. 1: 4) presents a succession of events replete with war, revolution, rapine, murder, destruction, lust, cruelty, conquest, oppression, degradation, unhappiness, misfortune, death, and persecution, especially of God's people! How little space is given in history to good, noble and elevating philanthropies! How much of its space is given to their opposites! So, too, Satan's empire has been one in which are found the greatest inconsistencies. How contradictory have been its religions, its philosophies, its civilizations, its governments, its social arrangements, its laws and its workings!

SATAN'S USE OF IGNORANCE AND SUPERSTITION

From this we infer that Satan adapts the form of government, religion, society, *etc.*, to the varying ideals of the peoples *as far as he must*. He would, if he could, keep all people in the densest ignorance, deepest oppression, darkest superstition and basest character and environment; but when the people will no longer stand for this, he makes such concessions as he must, compatibly, however, with his retaining control. This will account for the many overthrows, revolutions and reorganizations that have occurred in the governmental, aristocratic and religious departments of his empire.

Whenever the various governments, aristocracies and religions which he has used cease to serve his purpose of controlling the people, as nearly according to his views as possible, he wrecks those governments, aristocracies or religions, often with extreme ruthlessness, and replaces them by others more in harmony with his aims, and the concessions he must make to his subjects. He certainly makes it uncomfortable for those rulers or religionists who oppose the principles

and purposes of his empire. This is manifest in the oppositions and persecutions that he has aroused against every Christian leader and movement that have attacked his errors and preached God's Truth; for he has made them his special targets. (For more details on Satan's methods of keeping the race under his rule, and his opposition to God's people, please see *Creation*, pages 117-126.)

When we look upon the physical, mental, moral and religious perfection in which God created the human family in Eden, and then by contrast consider the physical, mental, moral and religious wrecks which Satan has made of so many of our race, we have one of the most striking evidences of his wicked character as a person and as a ruler, of the conspicuous failure of his empire as a means of blessing its subjects, and of the crying need of his and its displacement by The Christ as the Ruler and the Kingdom of God as the empire, in order to rescue the human race from utter ruin and destruction, and to return it to the original perfection and bliss of God's image and likeness.

After mankind's fall into sin, God intimated such a consummation (Gen. 3: 15); He renewed and amplified this to Abraham; by the types of the Law He repeatedly emphasized it; in the sublime poetry of the Prophets and Psalmists He reiterated it; through Jesus and His Apostles He clearly expounded it; He encourages His faithful people to offer for it the prayer, "Thy Kingdom come"; and by the signs of the times He indicates it as at hand. It is the desire of, as it will prove to be the cure for, all the nations. God speed the day of the overthrow of Satan's empire and of the establishment of His Kingdom under the whole heaven!

Satan, Satanism, Demonism, and Exorcism

Chapter 3: Satan's Overthrow and Destruction

We now proceed to Scriptures bearing on the overthrow of Satan's empire. According to the Bible, our Lord Jesus and His glorified Church, acting as *The Christ, Head and Body* (Eph. 1: 22, 23), are Jehovah's' primary agency in accomplishing this overthrow, though many human agencies co-operate to this end (Dan. 12: 1; Rev. 17: 14; 19: 11-21). We are not to think that Jehovah has been an unconcerned observer of the ruthless reign of Satan over the human family. His love for our fallen race prevented such unconcern (John 3: 16). Even before Satan's reign began, God prepared a plan for its overthrow. One feature of this plan is to keep Satan's activities within certain metes and bounds, while God prepares Jesus and the members of His Body, who together constitute The Christ, and their supporters, by development in various aspects, to become His agency for the overthrow of Satan's empire.

To those ignorant of God's Plan, it could not but appear that Satan has been winning. His victory, however, has been only a seeming one. Actually, every feature of God's Plan, so far due, has been fulfilling with unflinching precision and success, despite every effort of Satan to thwart it. Even in his opposition to Jesus and His faithful disciples, Satan's seeming success has been a defeat for him; for his opposition furnished Jesus and His disciples such experiences as better enabled them to oppose and overcome him in their hearts, and thus to develop characters fitting them for the work, in due time, of overthrowing his empire, of establishing God's Kingdom and of ruling over the human race for its uplift to perfection. Thus God's Plan purposes that the wrath of Satan as well as the wrath of man shall surely praise Him, and that He will restrain the remainder of wrath (Psa. 76: 10).

Ever since the Fall of 1874 (when 6,000 years from Adam's fall ended—see the book *The Time is at Hand*) the human family has entered into a new epoch, characterized by the most unusual enlightenment, movements, events and changes of all history. We believe that this enlightenment and these movements, events and changes are more or less connected with the overthrow of Satan's empire. We can better visualize matters if we keep in mind the Scriptural figure of The Christ (Head and Body) coming forth as an army, whose Commander is the Lord Jesus, to attack Satan's empire (Rev. 17: 14; 19: 11-21). The weapon that He uses is a "sword that proceedeth out of his mouth" (Rev. 19: 15, 21). Certainly no sane person would contend for the proposition that this is a literal sword. It evidently means the Truth on secular and religious subjects (Isa. 49: 2; Hos. 6: 5; Eph. 6: 17; Heb. 4: 12; Rev. 1: 16; 2: 12, 16).

How appropriate to the Prince of Peace it is to use such a sword, and how inappropriate it would be for Him to use a literal sword; yes, by reason of the contrast, how appropriate to Him

is the Sword of Truth as a weapon of warfare in a conflict with an empire whose weapon is untruth, and whose ruler is "the father of lies" (John 8: 44; 2 Cor. 4: 4)! It is even so; for the "Truth is mighty and shall prevail" in the war of The Christ upon Satan's empire. In this war Christ is making an attack with secular and religious Truth upon the ignorance that Satan has fostered and upon the errors that Satan has spread. However, the most particular objects of His attacks with the Sword of Truth have been the three foundation doctrines of Satan's empire: (1) The Divine Right of kings, (2) the Divine Right of aristocrats, and (3) the Divine Right of the clergy.

Along with the overthrow of the people's confidence in these foundation doctrines of Satan's empire, the Lord Jesus has been undermining their faith in the three supporting doctrines of Satan's empire: the consciousness of the dead, the transformation of people at death into spirits which are conscious, and the bliss or torment of these spirits. (For a complete examination of the Scriptures treating of death, the death state, hell, the resurrection, *etc.*, please see the book *Life-Death-Hereafter*.) This He has done, especially from a Biblical standpoint, through able and devout students of the Scriptures, though science and reason also have co-operated in undermining belief in these three supporting errors of Satan's empire.

From shortly after 1874 onward, as a result of our Lord's exposing and truth-revealing work, human society began to divide into two well-defined and mutually opposed classes: (1) the Conservatives—the rulers, aristocrats and clerics with their supporters, and (2) the Radicals—trade unionists, Socialists, Communists and anarchists with their supporters. Each of these two classes desires, because it is to their advantage, to maintain what, unknown to them, is actually Satan's empire.

The friction between these two classes continued and increased greatly, until shortly before the Fall of 1914 a revolution subversive to Satan's chosen order of affairs was imminent. To avert this, Satan resorted to the World War, the great war of prophecy, the war that precedes the Battle of Armageddon, the war that is the first part of the great Day of the Lord. Some of the more important Bible references to it are Joel 3: 9-14; Dan. 12: 1; Matt. 24: 21, 22; 1 Thes. 5: 1-3. This war and the very year (1914) it was to begin, were forecast from the Bible many years before it began (see *The Time is at Hand*). It has had two phases, 1914-1918 and 1939-1945.

The end of each phase of the World War found Satan's empire greatly weakened and debt-burdened almost to collapse, and with the Conservatives and Radicals more widely split than ever. To maintain his empire, Satan is being forced to resort to a World Revolution, which may break out in its fighting phase at any time. Some Biblical descriptions, in figurative language are: "the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16: 14; Isa. 13: 4, 5), "Armageddon" (Rev. 16: 16), "a great earthquake" (Rev. 16: 18; Heb. 12: 26), "the fire of Jehovah's jealousy" (Zeph. 3: 8; 2 Pet. 3: 10, 12; Mal. 4: 1; Nah. 1: 5), "a whirlwind" and "a storm" (Nah. 1: 3, 6, 7), "a tempest of hail," "a destroying storm" and "a flood of mighty waters" (Isa. 28: 2; Nah. 1: 4, 8), "the besom [broom] of destruction" (Isa. 14: 23), "a furnace of fire" (Matt. 13: 42), "a lake of fire" (Rev. 19: 20), "the supper of the great God" (Rev. 19: 17), and "the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (Rev. 19: 15).

The World Revolution, with accompanying famines and pestilences, will devastate Satan's order of affairs. He will then seek to patch things up and may succeed somewhat for a time. But after a brief respite, World Anarchy will set in. Ezek. 14: 21 by the term "sword" describes the War and Revolution, and by the noisome beast (a beast is not governed by law and order) fittingly describes the Anarchy of the Time of Trouble. Famines and pestilences are mentioned also. Satan's final effort after Anarchy will be against regathered Fleshly Israel.

SATAN'S BINDING

Rev. 20: 1-3 describes Satan's binding; its language is of course figurative. We understand that the bottomless pit symbolizes error, which indeed is a pit, and from the standpoint of its having no real foundation, is well represented by a *bottomless* pit. A key in Bible symbols represents the power to lock or unlock. In this passage the key is used to lock up Satan in the bottomless pit. The great chain by which Satan is bound represents the Truth in its various parts, as mighty in its Biblical, factual and reasonable proofs. The binding of Satan, therefore, represents his restraint by the Truth, Biblically, factually and reasonably set forth.

