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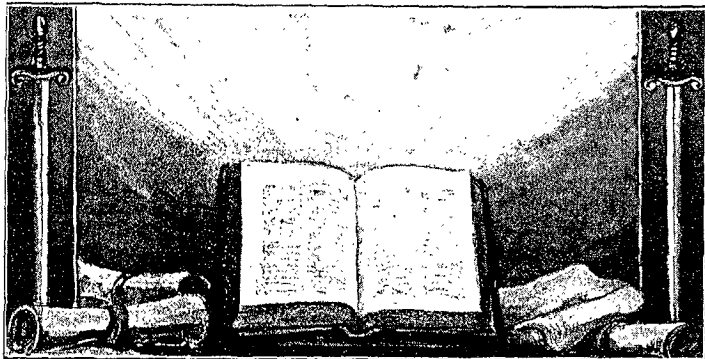
HOLY BIBLE IS THE FIELD OF THE WORLD

Vol. 93

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"TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY: IF THEY SPEAK NOT ACCORDING TO THIS WORD, IT IS BECAUSE THERE IS NO LIGHT IN THEM." ISA. 8:20.

Spiritualism*

Its Relation to the Doctrine of Natural Immortality

By Mrs. E. G. White

THE ministrations of holy angels, as presented in the Scriptures, is a truth most comforting and precious to every follower of Christ. But the Bible teaching upon this point has been obscured and perverted by the errors of popular theology. The doctrine of natural immortality, first borrowed from the pagan philosophy, and in the darkness of the great apostasy incorporated into the Christian faith, has supplanted the truth so plainly taught in Scripture, that "the dead know not anything." Multitudes have come to believe that it is the spirits of the dead who are the "ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." And this notwithstanding the testimony of Scripture to the existence of heavenly angels, and their connection with the history of man, before the death of a human being.

The doctrine of man's consciousness in death, especially the belief that the spirits of the dead return to minister to the living, has prepared the way for modern Spiritualism. If the dead are admitted to the presence of God and the holy angels, and privileged with knowledge far exceeding what they before possessed, why should they not return to the earth to enlighten and instruct the living? If, as taught by popular theologians, the spirits of the dead are hovering about their friends on earth, why should they not be permitted to communicate with them, to warn them against evil, or to comfort them in sorrow? How can those who believe in man's consciousness in death reject what comes to them as divine light communicated by glorified spirits? Here is a channel regarded as sacred, through which Satan works for the accomplishment of his purposes. The fallen angels who do his bidding appear as messengers from the spirit world. While professing to bring the living into communication with the dead, the prince of evil exercises his bewitching influence upon their minds.

Power to Personate Departed Friends

He has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness. Many are comforted with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of heaven; and without suspicion of danger, they give ear to "seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."

Lead Away from the Truth

When they have been led to believe that the dead actually return to communicate with them, Satan causes those to appear who went into the grave unprepared. They claim to be happy in heaven, and even to occupy exalted positions there; and thus the error is widely taught that no difference is made between the righteous and the wicked. The pretended visitants from the world of spirits sometimes utter cautions and warnings which prove to be correct. Then, as confidence is gained, they present doctrines that directly undermine faith in the Scriptures. With an appearance of deep inter-

est in the well-being of their friends on earth, they insinuate the most dangerous errors. The fact that they state some truths, and are able at times to foretell future events, gives to their statements an appearance of reliability; and their false teachings are accepted by the multitudes as readily, and believed as implicitly, as if they were the most sacred truths of the Bible. The law of God is set aside, the Spirit of grace despised, the blood of the covenant counted an unholy thing. The spirits deny the deity of Christ, and place even the Creator on a level with themselves. Thus under a new disguise the great rebel still carries on his warfare against God, begun in heaven, and for nearly six thousand years continued upon the earth.

Latter-day Spiritualism Foretold in the Scriptures

Many endeavor to account for spiritual manifestations by attributing them wholly to fraud and sleight of hand on the part of the medium. But while it is true that the results of trickery have often been palmed off as genuine manifestations, there have been, also, marked exhibitions of supernatural power. The mysterious rapping with which modern Spiritualism began was not the result of human trickery or cunning, but was the direct work of evil angels, who thus introduced one of the most successful of soul-destroying delusions. Many will be ensnared through the belief that Spiritualism is a merely human imposture; when brought face to face with manifestations which they cannot but regard as supernatural, they will be deceived, and will be led to accept them as the great power of God.

These persons overlook the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the wonders wrought by Satan and his agents. It was by satanic aid that Pharaoh's magicians were enabled to counterfeit the work of God. Paul testifies that before the second advent of Christ there will be similar manifestations of satanic power. The coming of the Lord is to be preceded by "the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness." 2 Thess. 2:9, 10. And the apostle John, describing the miracle-working power that will be manifested in the last days, declares: "He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do." Rev. 13:13, 14. No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan's agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.

