

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:8,9.

8. Against whom is he now directing his deceptions?

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan, which deceived the whole world.” Revelation 12: 9.

“The facts of history concur with the statements of revelation in forcing upon us the unwelcome conviction that the human race is subject to the malevolent influence of an organized and all pervading demonism. Alike in the career of the nations and in the phenomena of personal destiny, the presence of demonic in skill and power is often prominent, frequently dominant, always evil.” - E. A. Stockman in “Footprints of Angels,” page 2.

9. How do Satan and his angels seek to enslave men?

By tempting them to do evil. “I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtle methods, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” 2 Corinthians 11:3.

“Evil spirits, in the beginning created sinless, were equal in nature, power, and glory with the holy beings that are now God’s messengers. But fallen through sin, they are leagued together for the dishonor of God and the destruction of men.” E. G. White in “The Great Controversy.”

10. In what fateful conflict are we therefore called upon to engage?

“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6: 11, 12.

11. How intensely active will Satan become as the end approaches?

“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time.” Revelation 12:12.

12. Against what particular satanic activities in the latter days are we expressly warned?

a. Doctrines of devils. “Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

b. International machinations. “For 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.” Revelation 16:14.

13. What evidence clearly indicates, however, that Satan and his angels are a beaten foe?

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” James 2: 19.

14. How may we be assured of victory in the conflict with the powers of evil?

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Ephesians 6: 11. (See also verses 13-17.)

15. What will be their ultimate doom?

“Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, Prepared for the devil and his angels.” Matthew 25:41.

Spiritualism - Ancient and Modern

1. AGAINST what evil spiritual powers did God warn His chosen people?

“Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 19:31.

“Nearly all forms of ancient sorcery and witchcraft were founded upon a belief in communion with the dead. Those who practiced the arts of necromancy claimed to have intercourse with departed spirits, and to obtain through them a knowledge of future events. The ‘familiar spirits’ were not the spirits of the dead, but evil angels, the messengers of Satan. Ancient idolatry, which, as we have seen, comprises both worship of the dead and pretended communion with them, is declared by the Bible to have been demon-worship.” - E. G. White In “Patriarchs and Prophets,” pages 684, 685.

2. With what other forms of spirit-possession were they forbidden to have any dealings?

“There shall not be found among you any that uses divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord.” Deuteronomy 18: 10-12.

3. What king of Israel disobeyed the divine command and sought after evil spirits?

“And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim,

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nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that has a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that has a familiar spirit at Endor." 1 Samuel 28:6,7.

4. How was he punished for his sin?

"So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it." 1 Chronicles 10:13.

5. Who else followed the wicked example of Saul and led Israel deeper into iniquity?

"And he [Rehoboam] ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made." 2 Chronicles 11:15.

6. With what urgent counsel did Isaiah exhort the nation as recourse to evil spirits increased?

"And 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?" Isaiah 8:19.

7. On what occasion did Jesus come in contact with a victim of spirit possession?

"And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out." Mark 1:23.

8. For what did the spirit plead on recognizing Jesus?

"Let us alone; what have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth? Are Thou come to destroy us? I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God." Mark 1:24.

9. What command did Jesus give the evil spirit, and how did it respond?

"And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him." Mark 1:25,26.

10. How were the people affected by the miracle?

"And they were all amazed insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority commanded He even the unclean spirits, and they do obey Him." Mark 1: 27.

11. What was included among the powers Jesus gave to the disciples?

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My name shall they cast out devils." Mark 16:17.

12. How was this promise fulfilled in the ministry of Peter?

"There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one." Acts 1:16.

13. By whom was Paul once molested while in Macedonia?

"And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: the same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the Most High God, which show unto us the way of salvation." Acts 16: 16, 17.

14. What was he enabled, by the power of God, to do?

"And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour." Acts 16: 18.

15. For what did Paul condemn the Gentiles?

"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God." 1 Corinthians 10: 20.

16. How incompatible is association with evil spirits and the Christian faith?

"And I would not that you should have fellowship with devils. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: you cannot be Partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils." 1 Corinthians 10: 20, 21.

17. In consequence, what did converts who had dabbled in the occult do on accepting Christ?

"Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men." Acts 19: 19.

18. What supreme effort will Satan and the evil spirits put forth in the last days to bring the world to ruin?

"Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4: 1.

19. Through what avenue will their deceptive power be particularly exerted?

"Wherefore if they shall say unto you, behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Matthew 24: 26.

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This is clearly a reference to the secrecy of the spiritualist seance.