This binding work has been a gradual one, and when completed will have consisted of four stages. The wind, the earthquake and the fire of 1 Kings 19: 11, 12 represent respectively the first three features of the Great Tribulation; the beginning of each of these three features in turn concludes one of the first three stages of Satan's binding.

(1) The first stage of Satan's binding was from 1874 to 1914 and consisted of his increasing restraint by secular and religious Truth. The completion of the first stage of his binding was marked by the beginning of the World War in 1914, to which he resorted to maintain his empire, after realizing that he could no longer control it by its three foundation and three supporting doctrines.

(2) Since then Satan is trying to maintain it by various other errors, especially combinationistic ones, as these are manifest in various treaties, the League of Nations, the World Court, the United Nations, NATO, SEATO, the European Economic Community, the European Union, other alliances among the nations, *etc.*, combines among the financiers and unions and federations among the religious forces. By Biblical, factual and reasonable exhibitions of secular and religious Truth, Jesus is showing, and will continue to show, the erroneousness of these to such a degree that Satan, to maintain an empire at all, is forced to resort to a revolution of the masses against the privileged classes, and thereby will overthrow Satan's present order. His resorting to the World Revolution demonstrates the completion of the second stage of his binding.

(3) Satan will establish on false teachings a socialistic form of government which, as the third stage of his binding, Jesus will expose as erroneous, by secular and religious Truth; and in a mad dash to preserve some sort of power over mankind, Satan will lead the people on to World Anarchy, which will prove the completion of the third stage of his binding.

(4) The fourth stage of Satan's binding will be our Lord's exposures, by secular and religious Truth, of his effort of despair and hatred against the Jews by the anarchistic remnants of all nations. This will be in Phase II of "Jacob's trouble," the closing portion of World Anarchy (Jer. 30: 7), described in Ezek. 38: 1-23; 39: 1-29; Zech. 12: 9-14; 14: 1-3. (For more details on the overthrow of Satan's empire, please see BS No. 192.)

Thus, at the end of the Great Tribulation, Satan's binding will be complete. He will have run the full course of his pre-Millennial deceptions. In every way the Truth—the great chain—will restrain him, so that he will be unable to move hand, foot or mouth in the way of deceiving the nations during the Millennial "Times of Restitution" (Acts 3: 19-21), under the New Covenant. His being cast into the bottomless pit represents his being left to his own unaided resources and speculations and being kept from learning any further truth; and his being kept in the darkness of errors of his own making is meant by his remaining in the bottomless pit, which certainly will be painful.

To accomplish this, certain things will be necessary on the Lord's part: (1) to remove Satan so far away from the earth that he will know nothing of what is going on here during that time, and (2) to keep him there away from mankind during that period. This will prevent his learning the secular and religious truths given mankind during that time; and separating him and his demons from contact with mankind will prevent them from having any opportunity to deceive any of mankind.

SATAN'S POST-MILLENNIAL LOOSING

Rev. 20: 3, 7 describe Satan's being "loosed a little season" after the 1,000 years of Christ's reign are fulfilled. As Satan's imprisonment means his being in error and away from any contact with the race on earth, his loosing would imply his being brought back into touch with the race and finding out the exact truth on Millennial teachings and conditions. As his binding was a gradual one, extending over many years, so will be his loosing—a permitting of more or less of knowledge to influence by deception—a gradual one extending over many years, though his coming back to the earth will not be a prolonged journey.

Satan will make a careful study of the situation, so as to get a thorough grasp of it, as the basis of a plan to seize control of the human race again. Doubtless he will not believe that he will be annihilated at the end of the Little Season, but like Pharaoh, his type, he will persuade himself that God is too kind to take extreme measures against him; and he will therefore hope for another empire and reign over the earth for thousands of years, like his first one. God will allow him to attempt to gain control of the race again, only as a means of testing the hearts' attitude of the perfected race, for the manifestation of those who will be loyal to right principles under heart-searching tests and those who under such tests will not be loyal to right principles; for God is determined to let no person, after having had a favorable opportunity for life, exist after the Little Season, if he will not maintain loyalty to righteousness.

So Satan's unbelief and ambition will inveigle him into the role of a tempter; and this will bring upon all a final crucial temptation, whose outcome will be life everlasting to the faithful and cutting off in endless death to the unfaithful (Matt. 25: 31-46). Thus, as with Adam and Eve in the beginning, a trial to determine worthiness or unworthiness for everlasting life must be undergone by all, and the stage for that trial will be set in the Little Season.

SATAN'S AND HIS SERVANTS' END

Rev. 20: 10 and other parts of the Bible testify that eventually, at the end of the Little Season, God will destroy, annihilate, Satan, "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4: 4). The Greek verb *basanizo*, from which the word here translated "tormented" is derived, primarily means *to test, to examine*, and should be so translated here. Eternally those saved from among mankind will examine Satan's evil course of rebellion against God and its sad and baneful results and the evil course of his incorrigible servants and will agree that they justly deserved annihilation (comp. Isa. 14: 15-17; 66: 23, 24).

Other Scriptures state plainly that Satan will be destroyed, as previously mentioned. In Ezek. 28: 19 we read regarding him, "and never shalt thou be any more"; for through Christ Jesus, God will destroy him (Gen. 3: 15; Rom. 16: 20; Heb. 2: 14). God will destroy also "the works of the devil" (1 John 3: 8) and all the incorrigibly wicked, who follow Satan (Rev. 20: 9); for "all the wicked will he destroy"—"they shall be as though they had not been"; "they are extinct, they are quenched as tow" (Psa. 145: 20; Obad. 1: 16; Isa. 43: 17; 2 Thes. 1: 9). They will perish in the Second Death, symbolized by the lake of fire (Matt. 25: 41; Rev. 20: 14, 15; 21: 8).

OUR IMPREGNABLE STRONGHOLD

A Mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old bitter foe
Means us deadly woe:
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight,
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,

Jehovah's mighty Son.
And there's none other One,
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill,
All waiting to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They cannot overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He's judged, the deed is done,
One little word overthrows him.

The Word they still shall let remain,
And not a thank have for it,
He's by our side upon the plain,
With His good gifts and Spirit,
Take they then our life,
Goods, fame, child and wife;
When their worst is done,
They yet have nothing won,
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Satan, Satanism, Demonism, and Exorcism

Chapter 4: Satanism

SATANISM In view of Satan's diabolical character, the terrible evils and unspeakable sufferings that he has brought upon the world of mankind and the final annihilation of him and of all his willing and persistently willful followers, it seems strange that any would desire to follow him and his wicked ways, and feel themselves at home with him and even worship him.

Satanism as an out-and-out worship of the Devil is the most degrading form of religious worship. It exhorts to practicing the worst kind of faults, is highly immoral and is directly linked with pornography, sexual license, sadistic practices, hallucinogenic drugs, mental problems, violence and murder. Satan and his works of darkness are becoming more and more popular in the world today.

Anton Szandor LaVey, founder of the First Church of Satan in San Francisco, is hailed as "America's Black Pope"; he styles himself "Priest of the Prince of Darkness." He and most other Satanists ridicule the generally held "Satan image"; instead they believe that Satan and God are really one and the same being, whom they must worship. "He is the Lord of this world," "so we might as well recognize him and give him his due," says LaVey.

Most Satanists do not believe in a hereafter, and they ridicule the Bible teachings of rewards and punishments depending on one's conduct, and most other precepts of Bible teaching. LaVey declares, "We emphasize the here and now—not the unreal, intangible hereafter." "Christianity is nothing more than a diabolical plot which was designed to keep mankind entrapped for several thousand years until a better mousetrap could be invented." He claims that "there is a demon inside man; it must be exercised, not exorcised—channeled into ritualistic hatred." He exhorts his First Satanic Church members to learn and indulge in the "seven deadly sins of Christianity"—lust, greed, gluttony, envy, jealousy, pride and slothfulness.

LaVey's daughter Karla, a self-proclaimed witch, speaking on behalf of his Church of Satan, at the United Methodist-related Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, reportedly stated, "People should be kind only to those who deserve it, instead of wasting it in the name of Christianity, and they should seek vengeance when necessary, rather than turning the other cheek. Each person should put himself first and worry about others later. The so-called seven deadly sins (greed, envy, gluttony, pride, sloth, lust, and anger) are actually life's motivating forces; they are natural to man and not wrong." Such are the fruits that LaVey's Satanic philosophy produce in his dupes!

LaVey's self-produced Satanic Bible, a perverted satire of the Gospels, contains such passages as "if someone hits you on one cheek, smash him on the other." In many areas of the U.S., his "Satanic Bible" outsells the Holy Bible 2 to 1. At a bookstore near Wayne State University (Indiana) it outsells the Holy Bible 100 to 1.

The "end justifies the means" philosophy in "doing your own thing," *i.e.*, indulging the fleshly and worldly appetites, is held by most Satanist groups. Accordingly, Satanists regularly indulge in illicit sex, use hallucinogenic drugs, *etc.*

A SATANIC CHURCH WEDDING

A sample of one of LaVey's church weddings, according to a reporter, is as follows: He wore devil horns, and the wedding was performed in his black-walled Satanist church. A naked girl reclined on a purple velvet robe atop a mantelpiece. LaVey explained that this was to symbolize earthly pleasure. Flanking him and the two to be married was the paraphernalia of the sorcery business: human skeletons, stuffed opossum and leopard, mystic signs and a physician's examining table, used later as a bar.