Skilfully Adapted to Deceive

The prince of darkness, who has so long bent the powers of his master mind to the work of deception, skilfully adapts his temptations to men of all classes and conditions. To persons of culture and refinement he presents Spiritualism in its more refined and intellectual aspects, and thus succeeds in drawing many into his snare. The wisdom which Spiritualism imparts is that described by the apostle James, which "descendeth

not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish." James 3:15. This, however, the great deceiver conceals, when concealment will best suit his purpose. He who could appear clothed with the brightness of the heavenly seraphs before Christ in the wilderness of temptation, comes to men in the most attractive manner, as an angel of light. He appeals to the reason by the presentation of elevating themes; he delights the fancy with enrapturing scenes; and he enlists the affections by his eloquent portrayals of love and charity. He excites the imagination to lofty flights, leading men to take so great pride in their own wisdom that in their hearts they despise the Eternal One. That mighty being who could take the world's Redeemer to an exceedingly high mountain, and bring before him all the kingdoms of the earth and the glory of them, will present his temptations to men in a manner to pervert the senses of all who are not shielded by divine power.

Satan beguiles men now as he beguiled Eve in Eden, by flattery, by kindling a desire to obtain forbidden knowledge, by exciting ambition for self-exaltation. It was cherishing these evils that caused his fall, and through them he aims to compass the ruin of men. "Ye shall be as gods," he declares, "knowing good and evil." Gen. 3:5. Spiritualism teaches "that man is the creature of progression; that it is his destiny from his birth to progress, even to eternity, toward the Godhead." And again: "Each mind will judge itself and not another." "The judgment will be right, because it is the judgment of self. . . . The throne is within you." Said a spiritualistic teacher, as the "spiritual consciousness" awoke within him, "My fellow men, all were unfallen demigods." And another declares, "Any just and perfect being is Christ."

Thus, in place of the righteousness and perfection of the infinite God, the true object of adoration; in place of the perfect righteousness of his law, the true standard of human attainment, Satan has substituted the sinful, erring nature of man himself, as the only object of adoration, the only rule of judgment, or standard of character. This is progress, not upward, but downward.

"By Beholding We Become Changed"

It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature, that by beholding we become changed. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. It becomes assimilated to that

tendency to evil. He tempts men to excess in that which is in itself lawful, causing them, through intemperance, to weaken physical, mental, and moral power. He has destroyed and is destroying thousands through the indulgence of the passions, thus brutalizing the entire nature of man. And to complete his work, he declares, through the spirits, that "true knowledge places man above all law;" that "whatever is, is right;" that "God doth not condemn;" and that "all sins which are committed are innocent." When the people are thus led to believe that desire is the highest law, that liberty is license, and that man is accountable only to himself, who can wonder that corruption and depravity team on every hand? Multitudes eagerly accept teachings that leave them at liberty to obey the promptings of the carnal heart. The reins of self-control are laid upon the neck of lust, the powers of mind and soul are made subject to the animal propensities, and Satan exultingly sweeps into his net thousands who profess to be followers of Christ.

Spiritualism at War with the Scriptures

But none need be deceived by the lying claims of Spiritualism. God has given the world sufficient light to enable them to discover the snare. As already shown, the theory which forms the very foundation of Spiritualism is at war with the plainest statements of Scripture. The Bible declares that the dead know not anything, that their thoughts have perished; they have no part in anything that is done under the sun; they know nothing of the joys or sorrows of those who were dearest to them on earth.

Furthermore, God has expressly forbidden all pretended communication with departed spirits. In the days of the Hebrews there was a class of people who claimed, as do the Spiritualists of today, to hold communication with the dead. But the "familiar spirits," as these visitants from other worlds were called, are declared by the Bible to be the "spirits of devils." (Compare Num. 25:1-3; Ps. 103:23; 1 Cor. 10:20; Rev. 16:14.) The work of dealing with familiar spirits was pronounced an abomination to the Lord, and was solemnly forbidden under penalty of death. (See Lev. 19:31; 20:27.)

The very name of witchcraft is now held in contempt. The claim that men can hold intercourse with evil spirits is regarded as a fable of the Dark Ages. But Spiritualism, which numbers its converts by hundreds of thousands, yea, by millions, which has made



THE FIRST MEDIUM: THE SERPENT.
THE FIRST LIE: "YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE."

which it is accustomed to love and reverence. Man will never rise higher than his standard of purity or goodness or truth. If self is his loftiest ideal, he will never attain to anything more exalted. Rather, he will constantly sink lower and lower. The grace of God alone has power to exalt man. Left to himself, his course must inevitably be downward.

To the self-indulgent, the pleasure-loving, the sensual, Spiritualism presents itself under a less subtle disguise than to the more refined and intellectual; in its grosser forms they find that which is in harmony with their inclinations. Satan studies every indication of the frailty of human nature, he marks the sins which each individual is inclined to commit, and then he takes care that opportunities shall not be wanting to gratify the

its way into scientific circles, which has invaded churches, and has found favor in legislative bodies, and even in the courts of kings,—this mammoth deception is but a revival, in new disguise, of the witchcraft condemned and prohibited of old.

Danger of Coming Under Its Influence

There are few who have any just conception of the deceptive power of Spiritualism and the danger of coming under its influence. Many tamper with it, merely to gratify their curiosity. They have no real faith in it, and would be filled with horror at the thought of yielding themselves to the spirits' control. But they venture upon the forbidden ground and the mighty destroyer exercises his power upon them against their will. Let them once

* A chapter from "The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan," pp. 651-662. Review and Herald, Washington, D. C., Publishers.

be induced to submit their minds to his direction, and he holds them captive. It is impossible, in their own strength, to break away from the bewitching, alluring spell. Nothing but the power of God, granted in answer to the earnest prayer of faith, can deliver these ensnared souls

All who indulge sinful traits of character, or willfully cherish a known sin, are inviting the temptations of Satan. They separate themselves from God and from the watch-care of his angels; as the evil one presents his deceptions, they are without defense, and fall an easy prey. Those who thus place themselves in his power, little realize where their course will end. Having achieved their overthrow, the tempter will employ them as his agents to lure others to ruin.