“To dabble in all such matters,” says the editor of the Christian, “is to come within reach of demoniac forces, and it is no unfamiliar experience to find skepticism and curiosity about spiritual manifestation changed to hysterical ‘possession’ in those persons who have lightly attended seances ‘just to see.’ The things of which we speak are among the most serious problems of the day, and we would utter a solemn warning against confidences that are away from God and tend to the tragedy of demon possession.”

20. What common deceptions used upon ancient Israel may be expected in the latter-day manifestations of spirit activity?

- a. Necromancy, or alleged contact with the dead.
- b. Divination, or prognostication by astrology and other means.
- c. Sorcery, or the working of miracles by occult powers.

“The phenomenal aspect of modern Spiritualism reproduces all essential principles of the magic, witchcraft, and sorcery of the past. The same powers are involved, the same intelligences are operating.” - F. F. Morse in “Practical Occultism,” page 85.

Prominent in the propaganda of modern Spiritualism are claims of “psychic healers.” Often these healers, it is alleged, work to the instruction of famous doctors who have “passed over.”

21. How are alleged spirit manifestations to be tested?

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

22. By what standard are they to be tried?

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8: 20.

The satanic power behind Spiritualism is clearly indicated by such declarations as the following: “They [the spirits] testify that Jesus Christ has nothing to do with the question of life and death, and they know nothing about the ‘mediation of our Savior Jesus Christ.’ ” - J. A. Findlay in “The Rock of Truth,” page 288.

“Neither have we made any mention of a boundless store of merit laid up for him in the death of the sinless Son of God.... No such fable finds a place in our knowledge. We know of no store of merit save that which man lays up for himself by slow and laborious processes.” - “Spirit Teachings,” communicated through Stainton Moses, pages 158, 159.

“Spiritualism is a religion; but it is a religion free from the absurd and superstitious features which mar the system known as Christianity.” - “The Progressive Thinker.”

“We have no desire to hide the plain fact that there is much in some parts of the Bible which does not amalgamate with our teaching, being, indeed, the admixture of human error which came through the mind of the chosen medium.” “We mention this to avoid at once the necessity of replying to any texts from these books which may be quoted as an argument.” - “Spirit Teachings,” pages 74, 189.

“What you are now witnessing [in spiritualistic phenomenal are the signs and wonders that preclude the opening of a new dispensation, the advent of the Lord. There will be no such physical return as man dreamed of.” - Id., page 151.

23. What does the Bible teach as to the possibility of communication with the dead?

“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 9:5,6.

24. Who are the spirits who purport to be dead relatives and friends?

They are “seducing spirits” and their alleged messages are “doctrines of devils.”

25. In what will the activities of the evil spirits in the latter days culminate?

“Even him, 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 Thessalonians 2:9,10. (See also Revelation 12:12; 13:13,14.)

26. To those who are not fortified by a knowledge of the Word, how plausible will the latter-day deceptions of Satan and his evil spirits seem?

“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness.” 2 Corinthians 11:14,15.

Indicative of the hold that Spiritualism is gaining even upon accredited Christian leaders and thinkers of today are the following statements attributed to noted churchmen in the Psychic News, March 2, 1940:

“The evidence of Spiritualism is too strong, too widespread, and accepted by too many sober-minded people for hasty rejection. Scientific men accustomed to deal coolly and accurately with

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phenomena have pronounced in favor of the truth of Spiritualism.” - Dr. Pollock, Bishop of Norwich.

Spiritualism is “a confirmation of the Christian faith, and even a way from agnosticism to belief.”
- Dr. W. R. Matthews, Dean of St. Paul’s.

Spiritualism is “the scientific explanation of the Christian belief and faith in survival of life after death.” - Canon Anson, Master of the Temple.

27. Who only will be undeceived?

“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.” Matthew 24: 24.

28. In what will be the sure defense of God’s people?

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

Angel Ministry

1. WHAT congenial task has been allotted to the unfallen angels?

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.” Hebrews 1:14.

2. In what beautiful vision is the ministry of angels portrayed?

“And he [Jacob] dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.” Genesis 28:12.

“Heaven is brought near to earth by that mystic ladder, the base of which is firmly planted on the earth, while the topmost round reaches the throne of the Infinite. Angels are constantly ascending and descending this ladder of shining brightness, bearing the prayers of the needy and distressed to the Father above, and bringing blessing and hope, courage and help, to the children of men.” - Fausset’s “Bible Cyclopaedia,” article, “Angels.”

3. What solemn, yet urgent, task was committed to one of the angels immediately after the fall?

“So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.” Genesis 3: 24.