Clothed with a black hood, a black robe and an amulet, LaVey rang a gong, recited an ode to the satyr Pan, then mumbled incantations in a guttural utterance which he said was a language he invented. He pronounced the match "conceived in hell, which has kept religion alive from the beginning," and amid ominous low-toned roars from a lion caged on the back porch, the bridegroom placed a ring on the scarlet-gowned bride's finger. No marriage license was obtained. LaVey dismissed the question of the ceremony's legality, saying: "I am an ordained clergyman in the Satanic church, which I founded and which the law may not recognize." He held a sword over the heads of the couple as by the authority of "the Prince of Darkness" he pronounced them husband and wife.

A black-walled nuptial chamber decorated with drawings of deadly nightshade awaited the couple, but first a vodka punch was served, and the couple was toasted. Amid the festivities, a fire engine, with siren screaming, roared up in front of the mansion and firemen waving axes leaped out. Someone had turned in a false alarm.

Satanism has been spreading at an alarming rate, with Satanist churches springing up in various countries. Dr. Kurt Koch, of Germany, author of "The Devil's Alphabet" and many other books on subjects pertaining to Satanism and occultism, is considered one of the world's best authorities on these subjects. He has counseled over 22,000 individuals in 65 countries, many of them Christian converts from demonism. He estimates that between 1 and 2 per cent of the world's population are devil worshipers, including some 2 million in the U.S.A., well over 20,000 of whom are said to be followers of LaVey.

Dr. Koch points out that the present spiritual revival, especially among the younger generation, is paralleled by the phenomenal spread of Satanism and the occult—a mystical movement, which

holds some attraction of its own, and offers help and advice about life, the future and contact with the dead. In Satanist churches there is not only the direct worship of the Devil, but also séances, speaking in tongues, the bizarre Black Mass practice and agreements written in blood. He correctly states that at their séances no real contact is made with the dead, but that it is demons who take the form, face and voice of dead people.

In describing the celebration of the Black Mass, Dr. Koch says: "A naked woman lies in the center of a large group of people, serving as a table for their 'desecration' of the Lord's Supper and as the object of their sexual atrocities. A group of village witch doctors dance frantically around a roaring fire, slashing themselves with knives until the blood cascades down their arms and wishing death upon a common enemy. Within 24 hours the victim is dead."

MURDERS COMMITTED BY SATANISTS

Since Satan "was a murderer from the beginning" (John 8: 44), when he caused the whole human race to come under the death sentence, it is not surprising that those who worship him and follow his practices are led to commit murder; for of such Jesus said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." A number of murders and other atrocities have been perpetrated by worshipers of Satan. We note a few such cases here:

In Livingston County, Michigan, a group of Satanists tortured and killed a 17-year-old girl. When charged with her murder they claimed to be "Satan's satanic servants."

In New Jersey, Patrick Newell was killed "so that he could return to earth as leader of 40 legions of demons."

In 1971, Miss Kim Brown, age 22, who boasted of being a Satan worshiper, murdered Myron Amerman, a Florida businessman, stabbing him 46 times. She was charged with first degree murder, but after negotiations between her court-appointed attorney and the prosecutor she pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was given a 7-year sentence. She attributed her light sentence to intercession by the Devil.

"I should have got [a] life [sentence]," Miss Brown said, "but I have been a devout Satanist for five years." She showed the sign of Satan, an upside-down cross with a triangle at its zenith and three stars below, tattooed between the thumb and forefinger of her left hand.

Amerman's death was revenge for an incident that took place between them several years before. "I had something against him," she explained, "and he paid me back with his life." Most of the stab wounds were in "groupings," around the chest and neck. "I do have sadistic tendencies," she boasted, "and I really did enjoy it." A broken chain with a cross and religious medal was found beneath his body.

Miss Brown wore black rosary beads around her neck "for kicks." "I got into witchcraft and Satanism at the same time—and saw it worked." (A man who had cheated her died in an auto accident a week after a spell was cast on him at a coven meeting.)

In 1973, Ross Cochran of Fresno, California, working as a change boy in a Florida beach pinball arcade, was strapped to a table and tortured for a day before being murdered by a group of six young Satan worshipers as a ritual sacrifice, police say.

Young Cochran (age 17) was a major state witness in a suit to close a nearby private school as a "place of lewdness." "They must have hated this kid because they really tortured him," Police Chief Robert Palmer said. The mangled body, trussed with ropes, was found lying in a remote wooded area 15 miles away.

Palmer described the altar on which the Satanists tortured the youth, while he pleaded for his life, as an old work table painted black and lined with black-painted bottles and candles. Motorcycle chains and symbols in red paint adorn the walls of the room, he said.

Members of the group told newsmen that initiates to the coven were asked "to denounce God and everything He stands for."

Witchcraft is closely associated with Satanism. It is estimated that some 200,000 witches are operating in the U.S. In England an evil black magic craze is invading the schools and playgrounds. In a recent survey among 80,000 school children it was found that four out of five had a working knowledge of the ouija board and other means of occult communication. A large proportion of the 30,000 witches in England are said to be teenagers. In both countries, marauders periodically invade cemeteries, desecrating graves, breaking crosses and opening coffins. In Florida, heads were stolen recently from six graves, apparently for use in a witches' ceremony.

Satan, Satanism, Demonism, and Exorcism

Chapter 5: Demonism

DEMONISM

After Lucifer, one of the cherubim, the highest of the seven ranks of angels, became Satan, the most powerful opponent of God, he deceived many of the angelic host into materializing as human males and taking wives of "the daughters of men," so that Adam's dying human race might be given life from these fathers (*life-givers*) who were not under the sentence of death—and the result was a hybrid race, demigods, "giants," "men of renown" (Gen. 6: 1-4).

God wiped out this hybrid race and the contaminated human family in the Flood, saving only Noah and his family, who were not thus tainted (Gen. 6: 9; 1 Pet. 3: 20); but "the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness [restraints, not permitting them to exercise their powers in the light] unto [until] the judgment of the great day [the Millennial Day, now dawning]" (Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2: 4).

Satan, "the prince of the devils" (Matt. 9: 34; 12: 24), has closely controlled these evil angels and used them in manipulating circumstances and people to further his original lie, that "ye shall not surely [really] die," but live on, changed into spirit beings (gods), some knowing good, those worthy of it experiencing bliss, and the others experiencing evil, *i.e.*, eternal torment (Gen. 3: 4, 5).

Thus, while God sets before mankind "life" contrasted with "death" (Deut. 30: 15, 19; Jer. 21: 8; John 3: 16; Rom. 6: 23), Satan and his demons have deceived heathendom and Christendom with his lie that the dead are more alive than the living and are either in Heaven or in a hell of literal fire, to be tortured eternally. But the Bible teaches that the dead are unconscious and that hell is the unconscious condition of the grave: Job 14: 21; Isa. 63: 16; Psa. 6: 5; 115: 17; 146: 4; Eccles. 9: 5, 6, 10; Isa. 38: 18, 19; Dan. 12: 2; John 5: 28, 29; 11: 11-14; see our *Hell of the Bible* booklet.

THE DEMONS' MANY METHODS OF DECEPTION

The demons under restraints of darkness have for centuries operated especially at night, in various manifestations of their presence to people while in bed and elsewhere, as ghosts in cemeteries or in haunted houses, in dreams and visions, in séances (held in darkened rooms), *etc.*, deceptively palming themselves off as "the living dead." They use various media for ensnaring people and communicating with them, such as wizards, witches (spirit mediums),

necromancers, diviners, astrologers, fortune-tellers, tea-leaf readers, crystal-ball gazers, sorcerers, occultism, hypnotism, the black art, conjuration, extra-sensory perception (ESP), clairvoyance, clairaudience, table-tippings, table-rappings, spirit-writing, horoscopes, ouija boards and "flying saucers."

Note God's disapproval of such media in Ex. 22: 18; Lev. 19: 26, 31; 20: 6, 27; Deut. 18: 9-14; 2 Kings 21: 2, 6, 9, 11, 12; 1 Chron. 10: 13, 14; 2 Chron. 33: 6; Isa. 8: 19, 20; 19: 3, 4; Jer. 27: 9, 10; 29: 8, 9; Zech. 10: 2; Mal. 3: 5; Gal. 5: 19-21; Rev. 21: 8; 22: 15.

Yet in spite of all these and other evidences of God's disapproval and the eventual destruction—annihilation—of all those who after being fully enlightened as to their nature, engage in such occult practices to the end, there is in these "last days" an ever-increasing worldwide interest and engagement in occult and its evil practices such as the world has never before witnessed. This is in fulfillment of Divine prophecy; for "the Spirit speaketh *expressly*, that in the latter times some shall *depart* from the faith, giving heed to *seducing spirits*, and *doctrines of devils*" (1 Tim. 4: 1). Note that these "some" are persons who have previously held to the faith. This is a telling mark of the times, for, sad to say, there are now hosts of people calling themselves Christians who dabble more or less feverishly in matters occult.

This most intensive and extensive upsurge of spiritism, witchcraft, black magic, *etc.*, is not merely the self-engendered product of misguided individuals. It is something far deeper and more shattering than that—nothing less than the final desperate onslaught of the demon hosts of "the prince of this world" (John 12: 31; 14: 30), as he sees his house divided against itself and his kingdom falling to pieces during the great Time of Trouble, prior to the establishment of Christ's reign of truth and righteousness, for the blessing of mankind (Psa. 2: 8, 9; Dan. 2: 35, 44; 7: 13, 14; Matt. 12: 25-29; 2 Pet. 3: 10-13).

The Christian should ever be on the alert and keep in mind the clear distinctions between God and Satan, light and darkness, truth and error, righteousness and sin, faith and credulity. No man can serve two masters who are opposed to each other (Matt. 6: 24; Luke 16: 13). The majority "love darkness rather than light" (John 3: 19-21); but when one becomes a Christian, he turns "from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God" (Acts 26: 18).