Rejection of the Scriptures the Basis of Deception

Marvelous beyond expression is the blindness of the people of this generation. Thousands reject the Word of God as unworthy of belief, and with eager confidence receive the deceptions of Satan. Skeptics and scoffers denounce the bigotry of those who contend for the faith of prophets and apostles, and they divert themselves by holding up to ridicule the solemn declarations of the Scriptures concerning Christ and the plan of salvation, and the retribution to be visited upon the rejecters of the truth. They affect great pity for minds so narrow, weak, and superstitious as to acknowledge the claims of God and obey the requirements of his law. They manifest

necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord; and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God." Deut. 18: 9-13.

6. Under the theocracy of Israel, what was the law concerning witches and those who had familiar spirits?

"Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." Ex. 22: 18. "A man also or a woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death." Lev. 20: 27.

NOTE.—This shows how dangerous and deadly everything of this character is in God's sight.

7. With what is witchcraft classed by Paul, and what does he say to those who are guilty of such things?

"Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, . . . I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Gal. 5: 20-23.

Instruction for Our Day

8. What should one do if asked to inquire of a familiar spirit?

"When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?" Isa. 8: 19.

9. What instruction does the apostle John give touching this subject?

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God." 1 John 4: 1.

10. By what are we to try them?
"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8: 20.

11. Should we allow ourselves to be influenced by signs or wonders performed by those who would try to lead us away from God and his law?

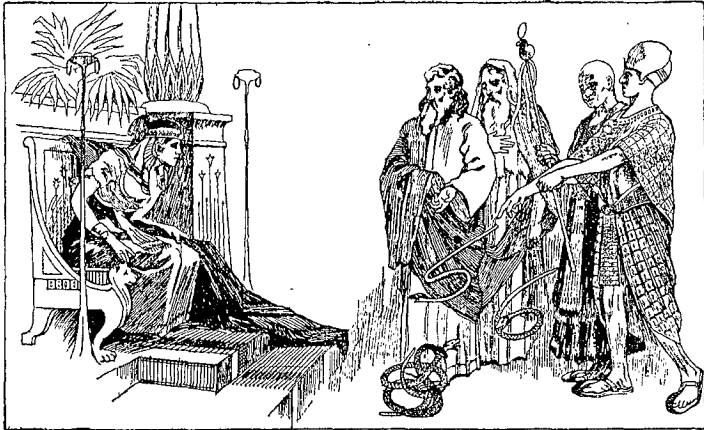
"If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice." Deut. 13: 1-4.

The State of the Dead

12. How much do the dead know of what is going on among men?

"Thou changest his countenance, and sendest him away. His sons come to honor, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them." Job 14: 20, 21.

13. Do the dead know anything?
"The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything." Eccl. 9: 5.



PHARAOH'S MAGICIANS COUNTERFEITING THE WORK OF GOD

Kept in the Hour of Temptation

Just before us is the "hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3: 10. All whose faith is not firmly established upon the Word of God will be deceived and overcome. Satan "works with all deceivableness of unrighteousness" to gain control of the children of men; and his deceptions will continually increase. But he can gain his object only as men voluntarily yield to his temptations. Those who are earnestly seeking a knowledge of the truth, and are striving to purify their souls through obedience, thus doing what they can to prepare for the conflict, will find, in the God of truth, a sure defense. "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee" (Rev. 3: 10), is the Saviour's promise. He would sooner send every angel out of heaven to protect his people than leave one soul that trusts in him to be overcome by Satan.

The prophet Isaiah brings to view the fearful deception which will come upon the wicked, causing them to count themselves secure from the judgments of God: "We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves." Isa. 28: 15. In the class here described are included those who in their stubborn impenitence comfort themselves with the assurance that there is to be no punishment for the sinner; that all mankind, it matters not how corrupt, are to be exalted to heaven, to become as the angels of God. But still more emphatically are those making a covenant with death and an agreement with hell, who renounce the truths which Heaven has provided as a defense for the righteous in the day of trouble, and accept the refuge of lies offered by Satan in its stead,—the delusive pretensions of Spiritualism.

as much assurance as if, indeed, they had made a covenant with death and an agreement with hell,—as if they had created an impassable, impenetrable barrier between themselves and the vengeance of God. Nothing can arouse their fears. So fully have they yielded to the tempter, so closely are they united with him, and so thoroughly imbued with his spirit, that they have no power and no inclination to break away from his snare.

Satan's First Lie

Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. The foundation of his work was laid by the assurance given to Eve in Eden, "Ye shall not surely die." "In the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Gen. 3: 4, 5. Little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of Spiritualism. He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs; but it will be reached in the last remnant of time. Says the prophet: "I saw three unclean spirits like frogs; . . . they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev. 16: 13, 14. Except those who are kept by the power of God, through faith in his Word, the whole world will be swept into the ranks of this delusion. The people are fast being lulled to a fatal security, to be awakened only by the outpouring of the wrath of God.

