

LESSON CXL.

SPIRITUALISM.

1. God has forbidden the consultation of familiar spirits. Deut. 18:10-12; 2 Kings 21:6.

2. He has also positively forbidden a "necromancy," which is a "pretended communication with the dead" (Webster). Deut. 18:11, 12.

3. The reason God has forbidden communication with the dead is:

(a) That the dead are unconscious, and therefore it is not possible to communicate with them. Ps. 146:4; Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10.

(b) The dead can give no information concerning those who live after them, for they know nothing about them. Job. 14:21; Isa. 63:16.

(c) Hence the pretended spirits of the dead can be none other than the lying spirits of devils, who deceive men and make them believe they are the spirits of the dead. John 8:44; Rev. 16:14; 2 Chron. 18:18-21.

4. Those who pretended to hold communion with the departed spirits, in the Old Testament, are called "witches," "wizards," "necromancers" or consulters with familiar spirits. Deut. 18:10, 11; Lev. 19:31; 20:6, 27.

5. The witch of Endor, at the request of King Saul, pretended to call the prophet Samuel, who had been dead several years. 1 Sam. 28:7-19.

6. This spirit, which came at the call of that witch, was not the spirit of God; for God would not answer Saul in any way. 1 Sam. 28:6.

7. Nor was it the spirit of Samuel, who was dead and unconscious of everything transpiring on earth. Eccl. 9:5; Isa. 63:16. Therefore, it must have been the spirit of Satan pretending to be Samuel.

8. The modern name for those who pretend to call up the spirits of the dead is spiritualists, or spirit mediums.

9. The Bible teaches that seducing spirits will work wonders and deceive in the last days. 1 Tim. 4:1, 2; Rev. 13:13, 14; 16:13, 14. This is being fulfilled in these last days through the workings of spiritualism.

QUESTIONS.

1. What has God said about consulting familiar spirits?
2. Explain necromancy, and what God has said about it.
3. Why has God forbidden the pretended communication with the dead?
4. Why are the dead unable to give any information?
5. Whence emanates the spirit which pretends to come from the dead?
6. What were those called, during the old dispensation, who consulted familiar spirits?
7. Explain why the spirit which the witch of Endor called up could not be the spirit of Samuel.
8. What spirit was it, then, and why?
9. Who in our day pretend to call up the dead?
10. What spirit answers this call?
11. How may we know that it is the spirit of Satan?
12. Give the texts which prove that seducing spirits will work wonders and deceive in the last days.
13. Who are now fulfilling these prophecies?

LESSON CXXI.

PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED.

1. Punishment follows the judgment. God has appointed a day in which he will judge all men. Acts 17:31; John 12:48.
2. The saints receive their reward after the judgment. Rev. 11:18; 22:12.
3. Satan and all the wicked are reserved unto the judgment to be punished. 2 Peter 2:4, 9; Jude 6.
4. They do not suffer before the day of judgment, for they do not know that they are lost before that great day. Matt. 8:28, 29; 7:21, 23.

UNQUENCHABLE FIRE.

5. The wicked are to be burned with unquenchable fire. Matt. 3:12; Mark. 9:43-48.
6. "Unquenchable fire" means a fire that cannot be put out or quenched as long as there is anything to burn. Jer. 17:27; compare 2 Chron. 36:19, 21.