God tells those whom He has called "out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Pet. 2: 9) to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them; for it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret [in séances, witchcraft, fortune-telling and other occult practices, the demons further Satan's original lie—Gen. 3: 4, 5; John 8: 44—and his many other supporting lies, deceptions and sinful practices]" (Eph. 5: 11, 12).

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial (Satan, as *worthless, wicked*; compare Deut. 13: 13)? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ... Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith

the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you" (2 Cor. 6: 14-18; see also 1 Cor. 10: 20-22).

It is not hard to understand how Satan and his demons during the Dark Ages were able to keep the masses under their control through the fear, ignorance and superstition that were then generally prevalent. Through Satan's misrepresentations of God's glorious character of wisdom, justice, power and love, and his twisting of death (Gen. 2: 17; Ezek. 18: 4, 20; Rom. 6: 23) into meaning eternal life, and the Bible hell (the unconscious condition of death) into meaning a condition of eternal torture, he deceived many into believing his "doctrines of [fireproof] devils" and scared them into becoming converted to his various Babylonian errors in "the synagogue of Satan" (Rev. 2: 9; 3: 9). Thus he nourished with deceptions the multitudes of tares he planted among the wheat (Matt. 13: 24-30, 36-43).

Satan thoroughly organized the invisible phase of his empire, as well as its visible phase. The fallen angel who was the chief deputy of Satan in each country got himself called the god of that country in heathen times and countries, and later the national saint in various Roman Catholic countries of Christendom. Thus the so-called Saint George was the counterfeit patron saint (actually a demon) of England; St. Dennis, of France; St. Michael, of Germany; St. James, of Spain; St. Patrick, of Ireland, *etc.*, while provincial and local gods or so-called saints were actually the demons in charge of provinces, cities and towns of the various countries, as well as of various activities and spheres of control. Thus, as well as in other ways, they got themselves worshiped (Lev. 17: 7; Deut. 12: 30, 31; 32: 15-17; 2 Chron. 11: 15; Psa. 106: 37; 1 Cor. 10: 20-22; Rev. 16: 14).

While it is not so difficult to understand how Satan and his demons could deceive the masses during the Dark Ages, it is much harder to see how they can deceive so many Christians and others today, because of the great increase of light now shining upon the teachings of the Holy Bible, as well as upon secular subjects in general. However, with their subtle deceptions and multiplied devices the demons seem quite successful. They use the same old deceptive devices they have used from time immemorial, as, *e.g.*, when the witch of Endor deceived King Saul into thinking he was talking to the Prophet Samuel, when actually it was a demon impersonating Samuel (see our *Spiritism is Demonism* booklet—a copy free on request).

The Lord's Biblically enlightened people are not ignorant of such old devices of Satan (2 Cor. 2: 11), nor of his new, revised and popularized devices (such as psychic research, psychometry, psychic healing, "faith healing," telepathy, ESP, horoscopes, ouija boards, spirit-writing, clairvoyance, UFOs, *etc.*

Satan, Satanism, Demonism, and Exorcism

Chapter 6: "Tongues" and "Prophecies"

Many sincere Christians and others are led to think and claim that in our day God is speaking to His people through dreams, visions, special "gifts" of the Spirit and prophecies aside from those recorded in the completed Bible, whereas, as is evident from the following considerations from the Scriptures, these methods of Divine revelation ceased to operate shortly after the days of the twelve Apostles and the completion of the New Testament.

SPECIAL "GIFTS" FOR EARLY CHURCH ONLY

The early Church, in its infancy, had only a part (the Old Testament part) of the Divine revelation for the Church. So in order to establish the early Church until "that which is perfect [complete, the full revelation, including all the New Testament] is come," God arranged for His consecrated children, His New Creatures in Christ Jesus, baptized with His holy Spirit, to have certain special "gifts" of the Spirit—such as Divinely inspired wisdom, knowledge, the gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, kinds of tongues (languages), or *glossolalia*, etc. (1 Cor. 12: 8-10).

The Apostle Paul shows that after these "gifts" of the Spirit would have served their purpose they would, cease to operate and would pass away, though the *graces* of the Spirit, such as faith, hope, love, etc., would continue with the Church throughout the Gospel Age. He illustrates this in 1 Cor. 13: 8, by mentioning the grace of charity (Greek, *agape*, the highest form of love), which would never fail, in contrast with three of the "gifts" of the Spirit, which were given to the Church only temporarily and would soon pass away:

"Charity [love] never faileth [never will cease]: but whether there be prophecies [obviously he did not mean Bible prophecies—which surely would not fail but would all be fulfilled—rather he meant the miraculous 'gift' by God's inspiration to publicly expound the Truth and, subordinately (as did Agabus—Acts 11: 28; 21: 10, 11), to forecast future events—v. 2], they shall fail [cease to be exercised as one of the Spirit's 'gifts'; the Greek verb *katargeo*, used here, means *to be rendered entirely idle or useless, to bring to an end*]; whether there be tongues [the miraculous 'gift' by God's power of speaking in other languages—v. 1], they shall cease; whether there be knowledge [surely not all knowledge, but the special 'gift' by God's power to know things—v. 2], it shall vanish away."

Aside from the two general baptisms with the holy Spirit (Acts 2: 1-11; 10: 44-47; 11: 15), the "gifts" of the Spirit came on the early Church ONLY *through the laying on of hands by one or more of the twelve Apostles—after which only* "they spoke with tongues, and prophesied" (Acts 8: 14-18; 19: 6). *Therefore with the death of the last member of the early Church on whom one of the twelve Apostles had imparted a "gift" of the Spirit by the laying on of hands, these "gifts" of course passed away, as the Bible said they would (1 Cor. 13: 8), and as history from the second century onward attests they did.*

Thus the Apostle explained (vs. 9-13): "For [during the Church's infancy] we know in [Greek, *ek, from, out of*, and therefore because of, on account of, a] part [the Old Testament was the only part of the Bible that had yet been given], and we prophesy in part [Christians in the beginning of the Gospel Age had these 'gifts' because the Bible had not yet been fully given; so the 'gifts' were given to *supplement*—temporarily—the Old Testament, the incomplete revelation for the Church]."

V. 10: "But when that which is perfect [Greek, *teleion, complete, entire*, as opposed to that which is in part—in other words, the completed Bible] is come, then that [the 'gifts' of the Spirit] which is [exists] in [*from, because of, a*] part [only the Old Testament portion of the Bible having yet been given] shall be done away [Greek, *katargeo*: the 'gifts' were to be *brought to an end*—to fail, cease, vanish away—after the Bible's completion]."

V. 11: The Apostle then uses himself as an illustration of the Church's early experiences: "When I was a child, I spake [alluding to *tongues*] as a child [compare 1 Cor. 3: 1; 14: 20], I understood [alluding to *prophecy*] as a child, I thought [*reasoned, judged*, alluding to *knowledge*] as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things [*i.e.*, the 'gifts' of the Spirit, which pertained only to the early Church—the Church's childhood—and not to its manhood—its maturity]."

V. 12: "For now [in the Apostle's day] we [the Church] see through [Greek, *dia, through*] a glass [*through a dim window*—Rotherham; not our modern clear glass, but thin plates of horn, transparent stone crystals, *etc.*; compare Rev. 4: 6; 21: 11; 22: 1], darkly [Greek, *en ainigmati*, enigmatically, dimly, obscurely—see Diaglott footnote; God's revelation, the Bible, not being yet completed and only a part of that already fully given being clearly understood, gave but an obscure vision, so that the early Church could not know fully, as they were known by God, and could not understand clearly]; but then [when the written revelation, the Bible, would be completed by having the New Testament added] face to face [they would then have a clear understanding; and since the glass represented *incomplete* knowledge, the expression 'face to face' by contrast obviously is metaphorical for the state of *completed* knowledge, as far as God's written and revealed will is concerned. The face sometimes typifies or symbolizes knowledge—see Rev. 1: 16; 20: 11; thus when God 'spoke unto Moses face to face'—Ex. 33: 11—Moses did not see Him face to face—Ex. 33: 20; 'face to face' here means *clearly*, for God spoke to Moses, not in visions and dreams, as to other prophets, but in perfectly clear communications: 'mouth to mouth, even *apparently* (manifestly—ASV), and *not in dark speeches*' (*ainigmaton*—Septuagint)—Num. 12: 6-8; Deut. 34: 10]: now I [the Church] know in part [*from a part*—the Old

Testament part—thus incompletely, compare vs. 9, 10]; but then [when the written revelation would be completed] shall I know [*fully*—so the Greek] even as also I am [*have been fully*—so the Greek] known [by God; not that Paul or any others of the Church would be given omniscience, but that the unclear glass condition—the supplementation of the Old Testament by the 'gifts' of the Spirit—ceasing with the completion of the New Testament, they would through the completed Bible—the 'face to face' condition of clear knowledge—know in full the character, plan and works of God as He reveals them in His completed Bible to His Church]."

V. 13: "And [Greek, *but*—in contrast to the 'gifts' of the Spirit, which were soon to pass away] now [during the entire Gospel Age, when especially needed] abideth [a triad of three chief graces, in contrast with the triad of three temporary 'gifts' of the Spirit soon to pass away—v. 8] faith, hope, charity [love], these three [which stand for all the other graces of the Spirit as well, even as in v. 8 the three 'gifts' of the Spirit mentioned stand for all the other 'gifts' of the Spirit as well]; but the greatest of these [abiding graces] is charity [love]."

In view of the above Scriptures and the teachings of God's Word in general, obviously those who claim for themselves or for others any of the special "gifts" of the Spirit, such as, *e.g.*, the "gift of prophecy," with communications from the spirit world, are greatly deceived, and are apt to serve Satan unwittingly.