Saith the Lord God: "Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it." Isa. 28: 17, 18.

Spiritualism: Ancient and Modern

A Bible Study

1. WHAT is Spiritualism defined to be?
"A belief that departed spirits hold intercourse with mortals by means of physical phenomena, as by rapping, or during abnormal mental states, as in trances, or the like, commonly manifested through a medium; spiritism."—Webster.

Spiritism: "The theory that mediumistic phenomena are caused by spirits of the dead."—Webster.

NOTE.—The very central truth of Spiritualism is the power and possibility of spirit return, under certain conditions, to communicate with those in the material form."—N. F. Ravlin, Spiritualistic lecturer, of California.

God's Dealing with Ancient Spiritualism

2. Did this doctrine exist in ancient times?
"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God." Lev. 19: 31.

NOTE.—"The phenomenal aspect of mod-

ciples of the magic, witchcraft, and sorcery of the past. The same powers are involved, the same intelligences are operating"—F. F. Morse, "Practical Occultism," p. 85.

3. How does God regard sorcerers?
"I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers." Mal. 3: 5.

4. What does he say of the teachings of enchanters and sorcerers?
"Therefore hearken not ye to . . . your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, . . . for they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land." Jer. 27: 9, 10.

5. Before their entrance into Canaan, what instruction did Moses give Israel concerning these things?

"When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a con-



SAUL AND THE WITCH OF ENDOR

"His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." Ps. 146: 4.

14. What scripture forever precludes the idea that the dead come back to earth to communicate with the living?

"Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." Eccl. 9: 6.

15. Then when miracles are performed by spirits purporting to be those of our dead friends, to what shall we attribute them?

"They are the spirits of devils, working miracles." Rev. 16: 14.

A Warning for the "Latter Times"

16. What will be one characteristic of last-day apostasies?

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and

17. How does Satan deceive the people?
"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 2 Cor. 11: 14.

18. What rôle do his agents assume?
"Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness." Verse 15.

19. Will Satan and his angels attempt to counterfeit the coming of Christ, and work signs and wonders to confirm their pretentious claims?

"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matt. 24: 23, 24.

20. What will be one of the last great signs performed by this means, to fasten men in deception?

"He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." Rev. 13: 13, 14.

21. What scripture shows that Satan is to work with special power and deceptive wonders just before Christ's second coming?

"Whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish." 2 Thess. 2: 9, 10. See also Rev. 12: 12.

22. While many will be deceived by these wonders, and accept of the false Christs that appear, what will those say who have maintained their love for the truth, and patiently waited for Christ's return?

"It shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: THIS IS THE LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." Isa. 25: 9.

23. What warning has been given us through the apostle Peter?

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5: 8.

NOTE.—Rev. F. B. Meyer, of England, gives the following warning against dabbling in Spiritualism: "I have known several families that have been cursed by having recourse to clairvoyants and mediums. There are grave dangers in these things; and when occult powers are used for selfish ends, it is possible for men and women to be filled with evil spirits, as was the girl at Philippi. People are fools to play with the dregs of the spirit world."—Present Truth, Sept. 7, 1911.

"I am perfectly certain that the whole movement known as Modern Spiritualism is in the hands and under the direction of the father of evil spirits; in other words, is thoroughly and unmistakably diabolical."—Dr. C. Williams, of London, England.

In a sermon on "Spiritualism an Imposture," Rev. T. De Witt Talmage said:

"Spiritualism takes advantage of those who are weak and morbid with trouble. We lose a friend. The house is dark, the world is dark, the future seems dark. If we had, in our rebellion and weakness, the power to marshal a host and recapture our loved one, we should marshal the host. Spiritualism comes in at that moment, when we are all worn out by watching,—all worn out, body, mind, and soul,—and says, 'Now I will open that door; you shall hear the voices. Take your places around the table; all be quiet now.' . . . O, I hate Spiritualism, because it takes advantage of people when they are weak, and worn out, and morbid under life's bereavements and sorrows! . . . If Spiritualism had its way, it would turn the world into a pandemonium of carnality. It is an unclean and adulterous system."

Whoever consults or has to do with mediums or any who profess to receive instruction or communications from the spirits of the dead, places himself upon the enemy's

ground. Ever since Satan told that first lie in Eden, when he denied that death would be the result of sin, in the very face of death itself, he, working upon man's natural dread of death and upon his distress at the thought of being separated from loved ones, has been endeavoring to persuade men to believe that the dead are not dead, and that men do not die. Idolatry, heathenism, Spiritualism, occultism, and the whole brood of false isms of this kind, it will be noticed, deal very largely with death. This, of itself, indicates their origin, and should be a warning to all to let

them alone — to have nothing whatever to do with them. They are from beneath, and not from above. However promising or pleasing they may be at first, they are downward and destructive in their tendency, and ultimately lead away from God, into unbelief of his word, and into sin. They promise life by denying death, and apparently "make good" Satan's lie in Eden, through the ministrations and manifestations of evil angels representing themselves to be the spirits of the dead.

6. Spirit photography. Sir William Crookes declares he photographed the spirit form of Katie King forty times with five different cameras in one séance. Mr. William Howitt declares he made a visit to the studio of the celebrated Mr. Hudson, and received two photographs, perfect and unmistakable, of his sons who had died some years before. Everything, they declare, was done scientifically, and without any chance for deception.

Mental Phenomena

Professor Wallace then mentions the mental phenomena:—

1. Automatic writing. The medium's hand is automatically guided, and she writes in languages unknown to her; she writes and predicts future events. Sometimes she lays her hand on a heart-shaped piece of pasteboard with little rollers on it, and a pencil stuck in its point, and then the spirit guides the planchette, as they call it.

2. Clairvoyance. The medium sees and describes the form of some sick person unknown to her, so minutely that his friends at once recognize him. They read sealed letters in any language.

3. Trance speaking. The medium goes into a trance, and then in her speech displays marvelous knowledge far beyond her own natural powers. Mr. Wallace says he has heard an ignorant bartender discourse in the most beautiful style on subjects of psychology, and hold his own in an argument with a party of philosophers, on reason and foreknowledge, and such profound and unfathomable themes.

4. Impersonation. In this case the medium seems possessed by another being, and speaks, looks, and acts the character in a most astounding way.

5. Healing. The medium heals by mesmeric power, or in a trance will discover the remedy for some disease.

Spiritualism Not Modern

Now, like all modern outbursts of religious vagary, this thing is not so modern after all. In fact, I think we had the first case of it in the garden of Eden.

All ancient history is full of it.

You know the famous test put by Croesus, the king of Lydia, to the oracle at Delphi. Herodotus, the great historian, tells how the medium there told the messengers what their master the king was doing at a particular moment many miles away.

You know the famous story of the king of Egypt going down into the spirit world and playing dice with Demeter. But what was that, if anything, but the experience of a mesmeric trance?

The shrine of Isis was celebrated for the prescriptions dictated by the clairvoyants just as they are today.

Tacitus, the Roman historian, tells how Vespasian, at the shrine of Serapis, saw the spirit of Basilides materialize in his presence.

Clement of Rome, when he was a heathen, was troubled about the immortality of the soul, and in one of his famous works he says, "What should I do but this? I will go to Egypt, inquire for a magician, and induce him with a large sum of money to call up a soul from Hades by the art which is termed Necromancy." In this same book he enumerates the wonders of Simon, the magician

too much time to explain their meaning here, but I counted no less than nineteen such words.

There were all sorts of mediums and magicians and sorcerers and diviners in those days. When Joseph's cup was found in Benjamin's bag, the heathen steward said, "Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth?" What is that but modern crystal gazing or gazing into a cup filled with water? It doesn't say Joseph did it, but it does show that the steward knew that the custom prevailed.

And then the well-known instance of Saul paying a midnight call on the witch of Endor shows that the custom of consulting the dead was also a somewhat prevalent and at least a well-known one.

Spiritualism Not a Divine Manifestation

Now since we have admitted the fact of Spiritualism, we must account for it. . . .

That God had anything to do with the business in general is not at all likely for several reasons, among which the two following are entirely conclusive:—

1. The teaching of Spiritualism is anti-Christian, out and out, and utterly subversive of the Christian faith, as we shall shortly see, and therefore God cannot be a party to it.

2. God plainly forbids Spiritualism in Scripture, and he is not going to encourage what he has forbidden on pain of death.

Does the Bible forbid Spiritualism?—It most emphatically does. It forbids any one inquiring of the spirits of the dead.

"But whereas," says Isaiah, "they will say unto you, Inquire of them that have familiar spirits and of the wizards that chirp and mutter; should not a people inquire of their God? For the living, should they inquire of the dead?" Isa. 8:19. What the Bible calls a "familiar spirit" is what Spiritualists today call a "control." It is the spirit which controls the medium.

Moses said, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." Ex. 22:18. Webster defines a witch as "one who possesses supernatural or magical power by compact with evil spirits."

In Deuteronomy 18 we read, "There shall not be found among you any one that useth divination, or an enchanter, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer, for all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord;" and in Leviticus 20 we read, "The soul that turneth unto them that have familiar spirits, I will set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people." . . .

No Communication with the Dead

Let us now inquire a little further. If Spiritualism is a fact, as we have admitted; if all the spiritualistic phenomena are not to be explained by fraud and deception; and if, as we have seen, God not only has nothing whatever to do with it, but positively forbids it, we are then compelled to ask the following question:—

May it not be possible that these mediums, or dealers with familiar spirits, as the Bible calls them, are themselves responsible for these weird spiritualistic doings by cooperating with the spirits of the dead for their return to the earth and their operation through the mediums while here?

To this question it only remains to be said that everything in Scripture points to the contrary.

Job said, "I shall go the way whence I shall not return."

David said of his son, "I shall go to him but he shall not return to me."

In Job 7:9 we read, "He that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more."

The Work of Demons

What then is there to conclude but that the devil is at the bottom of the whole thing? That the devil has always been contending against the Almighty for the allegiance of man, goes without saying. Indeed, there is much evidence in Scripture that the idolatry of the heathen was nothing less than the worship of demons. It is repeatedly asserted at any rate, that Israel in her apostasy offered her sacrifices unto demons, and Paul,



DEMONISM IN THE DAYS OF CHRIST

A Plain Talk on Spiritualism*

By William Edward Biedervolf

The Testimony of Learned Men

"Twelve months have now passed since my boy died, in almost every week of which I have been cheered and comforted by messages from him who is nearer and dearer to me than ever before."—William T. Stead, English journalist.