What does the foregoing exposition of 1 Cor. 13: 8-13 have to do with crystal-ball gazing, dreams, visions, ESP, fortune-telling, inner voices, prophesying under occult influences, *etc.*? Simply this:

Because (1) the miraculous "gifts" of the Spirit, such as "the word of wisdom," "the word of knowledge," "the gifts of healing," "the working of miracles," "prophecy," "kinds of tongues [languages]," *etc.*, were given to the early Church for her establishment during the time when she had only a "part" (the Old Testament part) of the Divine revelation intended for the Church (1 Cor. 12: 8-10; 13: 9-12); *because* (2) these "gifts" of the Spirit were (aside from the two general baptisms—Acts 2: 1-11; 10: 44-47; 11: 15) bestowed on the early Church *only through the laying on of hands by one or more of the twelve Apostles* (Acts 8: 14-18; 19: 6), and therefore could not (and did not) continue beyond the second century; *because* (3) the Bible tells us plainly that these "gifts" of the Spirit were only for the early Church, when she could "know" and "prophecy" only "in part," but that "when that which is perfect [the completed Bible] is come," these "gifts" would be *brought to an end*—fail, cease, vanish away—though the *graces* of the Spirit would still abide (1 Cor. 13: 8-10, 13); and *because* (4) we now have the completed Word of God for the Church, both the Old and the New Testaments ("all Scripture given by inspiration of God," which is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be *perfect* [Greek, *artios*, *completely fitted*], *thoroughly furnished* unto all good works"—2 Tim. 3: 16, 17), and therefore have no more need of dreams, visions and other extra-Biblical means of Divine revelation, but have "a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the [Millennial] day dawn, and the day star [our Lord Jesus—Rev. 22: 16] arise in your hearts" (2 Pet. 1: 19)—*because of these four and other Biblical reasons*, we are forced to the conclusion that all who now claim that

they have a "gift" of prophecy from God, and who use crystal balls, fortune-telling (tarot) cards, dreams, visions, séances, "inner voices," or occult "impressions" from "spirit-powers," *etc.*, in prophesying future events and conditions, are inspired, not by God, but by Satan and his evil spirits, his demons, whether they recognize them as the sources of their information or not.

This points out as "false prophets" all who prophesy in harmony with Satan's deceptions and his original lie (that the dead are not really dead but are still alive—Gen. 3: 4) and who speak not "according to the law and to the testimony," which includes also the New Testament (Isa. 8: 19, 20). This clearly manifests as "false prophets" such visionary "prophets" as Joseph Smith, Emanuel Swedenborg, the Fox sisters, Mary Baker Eddy, Edgar Cayce (see our booklet on *Faith Healing*, a copy free on request), Norman Vincent Peale (see our booklet *Spiritism is Demonism*, a copy free on request), Jeane Dixon and many others who teach Satan's lies and use his devices in making their prophecies.

Our Lord forewarned (Matt. 24: 11) that "many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many," and that they shall show "great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (v. 24). As noted above, it is especially in these "latter times" that many are "giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4: 1).

THE CASE OF MRS. JEANE DIXON

Mrs. Dixon is one of the most widely heralded and influential prophets of today. Many believe that God is really speaking through her and that her professed "gift of prophecy" is a special gift from Him. She has made some very remarkable and accurate predictions that give sure evidence of superhuman intelligence as their source.

Mrs. Dixon has a charming personality; she attributes her "gift of prophecy" to God, and claims to rejoice in the thought that she may be used by Him in bringing blessings to others. She does not accept pay for her prognostications. She seems to be very sincere, and we would not to the least extent condemn the good motives of her heart. It is for the protection and spiritual welfare of our readers that we here expose her and other modern-day "prophets" who speak not "according to the law and to the testimony," as being in reality "false prophets," in the service of Satan and his demons, even though in many cases deceived into believing that they are really serving the Most High God.

But some may ask, How can Mrs. Dixon be a *false* prophet when so many of her predictions have come *true*? We agree that she has scored a remarkably good average. In fact, about 60% of her predictions have come true, and some of these in remarkable detail—as, for instance, her prediction of the assassination of President Kennedy, giving the place and date of his death and the name of his assassin. But why ascribe her revelations from the spirit world to God and His good angels instead of to Satan and his demons, who of course knew of the plot and many details connected with the murder of President Kennedy and thus could reveal them to Mrs. Dixon through her crystal ball, her "impressions," her dreams and visions, *etc.*?

Obviously, a prophet who speaks under the inspiration of God's holy Spirit will not give a false prophecy—not even *once*. False prophets among God's people in Old Testament times were to be put to death: "The prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him"—not regard him as a true prophet (Deut. 18: 20-22).

Among her predictions resulting from impressions received from the spirit world, Mrs. Dixon has made some gigantic blunders, proving that even Satan's fallen angels, with superhuman knowledge, can make wrong guesses at times. We list here a few of her outstanding "prophecies" which proved to be false:

"World War III will break out in Oct. 1958, over Red China's attempt to seize Quemoy and Matsu."

"Red China will be admitted to the United Nations in 1959."

"Richard Nixon will defeat John F. Kennedy in the election of 1960."

"Davis Strait (between Canada and Greenland) will become strategically crucial to the U.S. in 1963."

"President Charles de Gaulle will surrender his powers in 1964."

"Walter Reuther will be a Democratic candidate for President in 1964."

"The crystal ball shows a paper-thin majority for the Democratic slate [Johnson vs. Goldwater in 1964]. This will be an upset because the Republican slate will be running ahead until the last votes are counted." (Johnson had a landslide victory!)

"No particularly new or brilliant legislation will be passed by Congress in 1965." (Enactments concerning Medicare, the Poverty Program, the Civil Rights Bill, Federal Aid, and Education Bill took place during 1965.)

THE SOURCE OF MRS. DIXON'S REVELATIONS

When Jeane was eight years old, her Roman Catholic father suggested that her mother take her to consult with a nearby gypsy fortune-teller in California. The gypsy forecast for Jeane a brilliant future, saying that she had unusual sensitivity and would grow mightily in wisdom, and

because of her gift of prophecy would foresee world-wide changes and become very famous. She gave to Jeane a crystal ball, saying, "It's for you to keep; you will be able to meditate on this and see wonderful things in it, for the markings on your hands are those of a mystic."

For some time Jeane used her crystal ball merely as a plaything, supposing that anyone could see pictures in it, even as she did; but her mother took care of it and encouraged Jeane to use her strange talent. As she did so, her psychic abilities increased. Soon after the family moved to Los Angeles her fame spread and friends and strangers came, asking her to forecast their future.

Jeane usually consulted her crystal ball, though sometimes her fortune-telling was aided by cards. She treasures a worn deck of tarot cards, which her gypsy fortune-teller had given her with the crystal ball. She claims that because the gypsy had blessed them they carry "good vibrations" and help her to get the subject's vibrations when he shuffles and touches them. As she practiced her art her ESP and visionary powers increased. Sometimes she merely "tips the fingers" of a person or gets their vibrations by other means and knows at once things pertaining to that person's future. By learning merely the date of one's birth, she can often pinpoint events in the past and future for people she has never seen.

Concerning an "inner voice" that speaks to her she says, "This voice comes to me frequently, and I always listen to it." Also, she frequently receives visions and revelations from spirit powers, which from a proper study of and reverence for God's Holy Word she should be able to recognize as coming from Satan's demons, but which she is by them deceived into believing are from God and His holy angels. A Roman Catholic priest told her that whenever she saw *purple* and *gold* in her visions (which was often the case) she was tapping a highly spiritual realm. (Note the purple and gold in Rev. 17: 4.)

MRS. DIXON'S VISIONS OF A SERPENT, ETC.

After many years of forecasting events for individuals and prophesying future historical events, Jeane Dixon, now married, was given visions and revelations especially along religious lines. The first of these visions came to her in Washington, D.C., about midnight on July 14, 1952; it alone should have been sufficient to awaken her to its evil source. She says that as she lay in bed clothed with a sheet across her body she felt a motion against the mattress. Turning to the east, she saw a snake. It gradually entwined itself about her body. She says, "I was not frightened; I knew instinctively that I was to be shown how little I understood about life." (Something like Mother Eve's reaction—Gen. 3: 1-6, 13.)

Mrs. Dixon states that as the serpent grew in size, it turned its head and gazed into her eyes. She says, "In them was the all-knowing wisdom of the ages. Although the room had been in almost total darkness, it was now bathed in brilliant light. The snake, vividly colored in yellow and black, had great jowls shaped like miniature pyramids. It did not speak, but I seemed to know it was telling me I had much, much to learn. It turned its head, looking again to the east and then to me, as if to say that I too must look to the east for God's wisdom and guidance. I sensed it was

telling me that if my faith was great enough I could penetrate some of this divine wisdom. I knew I had God's protection, for the steady gaze of the reptile was permeated with love, goodness, strength, and knowledge. A sense of 'peace on earth, good will toward men' coursed through my being. I had a feeling of suspension and yet of stability. A purplish ray led from the bed to the window at the east, and as I watched, the snake gradually withdrew toward my feet."

Mrs. Dixon claims that her next vision (see *A Gift of Prophecy*, p. 175) came as she was in St. Matthew's Cathedral choosing "ten purple containers in which she was preparing to burn candles for intentions, and she had reached into her purse for coins when she found her hands entangled in a mass of purple and gold balls. As she gazed in awe, the small balls floated upward and gradually emerged into a mass of purple discs edged in gold, encircling the knees of the statue of the Virgin Mary, rising gently until it enveloped her breast and head like an uptilted halo."