"I have seen a phantom form come from a corner of the room, take an accordion in its hand, and glide about the room playing the instrument."—Sir Oliver Lodge, eminent English scientist.

"During a period of twelve years I have had communications with the spirits of those who have been for some time dead."—Prof. Richard Hodgson, LL. D., American scientist.

"I have talked with the spirit of Katie King scores and scores of times, saw her form appear and disappear, and photographed her many times."—Sir William Crookes, the world's greatest chemist.

And Professor James, the most eminent of America's recent psychologists, and Professor Hyslop of Columbia University, and others of world repute, now dead, like Fichte the philosopher, and Professor Hare the first American chemist of his day, and Challis, and scores of others of the most noted in every branch of science, have committed themselves to the fact of this thing we call Spiritualism; until a large part of the scientific world is saying with Flammarion, the celebrated French astronomer, that "any scientific man who declares spiritualistic phenomena to be impossible is one who speaks without knowing what he is talking about."

Now with an array of testimony before us like that, it is utter nonsense to say that there is nothing in Spiritualism. It is easy enough to pooh-pooh, but that neither proves your own intelligence nor gets rid of the stubborn facts before you. . . .

We used to sneer at the mere mention of Spiritualism, and call the whole thing a fraud and a fake from A to Z; and the public was entertained—and so it is today—by traveling magicians who explained the tricks of the trade and performed for us practically all of the supposed spiritualistic phenomena in vogue.

Is the Whole Thing a Fraud and a Fake?

Well, you can put it down as a . . . sure thing that about nine tenths of it is just that thing, and a bigger set of liars and fakers never lived than the majority of these mediums and clairvoyants and clairaudients and slate writers and table tippers and other ghostly manipulators. . . .

One of their tricks is to join hands in a circle, and then the medium in the circle pulls the hands of those she holds together and slips her own out, and then reaches around and pulls the ear of the one next to her. They put their toes on top of each other, but the medium has steel uppers on her shoes, and she can slip her feet out, and you will never know they are gone; and so sometimes she gets out of the circle altogether, and runs around in the dark and performs all sorts of spiritualistic stunts. She

will wave phosphorescent cards or bits of cloth soaked in Balmain's luminous paint, at the end of a telescopic rod, and the dupes in the circle will have their cheeks tickled with a feather duster, and then go out and swear they felt the caress of their dead baby's hand. These séances are always held with the lights turned down. . . .

But what if nine tenths of it is a fake and a fraud? If one tenth is genuine, yes, if in all the range of so-called spiritualistic phenomena there can be proved one single instance of genuine spirit manifestation, then the fact of Spiritualism is established, a great field of fascinating investigation is opened up to the man of science, and we shall have to admit that Gladstone was right when he said that spiritualistic phenomena was to prove the most important subject for scientific investigation of the twentieth century.

Well, has there ever been a single instance of genuine spiritualistic phenomena?

I never saw any. I don't know. I can't affirm, but in the face of such testimony . . . from men of such renown in the scientific world who are honestly seeking for truth, it seems like a piece of unwarranted folly to deny.

There was a schoolgirl, Florence Cook by name, who was a remarkable medium, and the spirit who operated through her was known as Katie King. Sir William Crookes, the renowned chemist, after witnessing many marvelous things in a number of séances with Florence Cook, asked her to come to his own laboratory, and she consented, and here scores of times, this great scientist declares, he saw the spirit of Katie King materialize; he photographed this spirit forty times with five different cameras; he talked with the spirit, clasped it and found it apparently to be a real living woman, and he declares that every scientific test was applied to eliminate every possibility of fraud, all of which experiments were confirmed by other equally prominent scientific men who were present. . . .

All sorts of remarkable doings are on record. Sir Alfred R. Wallace, the great naturalist, gives a summary of them under a twofold division, physical and mental.

Physical Phenomena

Among the physical there are—
1. The simple physical. Raising bodies into the air; passing them through curtains and into closed rooms, etc.

2. Chemical. Preserving from the effects of fire. A medium will take from the grate a red-hot mass of coals in his hands without experiencing any unpleasant effect.

3. Direct writing. A pencil will rise up and write apparently of itself. Sometimes drawings of many colors have been produced, and the colors found to be wet. Sometimes a slate is laid over a bit of slate pencil, and the sound of writing is heard, and all sorts of messages are received, and poems are written and philosophical dissertations are made.

4. Musical. All kinds of musical instruments are played without human agency.

5. Materialization. The spirit will assume a human form, and you recognize some one of your departed loved ones and can touch him and talk with him. They usually appear in flowing robes, and pieces have been cut from their garments, which in a short time melt away.

mentioned in the book of Acts, and says "he produces phantoms of every conceivable shape, causes vessels in the house to be seen moving about, rolls himself upon fire and is not burned, and sometimes he even flies." . . .

And so we could go on for hours. Another Roman historian, Marcellinus, tells us that in the reign of Valens, two spiritualists were arrested for trying to discover his successor by means of magic. They had a table which they caused to move, and a dish with an alphabet around its rim and a suspended ring, which the spirits caused to spell out the words by darting it against the various letters—the same old alphabet communications we have today.

Indeed, we find from the Word of God that even in the earlier ages of mankind Spiritualism was not a thing unknown. In the Old Testament you will find a great variety of words each designating some particular phase of spiritualistic phenomena. It would take



CHRIST CASTING OUT A DEVIL

* Paragraphs selected from "SPIRITUALISM. Divine? Devilish? or a Deception? Which?" Glad Tidings Publishing Company, 602 Lakeside Bldg., Chicago, Ill., U. S. A. Price, 15 cents.

First Corinthians, declares that the Gentiles do the same thing.

Demons, we are to understand, are a species of fallen angels, and are the servants of the devil and do his will.

Now when God goes after this dealing with spirits, he pours his anathemas upon the whole unholy business. In one breath, over and over again, he puts together and pronounces the curse of death upon the witch, the wizard, the consulter with familiar spirits, and the necromancer. The word "witch," if the Hebrew is translated literally, means "a woman who is mistress of a demon."

Demon possession was a well-known thing in New Testament times. In Matthew 4 it is said they brought the demonized to Jesus. In Matthew 8 Jesus met two men possessed with demons, and they recognized him and cried, "Art thou come hither to torment us before our time?" showing that they are aware of what awaits them, and dread it.

Mediums sometimes declare that several spirits control them, and Luke tells of a woman who had seven demons, and also of a man who had "many demons."

This strange practice of demons is not only hoary with age, but Paul expressly prophesied this unusual modern outburst of it. In the fourth chapter of First Timothy we are told, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons; speaking lies in hypocrisy, forbidding to marry," etc.

This modern revival of Spiritualism therefore not only seems to lend evidence that we are living in what Paul calls "the latter times," but Paul seems to intimate rather strongly that the spirits which are around in the seances and sittings of the present day, or rather night, are not the spirits of our loved ones at all, but spirits whose distinguishing features are a cloven hoof and a forked tail and a lying tongue.

Demon possession does not, of course, always manifest itself in the same way, but always with one purpose, and that is to seduce man from the worship of God. . . . Now when we once admit that there is something supernatural about spiritualism, as science seems to compel us to do, and at the same time deny both that the Spirit of God has anything to do with it or that the spirits of the dead can communicate through the mediums, then ascribing it, as by a process of elimination we seem compelled to do, to the working of demons, it becomes evident at once from this very fact why the child of God must have nothing to do with it whatsoever.

Some one has said there are three black I's that go with Spiritualism, and these will give you a comprehensive reason why you should shun it as one of the most dangerous and unholy heresies of the day.

The First Black I is Insanity
Dr. Winslow, the Oxford lecturer on mental diseases, says the prevalence of madness owing to Spiritualism is on the increase.

It stands to reason that it is ruinous to the mediums. Sir William Crookes himself says, "After witnessing the painful state of nervous and bodily prostration in which many of the experiments have left the medium fainting, pale, breathless, I cannot doubt but that the violence of psychic forces means a corresponding drain on the vital forces."

Professor Harris said, "The most remarkable case of mediumship I have met with was that of a lady who commenced with a little seemingly innocent table-turning at a children's party, and finished up by death in a madhouse."

But it is likewise ruinous to its disciples. There is hardly a madhouse between the oceans but where the torn and bleeding victims of this awful curse are to be found. Go and ask, "What is the matter with this poor, demented man? What is the matter with this poor, sobbing, and moaning woman?" and they'll say, "Spiritualism did it."

Ask that poor, gaunt, and ghostly fellow, dying by a wound from his own hand, what he did it for, and he says, "The spirits told me to."

Judge Edmonds in a lecture in behalf of Spiritualism admitted all this in so many words. He said, "There is a fascination about consulting with the spirits of the dead that has a tendency to lead people off from their right judgment, and to instil into them a fanaticism that is revolting to the natural mind."

Spiritualism, puts it, "the men who pray most frequently, most earnestly, and most unselfishly, attract toward them a number of spiritual beings who sympathize with them, and who, when the necessary mediumistic power is present, will be able, as they are often willing, to answer the prayers." He cites the case of George Müller and his orphanage, and says George Müller's "mediumistic powers enabled the spirits to work for him by influencing others to send him money and food and clothes."

What a poor exchange! all this balderdash for the rich promise of our Lord and the sweet experience of the child of God in regard to the blessed privilege of prayer.

The Second Black I of Spiritualism is Immorality
No system of teaching that advocates free love and pours contempt on the divine ordinance of marriage can intelligently claim anything else than immorality as its natural outgrowth.

I know that some of them teach that the unmarried state is the higher condition for this life, and they talk about a spiritual marriage by which they are united in wedlock to some spirit in the other world. . . . They talk about "elective affinities," and "spiritual matches," and "affinital relations." No matter how many times you are married here, you have an affinity who will be your spouse through all eternity.

Some of them declare that marriage should be snapped asunder as soon as it becomes the least bit wearisome to either one of the contracting parties. As soon as an affinity comes into a man's life, he is at liberty to throw his lawfully wedded spouse aside; thus homes

departed loved one comforting the bereaved here on earth!