She analyzes this vision as follows: "The Holy Mother's face came alive ... suddenly brilliant rays shone on every imaginable people and religion. The cathedral overflowed with peasants in babushkas, kings and queens in royal raiment, the rich and the poor of every nationality and creed. I could not see a single vacant pew. Everyone was bathed in the same sunshine, and I seemed to be standing on something as soft as new-fallen snow. A remarkable peace overcame me, and I knew that a council of our Church would soon bring together under the roof of the Holy See in Rome, the religions and nationalities of all the world." In summarizing this vision to a friend, she said: "Our Church is going to call a great council of all faiths and creeds. Peoples from every land will be represented, and eventually, all religions will be brought together under one sun. Our Holy See in Rome is going to start the trend."

Mrs. Dixon tells of another vision she had while she was kneeling in prayer in St. Matthew's Cathedral, holding a crystal ball in her hand. She says that there appeared before her a vision of the Holy Mother "draped in purplish blue and surrounded by gold and white rays which formed a halo of light around her entire person. ... Off to one side I was shown a Pope with blood running down his face and dripping over his left shoulder. ... I saw hands reaching out for the throne, but no one sat in it, so I realized that within this century a Pope will be bodily harmed. When this occurs, the head of the Church will thereafter have a different insignia than that of the Pope. Because the unearthly light continued to shine so brightly on the papal throne, I knew that the power would still be there but that it would not rest in the person of a Pope."

Of course, the Bible describes, especially in the book of Revelation, in much greater detail and far more accurately, the overthrow of symbolic Babylon and the papal power. How foolish and how dangerous it is to go to Satan, his evil spirits and their human agents for information, which is often very deceptive, and not instead to trust fully in Jehovah and His superior wisdom! We cannot imagine the Lord's true servants resorting to such methods as crystal balls, tarot cards, ouija boards, séances, table-tippings, table-rappings, horoscopes and lucky days in determining God's will. We should steadfastly avoid consulting with soothsayers, fortune-tellers, diviners, witches, necromancers, observers of times, charmers, or consulters with familiar spirits, all of which are under God's condemnation (Deut. 18: 10-14).

Satan, Satanism, Demonism, and Exorcism

Chapter 7: ESP, Ouija Boards, UFO's and Drugs

One can become unwittingly "a consulter with familiar spirits" by "playing" with tarot cards, a planchette or a ouija board, or by engaging in the practices of ESP, table-tipping, table-rapping, clairvoyance, clairaudience and crystal-ball gazing, which methods Satan's fallen angels, his demons, use for direct communication with those who because of curiosity, personal advantage, or other reasons, are foolish enough to thus co-operate with Satanic powers and expose themselves to their influence and control.

DEMONS USE ESP, THE OUIJA BOARD, ETC.

As to ESP, for instance, the Associated Press reports that David Hoy, a 43-year-old Baptist minister, who got his divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, is preaching a psychic gospel to lecture halls and radio audiences. He has written four books on the occult and says he is firmly convinced that ESP exists for everyone and can better the world. He says he has used his own prophesying powers for everything from helping a housewife find her scissors to investing in business ventures and predicting accidents. He has prophesied future events, many of which have come to pass.

Besides writing books and making background records of how to develop ESP, Hoy has been lecturing at between 60 and 70 colleges a year and conducting hour-long weekly phone-in programs for radio stations in Cincinnati, Kansas City and Pittsburgh. Expecting soon to be a millionaire, he says having ESP is "like recalling something that hasn't happened yet. It isn't a picture, it isn't words—it's just there in your mind. I tried religion, trying to pray out to someone in the other world. I tried relying constantly on friends. Neither of these gave me answers to life. ESP has. What you need in developing ESP is a willingness to come to depend on it. One must look inward. You must love yourself before you can love others. One builds up confidence in ESP intuitions by just keeping track of the percentage of hits and misses."

We agree that ESP, like all other communications from the evil spirits, contains hits and misses. Those who practice it are laying themselves open to demonic guidance and control.

The Ouija board is another means used by the "familiar spirits" for direct communications. Many look upon the *board* as "just a game," and do not sense its dangers and what makes it work.

Historians claim that devices similar to the ouija board were used by the Egyptians and other ancient peoples. Such a device "was in use in the days of Pythagoras, about 540 B.C." (*Encyclopedia of Psychic Science*, p. 270). Ammianus Marcellinus, a 4th-century A.D. Byzantine historian, described a divining instrument which employed a pendulum and the letters of the alphabet on a rounded metal rim. Table-tippings and table-rappings were used in ancient times and during the Middle Ages, but came into popular use during the 19th century. Responses were made for "yes" and "no"; also the letters of the alphabet were named and the table responded at the appropriate letters, and sentences could be spelled out.

Shortly after 1850, M. Planchett, a French spiritualist, invented the "planchette," a small heart-shaped table with three legs, one of which was a lead-pencil. When the operator's fingers were placed lightly on it, the instrument would write out messages. The demons use a similar method of communication in "spirit writing," where the subject sits relaxed with a pencil in hand and after a time writes automatically.

The ouija board, patented in 1892, is a more convenient, deceptive and popular "plaything." It answers "yes" or "no" and spells out messages for the one, two or more operators whose fingers rest lightly on the heart-shaped, felt-tipped, easily sliding indicator. It will answer silly and personal questions, tell fortunes, give advice and give messages from the spirit world, sometimes supposedly from dead friends (thus furthering Satan's original lie—Gen. 3: 4, 5; John 8: 44; compare Eccles. 9: 5, 6, 10; Job 14: 21; Psa. 6: 5; 115: 17; 146: 4; Dan. 12: 2).

During and shortly after the two phases of the World War, many people bought ouija boards to communicate with what they were deceived into believing were their lost dead now alive in the spirit world. The recent wave of general interest in the occult has brought about a surge in ouija board sales. In 1967 it became America's favorite board game, and sales since then have averaged about two million a year.

There are many proofs that superhuman powers operate through the ouija boards. These may be listed under three heads:

(1) The messages received often go beyond that which could possibly come from the conscious or subconscious mind of the operator. This is proved by a multiplicity of recorded tests.

(2) In a test reported in the *Proceedings of the American Society for Psychical Research*, the ouija board worked efficiently with the operators blindfolded, the board's alphabet rearranged and its surface hidden from the sight of the operators. It worked with such speed and accuracy that it demonstrated unquestionably the fact that some superhuman power was mingling with the personalities of the operators and guiding their muscular movements.

(3) The many cases of "possession" after a period of using a ouija board substantiate the claim that supernatural contact is made through this medium. Psychics and parapsychologists have received letters from hundreds of people who have experienced "possession" (an invasion of their personalities). Rev. Donald Page, a well-known clairvoyant and exorcist of the Christian

Spiritualist Church, was reported as saying that most of his "possession" cases "are people who have used the ouija board," and that "this is one of the easiest and quickest ways to become possessed" (*Man, Myth, and Magic*, No. 73, after p. 2060).

The ouija board is a very dangerous device. Some play with it in an effort to gain psychic powers. As one becomes more involved his fascination with it is apt to lead him to dependence on it and to a corresponding surrender of his own will. Gradually the answers to the questions are anticipated in the mind of the operator before they are spelled out. Finally the ouija board may be discarded, and in its place the operator may hear a voice. At first the *voice* may give good advice and try to be very helpful, but as the person heeds and comes more and more under demonic power, the *voice* (sometimes many *voices*) will direct the victim's thoughts, words and actions more and more. Sometimes the demons' whisperings are profane and obscene, their suggestions sensual, sexual and even murderous. They may laugh at their victim and tell him there is no hope for him and that he might as well have what they call a "good time" while he can, or in despair they may lead him to suicide.

Many tragic cases could be cited, but we conclude our discussion of the ouija board with the following statement by Dr. Carl Wickland (M.D.): "The serious problem of alienation and mental derangement attending ignorant psychic experiments was first brought to my attention by the cases of several persons whose seemingly harmless experiences with automatic writing and the ouija board resulted in such wild insanity that commitment to asylums was necessitated. ... Many other disastrous results which followed the use of the supposedly innocent ouija board came to my notice" (*Thirty Years Among the Dead*, pp. 16, 17).

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

"Unidentified Flying Objects" (UFOs) is the designation used and favored by U.S. governmental authorities for what are commonly called "flying saucers." In 1947 a strange circular metallic object was sighted over Mt. Rainier in the U.S. and was named a "flying saucer" by a newspaper reporter. Similar objects have been sighted in the sky and have visited various parts of the earth in waves and with increasing manifestations since 1950. By the year 1952 the number of UFO reports coming in was so tremendous that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was concerned lest an actual attack on the country might not be readily recognized. Consequently, a scientific panel was formed, to study the evidence at hand and to advise the CIA of their findings. Under the heading "Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects" dated Jan. 14-17, 1953, UFO data was presented, in which 75 case histories of UFO sightings, covering the 1951-52 period, were reviewed. The panel concluded that the evidence presented on UFOs showed "no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security."

The U.S. government tried to allay the general alarm on the part of the public by "debunking" the UFOs as being weather balloons, meteors, birds, aircraft, atmospheric reflections, fireballs, mirages, hoaxes, *etc.* However, there were many manifestations that these explanations could not fit and for which we believe that THE BIBLE STANDARD for July 1953 gave the only true

explanation, which is in harmony with the Scriptures, the fulfillment of prophecies in our day and proven facts, namely, *that they are operated by evil spirit creatures*. Millions of copies of the pertinent material in tract form have been circulated, and we still supply them free of charge. And for further proofs that "flying saucers" are operated by evil spirits who communicate with mankind, and are at times very friendly but sometimes unfriendly and even deadly, see BS Nos. 212, 218, 266, 295, 331 and 428.

For many centuries evil angels have been working miracles and impersonating the dead, and thousands of Christians have been deceived by them, because of their not studying their Bibles carefully enough, or because of their preferring to believe the contrary creeds of the Dark Ages. Surely the demons would not overlook the advantages they might gain by using "flying saucers" in a world so space-minded as it is today. And since they can impersonate the dead, they can just as easily impersonate beings supposedly from other worlds and take forms of intelligent-looking "little green men," *etc.*, supposedly adapted for living in other environments. Indeed, they are very deceptive.

People in general, including the heads of governments, scientists, psychics, *etc.*, are of course deceived, not recognizing them as Satan's demons. Note, for instance, what a few psychics have to say:

Psychic Bernadine Villaneuva, who prophesied Spiro Agnew's resignation, says, "UFO crews come with advanced knowledge about medicine, space and technology, and they'll share it with us. The aliens communicate by ESP, however, and we must learn to use this before we can successfully take advantage of their advanced knowledge."

Psychic Doc Anderson, who predicted the Watergate scandals, speaks similarly: "The UFO visitors have found we need their help, and they're anxious to teach us, but we'll have to develop our telepathic abilities first."

Sybil Leek, one of the world's most renowned psychics, says: "We've fouled the ecology of the earth, and now we're threatening to foul up space as well. UFO visitors are upset by what we've been doing, so they're hovering us as a protective force."

Jacqueline Eastlund, a psychic who predicted the great increase of UFO sightings for 1973, said: "I feel they're a protective force watching over us; they're prepared to take over, if necessary, by controlling people who have power to change—but they've come to save us, not to conquer us."

Katherine Sabin, who has made some remarkable forecasts, claims that "some aliens are walking among us right now, taking on a physical appearance that makes them look like humans, and it's likely that they've already taken control of several key world figures."

The Rev. Monte Ellis, a psychic better known as Akashan, says that these UFO visitors "can possess key figures and influence the course of the world." He claims that they have already changed some lives, and that "once someone has been changed he's never the same again."

"FLYING SAUCERS" BECOMING A MENACE

George Fawcett of Mount Airy, N. C., is an outstanding authority on "Flying Saucers" (see BS No. 428). After 26 years of research, he has 16 file cabinet drawers filled with 800 UFO pictures, 48 scrapbooks and 3,000 letters, and he has 404 books on the subject—his "sauceriana" collection, he calls it. He receives about 200 UFO-connected letters a month. He says bigger things are afoot than burnt grass, frenzied dogs, frightened fishermen and orange lights leaping in the sky. He says that the present flurry of sightings has been going on for over two years; but it has been reported only in local newspapers, so the people do not know what is going on in general. He says that "reports are coming in about UFOs at a rate of six to 50 an hour all over the world, and only about 10 per cent of the sightings are reported."

The Air Force's lengthy investigation of UFOs was discontinued for reasons unknown, says Fawcett, leaving unfulfilled what he considers the government's responsibility for coping with extraterrestrial encroachment—if not invasion—and the whole subject officially dangling in bureaucratic limbo. As a result, he says UFOs have become a menace. People have been injured in connection with UFO sightings, and also kidnapped by UFOs and never seen again. Some have been burned by UFOs and killed by "light beams" shot from them. Property has been damaged, automobiles have gone out of control and engines have been stopped. Twice in the past, says Fawcett, UFOs registering on DEW line radar have prompted U.S. long-range bombers to take off and head for Russia.

According to Fawcett, U.S. astronauts and Russian cosmonauts have been seeing UFOs ever since their first flight into outer space in 1962, when John Glenn, piloting his Mercury capsule, saw three objects following and overtaking him at varying speeds. The latest two episodes, in which astronauts of Skylabs II and III saw and photographed pursuing UFOs, bring the total count to at least 20. (See BS No. 428 for a description of UFOs following Apollo 12.)

UFOs do not like to be intercepted or interfered with. In April 1962, a UFO exploded over Nevada during the night hours. It had been tracked by radar over 12 states. When it moved across Nevada, being chased by jet interceptors, it suddenly exploded some 70 miles northwest of Las Vegas, creating a tremendous brilliant flash in the sky, seen in parts of California. Many thought it was an atomic explosion. The incident never seemed to find its way to the news media across the country. Demons, of course, could easily have caused the explosion, without personal injury.

Near an atomic energy station at Hanford, Washington, an F-94 interceptor picked up an unknown object on its radar scope approaching swiftly. Suddenly a red glow appeared ahead and the pilot saw a disc-shaped craft much larger than his jet. A cat-and-mouse chase ensued, but each time the jet pilot managed to get into position and prepared to fire on the UFO, it zoomed

out of range. The object then came to an abrupt stop, flashed a bright red light twice, and then streaked off into the night sky.

Over New York State an Air Force jet interceptor was chasing a bright, illuminated circular-shaped object. As the jet closed in on it, the inside of the jet cockpit became so hot that the pilot and radar operator in the plane could not stand it, so bailed out. The plane crashed and killed two children and their parents. Some of the military jet interceptors have vanished while in pursuit of UFOs.

The U.S. and Russia are currently engaged in a dangerous venture—bringing down a UFO intact. Some scientists claim that these UFOs apparently have gained the knowledge of how to create an antigravity field around the craft, enabling them to cut 90-degree angle turns at speeds of 100 to 500 miles an hour. But in one incident, Navy radar units tracked UFOs at estimated speeds of up to 4,800 miles an hour. One of the objects cut a sharp turn at that speed. (This seems astounding—but not so when we realize that evil spirit beings practice levitation, as is often witnessed on TV, in their raising pianos and other objects into the air, causing human bodies to float and to be suspended in the air without any visible support, *etc.*)

DEMONS SEEK COMPLETE CONTROL

The demons are using a multiplicity of avenues in their approach to individuals today. They seek ultimately for complete control. To gain it they use five distinct steps: suggestion, diversion, impression, obsession and possession. In harmony with 2 Pet. 2: 4 and Jude 6, the demons are gaining greater liberties as we gradually enter more and more into the world's great day of judgment. In making their suggestions, they approach, not through the unadulterated graces of God's holy Spirit, but mostly through the disgraces of the fallen human mind, such as pride, conceit, self-exaltation, doubt, selfishness, improper sexual desires, greed, envy, jealousy, malice, *etc.* They approach also through ignorance, fear, credulity, superstition and curiosity (which opens wide "Pandora's box").

The Bible (James 4: 7) tells us: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." The demons must therefore break down all resistance before they can enter and take control. They do this with many individuals by suggestion, diversion and impression. Also, they sometimes approach through hypnotists and others who will break down any resistance by commanding the victims to *relax, let go and give up* and thus come completely under their power and be subject to their will. Christians who have consecrated their lives to God have given Him their wills, to do His will, and of course should not subject their wills to any human being or other influence. Insane asylums and mental institutions report many cases of demonic obsession and demonic possession. May we with other consecrated Christians be able truly to sing:

*I want the first approach to feel
Of pride or fond desire;
To catch the wandering of my will,
And quench the kindling fire.*

DEMONS AND DRUG ABUSE

In our day the demons use very craftily and effectively, especially with young people, various hallucinogenic, "mind-bending" drugs, such as marijuana, "pep pills," LSD, barbiturates, amphetamines, "speed," cocaine, morphine, opium and heroin; also, they use likewise various kinds of alcoholic beverages. They use these things to cause the person *to relax, to let go* and thus break down his will and so open him or her to their entering in and more or less using and/or taking control of and possessing the individual. *And full possession is their goal!*

Many young people and others are easily led into the use of such drugs and alcoholic drinks without realizing the serious consequences, which usually affect them unfavorably for the rest of their lives. Their habit-forming propensities are well-known, including heroin addiction, which almost invariably leads to a life of crime to support the habit, the "monkey on one's back." Evidence presented in *Consumer Reports*, March 1975, seems to show that smoking marijuana (1) damages the brain irreversibly and ages it prematurely, (2) lowers the body's resistance to infectious diseases and cancer, (3) increases the likelihood in children of birth defects and of hereditary diseases, (4) causes precancerous changes in the lungs as well as other lung damage and (5) may lead to sterility, impotence, or both, among men. Some similar bad effects are caused by other "hard" drugs.

Some take to drugs and alcohol as a way in which to express that they are grown up and expect to be treated in that way. Some are rebellious against parental and other authority and so are led into drug abuse and alcoholism as an evidence of their rebellion; others are led to use them because they are disappointed, depressed, disenchanted with life, or because they are just curious.

Young people—and others—are usually easily led by those whom they look up to and regard highly. In many cases, instead of looking up to their parents or others who have their best interests at heart, they look up to popular "rock" music groups—their playing, singing and life style. And some of the popular "rock" singers whose recordings are circulated and used very widely, sing songs about drug use, presenting it very favorably, thus making young people more aware of drugs, breaking down their resistance and making them more receptive to their use.

It is reported that while the Beatles, a "rock" singing group, were outside the Queen of England's official chambers at Buckingham Palace in London, waiting to be presented with one of the highest honors Britain could bestow (Member of the British Empire—MBE) on such a group, they went into the men's room beforehand and got "high" on marijuana.

Grace Slick, another prominent "rock" music "star," was invited to a White House party in Washington and tried to smuggle LSD in with her to drop into the punch, in order to "turn on" everyone at the party.

Many young people, learning of such incidents, think of them as great jokes on "the establishment," and consequently are influenced thereby to "let down the bars" against the use of hard drugs and its accompanying evils, including demon possession in some cases.

Some educators, like Timothy Leary, a Harvard professor, told students and others that LSD was the greatest chemical ever invented by God, that it would give one a religious experience, a great expansion of mind and much deeper insight into himself. Accordingly, many educators and students have given such drugs their stamp of approval.