Multitudes who are trifling with Spiritualism have no idea where its pernicious teaching is leading them.

Spiritualism Denies the Scriptural Doctrine of the Hereafter

The Word of God says, "Now is the day of salvation," but Spiritualism extends this day beyond the grave and out into the other world.

There are seven spheres into which the spirits of the departed go. The spirits of the wicked dwell in the lowest sphere, in places of darkness and misery, until repentance begins to take hold on them, and then they rise into the sphere above, and so on until they dwell as pure spirits in the higher regions.

Can a Christian believe in such bombastic nonsense?

Spiritualism Denies the Christian Doctrine of the Atonement

Salvation it always proclaims as a thing of personal merit. Oftentimes in a seance one of these devilish spirits representing himself as a spirit of the higher sphere will tell of his visit to the lower spheres to awaken and help the unrepentant. But what does he tell them? Not, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," even if such a thing were possible then, but, "Repent, Look up, Strive, Be sympathetic and helpful to your fellow spirits in darkness."

And so in this life sin can be expiated only by personal suffering. One of their noted writers, M. A. Oxen, says, "Sin is remediable by repentance and atonement and reparation personally wrought out in pain and shame, and not by coward cries for mercy."

In one of their weird books called "Ghost Land," the spirit of a murderer says, "There too I saw the still living and glorious soul of my old pastor, Michael H. Sternly, and sorrowfully he told me of the crime I had committed, and said, 'All crime is unpardonable and can be wiped out only by personal and not by vicarious atonement,' as he had falsely taught whilst on earth."

And in another spiritualistic book, by Mrs. Britten, the narrator exclaims, "Great

heavens! if this be indeed a true picture of the life hereafter, should it not make us afraid of doing wrong? But, above all, what a wicked and soul-destroying delusion has been the clerical farce of salvation by a vicarious atonement!"

And Lastly, Spiritualism Denies the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

He was a Social Reformer, he was an honored Teacher, but he was not the Son of God, only in the sense that any other man can be.

From the lips of the familiar M. A. Oxen we are told to "discriminate between God's truth and man's glosses," and to know that the divinity of the Lord Jesus is "a fiction which he would disown, and which man has forced upon his name."

The notorious Gerald Massey, the poet Spiritualist, wrote: "I do not find that Christ claimed for himself more than he held out as possible for others. When he identified himself with the Father, it was the oneness of mediumship. He was the great Medium, or Mediator."

The best they can do for your Lord is to make a medium out of him! Dr. Wisse declares that "all testimony received from advanced spirits only shows that Christ was a medium or reformer in Judea; that he is now an advanced spirit in the sixth sphere, but that he never claimed to be God and does not at present."

This is Spiritualism and what it thinks of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Could blasphemy, could profanity, go farther?

Paul says, "There is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Spiritualism says, "The man Christ Jesus was only a medium, and that anybody can be what he was." . . .

Drink Not from "the Cup of Demons"

My friend, avoid this hellish heresy as you value your soul; for once put your hand in the hand of the witch of Endor, and she will lead you finally into a denial of everything you now hold sacred concerning your faith, and in the end will take you with herself, hand in hand, into the bottomless pit of perdition.

It is an affair of darkness; and what fellowship can a child of light have with the powers of night? "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons."

It is a system of lies, and it arrays itself against the Lord of heaven. Stay out of its seances, and don't tamper with it lest you bring upon yourself the severe judgments of God. . . .

"My God, my God!" cried a Spiritualist who was once a Christian, "can I ever get back my faith?"

Yes, you may get it back. Go alone with God — you don't need any medium — and listen to the whisperings of his blessed Spirit, and he will guide you home.



OUR "ADVERSARY THE DEVIL," "SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR"

are broken up, as the record shows, young women are pushed into profligacy, and human desire becomes law instead of the inspired Word of the living God.

The Third Black I of Spiritualism is Infidelity

Talmage once said, "First, it makes a man a quarter of an infidel; then it makes him half an infidel; then it makes him a whole infidel." And that's usually the way, unless a man is acquainted with the whole of its blasphemous teaching from the start; and then if he swallows it, he has to be a whole infidel to begin with.

Spiritualism doesn't beat around the bush or make any bones about it, but with the most blasphemous bombast it hurls its shafts of unholy criticism straight into the very heart of every vital doctrine of the faith.

The mediums call back John Wesley, and he testifies that the faith he preached was all a mistake. They call back Tom Paine, and he says he is stopping in the same house with John Bunyan. They call back Lorenzo Dow, the noted evangelist, and he testifies that a man who worships Christ is an infidel. But we will be more specific.

Spiritualism Denies the Inspiration of the Bible

The author of "Outlines of Spiritualism for the Young" says: "To assert that the Bible is a holy and divine book and that God inspired the writers to make known his divine will, is a gross outrage on, and misleading to, the public. The truth is, the Old Testament is neither more nor less than Jewish history. The New Testament is made up of traditions and theological speculations by unknown persons. A book so full of errors requires to be read with care."

Andrew Jackson Davis, the most notorious of all Spiritualists, declared that the Bible was only "one of the pen-and-ink relics of Christianity."

Spiritualism Denies the Scriptural Doctrine of Prayer

If prayer is answered, it is not because it was offered to God in the name of Christ, but as Mr. Wallace, in his essay on "Modern

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