Thus many, especially young people, are led to think that such drugs can't be so harmful after all, and that it is all right to experiment with them. Often they take them for the first time on a dare—such as some of their companions calling them "chicken" if they don't.

Many secular and church leaders have recognized the great dangers involved in drug and alcohol abuse, and are speaking out against it.

Among many others, Art Linkletter, a famous television entertainer and lecturer, whose youngest daughter died in connection with drug abuse, has been speaking out vigorously against this evil practice.

Even the pope has spoken out against it, stating recently that "whole societies have fallen under the domination of the Devil," that "sex and narcotics provide openings for Satan's infiltration of mankind." It was the first time that the pope devoted an entire speech to the discussion of the Devil.

Satan, Satanism, Demonism, and Exorcism

Chapter 8: Exorcism

The Bible has much to say about demonic possession and exorcism, the casting of demons—evil spirits—out of people. Exorcism was done by Jesus and the Apostles (Matt. 8: 16, 28-34; 9: 32, 33; 12: 22; 15: 22-28; 17: 14-21; Mark 9: 14-29; 16: 9; Acts 5: 16; 8: 7; 16: 16-18). Jesus Himself was accused of being possessed by demons and of casting out demons by Satan's power (Matt. 9: 34; 10: 25; 12: 24-30; Mark 3: 22-30; Luke 11: 15; John 7: 20; 8: 48; 10: 20). It is easy to think that someone is possessed by a demon when such is not the case. The demons sought to discredit Jesus and the Apostles even by giving favorable testimony of them (Matt. 8: 29; Mark 1: 23, 24; 3: 11; 5: 7; Luke 8: 28; Acts 16: 16-18; 19: 13-16).

That there is a world of demons, is perfectly clear to all who know the Scriptures and respect and accept them as inspired of God. His people are children of light, not of darkness (1 Thes. 5: 1-5). The prevalent degradation among mankind is in large measure the result of demonic influence. The Apostle Paul urges us to "put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil; for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in heavenly places" (Eph. 6: 11, 12, margin).

Suggestions, diversions and impressions can be received from Satan's demons and harbored to such an extent that one becomes beset or obsessed with an evil idea, desire, emotion or passion, and if this obsession is not resisted it leads to full demonic control or possession.

This is well illustrated in the case of Judas Iscariot. He received and harbored evil suggestions in his heart and was thereby diverted from the path of truth and righteousness. These evil suggestions were not overcome but produced deepened impressions, which worked in him an obsession to accomplish his evil purpose (Matt. 26: 14-16); thus Satan entered into him to the point of obsession (Luke 22: 3-6)—he put it into Judas' heart to betray Jesus (John 13: 2). After Jesus had repeatedly warned Judas and finally exposed him and told him to make up his mind and act quickly, Judas fully yielded to Satan as his master and Satan entered into him in the fullest sense and possessed him fully (John 13: 21-30).

In these days of uncertainty, insecurity, distress, confusion and trouble, the widespread great interest in and engagement with the supernatural, psychic phenomena, mysticism, spiritism, Satanism and the occult, is alarming; yet this is as the Bible prophesied it would be (1 Tim. 4: 1). Georgetown University reports that of all the \$8,000 worth of books stolen from its main library, more books on the devil and witchcraft have disappeared than those on any other subject.

THE FILM "THE EXORCIST"

"The Exorcist," one of the most popular and top money-making movies of all time, has greatly accentuated this interest, as has also the book. Some scenes of this movie that expose the results of demonic possession are so repulsive that many have vomited in the theaters, blacked out, and suffered hallucinations, hysteria, great depression and apprehension.

Some have acted very strangely after seeing this film, thus arousing fear that they are themselves obsessed or possessed by demons. Some have found it hard to concentrate, to think clearly or to carry on conversations coherently. Some are driven by "strange powers" to say and do evil things, contrary to their desires. People have committed suicide after seeing this film.

Some strange things happened also in the production of "The Exorcist." The following are just a few: Fires broke out on the set. The large object that the star performer worshiped in the film disappeared and ended up in the East, thousands of miles away. One actor's child was on the beach and as from nowhere a car ran over him and he almost died. Serious illnesses and accidents (heart attacks, a broken back, *etc.*) happened to almost everyone in the film, and family members of many who had parts in it died. All the main actors in it said they will never be the same again.

Commenting on the upsurge of concern about demonology, partly resulting from "The Exorcist," the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, said: "There are genuine exorcisms, but there also is a lot of phony superstition around."

However, whether through superstition or otherwise, Satan and his fallen angels are ever seeking to influence humans and to gain control of them. Some people are strong enough in faith to command the demon or demons in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to leave them, laying hold on God's promise, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4: 7; note our Lord's example—Matt. 4: 8-11).

Others are so sick spiritually that they should call for the spiritually minded elders of the Lord's Church to pray over them, anointing them with the oil of God's holy Spirit, and if they have committed sins, they will be forgiven because of the prayers of the elders (John 15: 7) and the true repentance and the earnest desire of faith manifested in calling for the elders (James 5: 14-16). If in any case exorcism is needed, the exorcists who are called upon for help should be true and devout followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. They must have strong faith and may need to engage in much prayer and fasting in some cases (Matt. 17: 14-21; Mark 9: 14-29).

SATAN'S AGENTS NOT TO BE CONSULTED

Some make the mistake of going to Satan's own agents to get relief from physical ailments and demonic control. Note, for example, the following news item:

The parents of a girl three years old have called in clairvoyants, mediums, and exorcists because they fear that the child "has been taken over by some sort of supernatural presence." "Light switches clicked on and off, ash trays fell off tables, solid pieces of furniture moved themselves, firmly closed doors flew open, and warm rooms suddenly became icy cold," the girl's mother said. She added: "Most frightening of all, though, was the transformation of Carol. She started holding conversations with somebody else, using words which no three-year-old could ever know."

Before asking for clairvoyant help, the parents decided to fight the spirit by putting a wooden cross in their living room. "When Carol went near the cross, her face contorted. She would bunch her fingers up into claws and bare her teeth. It was frightening!"

Many exorcisms are being performed by clairvoyants, spirit mediums, promoters of Satan's lies (Gen. 3: 4, 5; John 7: 44; 2 Cor. 4: 4) and other servants of Satan. We are not to think it strange that in these "last days" Satan is casting out Satan and healing diseases, for he now realizes that his time is short (Rev. 12: 12), as he sees his "kingdom divided against itself" (Matt. 12: 25, 26) and falling to pieces (Psa. 2: 9; Rev. 2: 27). In his desperate efforts to hold the people under his power he practices all kinds of deception, even ascribing to God the praise for the conversions that he makes to his own errors, and the healings and exorcisms accomplished by his own "power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thes. 2: 9, 10; Matt. 24: 24). Otherwise there are many whom he would not be so able to deceive.

Indeed, "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light," and his servants, his ministers, are "transformed as the ministers of righteousness" (2 Cor. 11: 14, 15). Many of these servants of Satan, in forwarding his errors and practices, are sincere and think they are serving God when really they are serving Satan (Matt. 7: 21-23; Luke 13: 24-28). Some exorcists who have no right to take the Lord's name upon them (Psa. 50: 16, 17), because they are not true disciples of Christ, suffer as a result of their practices, sometimes from the demons themselves, even though some good may be accomplished (Acts 19: 13-20).

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS

We encourage all Christians to consecrate, or dedicate, themselves fully to God (Rom. 12: 1, 2) and then to walk carefully in Jesus' steps (1 Pet. 2: 21), obeying only His voice, as God speaks to us through Him, and not giving any heed to the many contrary voices that speak to us on every hand (John 10: 4, 5, 14, 27). In making our consecration to God we vow to lay down self-will and to accept His will as our will in all things (Psa. 40: 7; Heb. 10: 7; Matt. 26: 39; John 6: 38).

As a part of their general consecration to do God's will, some have made the following specific vow or pledge as a means of fortifying themselves against the special present-day attacks of Satan and his demons and their ensnarements along the lines of Spiritism and Occultism, and

have found it very helpful; for the evil powers soon turn from a Christian so fortified and seek easier prey:

"I vow to Thee that I will be on the alert to resist everything akin to Spiritism and Occultism, and that, remembering that there are but the two masters, I shall resist these snares in all reasonable ways, as being of the Adversary."

We must put on and keep on the whole armor of God if we would stand against the wiles of the devil and his wicked spirits in high positions (Eph. 6: 11, 12); for Satan, as a roaring lion, goes about, seeking whom he may devour. We must be steadfast in the faith in resisting him (1 Pet. 5: 8, 9). If he approaches us, especially in a tempting or tormenting way, we should repulse him, and examine ourselves, whether we be in the faith, or in some measure unfaithful (1 Cor. 11: 28; 2 Cor. 13: 5).

All occult involvement must be recognized as disobedience to God, must be repented of, confessed to Him and repudiated, if we would be forgiven by Him. We should desire and pray earnestly in Jesus' name for God's forgiveness. Then, exercising the full assurance of faith, we should follow Jesus' example in directly commanding Satan (and/or his demons) to depart (Matt. 4: 10). Our command should be in the name of our Lord Jesus.

If called upon to assist another who is troubled by evil spirits, we should pray earnestly with the troubled one, in Jesus' name asking for his deliverance from Satanic power. If after careful investigation (snap judgment should be avoided) it seems to be a case of obsession or possession by Satanic powers, and if we feel strong enough in the faith, we might follow the example of the Apostle Paul, saying: "I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out" (Acts 16: 18). May God bless us all as we avoid Satan's snares, repulse his temptations and attacks and keep ourselves in the love of God (Jude 21), remembering that "if God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8: 31)!