4. What is one of the earliest examples in the Bible of angels being engaged on an errand of mercy to men?

“And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.” Genesis 19: 15.

5. How did angels assist in the giving of the law at Sinai?

“Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.” Acts 7: 53.

6. In what special type of revelation has God frequently employed the angels?

“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass, and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John.” Revelation 1:1.

7. In what other service do angels engage on behalf of believers?

“The angel of the Lord encamps round about them that fear Him, and delivers them.” Psalm 34: 7.

“It would be well to ponder more frequently the ministering care of the angels. They keep pace with every railway train, at whatever speed it travels, which bears some child of God to his appointed destination. They convoy every ship plowing its way through the troubled sea, which carries an heir of salvation to the haven where he would be. They encamp with horses and chariots of fire about every city, however tired, in which God’s servants are found.” - F. B. Meyer in “Israel,” page 51.

8. How does Isaiah comment on Israel’s experiences during the exodus?

“In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old.” Isaiah 63: 9.

9. What remarkable deliverance was vouchsafed to Daniel in the den of lions?

“My God has sent His angel, and has shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before Him innocence was found in me; and also before, thee, O king, have I done no hurt.” Daniel 6: 22.

10. On what occasions did angels minister to Jesus during His life on earth?

a. After His temptation. “Then the devil leaves Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.” Matthew 4:11.

b. In every time of need throughout His ministry. “He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee: and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.”

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Matthew 4: 6. (See also Psalm 91:11,12.)

c. In Gethsemane. "And there appeared an angel unto Him from heaven, strengthening Him." Luke 22:43.

d. An angel called Him forth from the tomb. "And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it." Matthew 28:2.

11. How were Peter and John delivered from the prison into which they had been thrown by their persecutors?

"But the angel of the Lord by night opened the Prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." Acts 5: 19, 20.

12. In which other ways do the angels co-operate in bringing to pass the purposes of God?

a. Overcoming resistance to God's will. "The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, Lo, Michael, one of the chief Princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia." Daniel 10: 13.

b. Dispensing judgment and mercy according to His omniscient counsels. "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." Revelation 7: 1.

c. Executing sentence upon evildoers. "And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they [the Israelites] arose early in the morning, behold, they [the Assyrians] were all dead corpses." 2 Kings 19:35.

13. How quickly do the angels respond to the tasks committed to them?

"Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation." Daniel 9: 21

"No earthly monarch ever sent so swift a messenger to bear tidings of good or ill as Jehovah sent to this prophet in prayer. No heart of love, bound by the strongest cords of devotion, ever sent so quick an answer to the object of his affections as God sends through His holy angels to those who trust in Him."-L H. Evans in "The Ministry of Angels," page 66.

14. What instance does the Bible give of the angels reporting on the execution of their duties?

"And they answered the angel of the Lord that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sits still, and is at rest." Zechariah 1:11. (See also verses 8-13.)

15. What other important task has been given to the angels?

"I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven." Daniel 4: 13.

16. What care should we therefore exercise in the presence of the angels?

"Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of your hands?" Ecclesiastes 5: 6.

17. In the judgment how will they assist the judge of all the earth?

a. They will assemble the books of record. "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened." Daniel 7:9,10.

b. They will act as witnesses in the heavenly court. "Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: but he that denies Me before men shall be denied before the angels of God." Luke 12: 8, 9.

18. By whom will Christ be accompanied when He returns?

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works." Matthew 16: 27.

"All through the ages, the holy angels have acted an important part in the salvation of man. They have been the messenger* of God, going between heaven and earth, bearing to the throne of Jehovah the prayers of His people and bringing back from that throne His blessing, help, and strength to His tempted, tried, and trusty children. These very angels have watched by the aide of the people of God during their lifetime. They have continually ministered to them in the hour of temptation . They have stood as silent witnesses in the death chamber. So when the Son of God comes to earth the second time, to bring His people life and immortality, then holy beings come with Him, not u silent witnesses of His glory and might

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and majesty, not as mere interested spectators of the marvel of the resurrection from the dead, but as His active agents in that stupendous event.” - J. H. Evans in “The Ministry of Angels,” page 209.

19. What will be their first duty?

“And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army.” Revelation 19: 14, 19.

20. When all opposition to Christ has been broken, what further service will they undertake?

“So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels than come forth, and sever the wicked from among just.” Matthew 13:49.

21. What sentence will they carry out against the unrepentant?

“And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 13:10.

22. What will be their final happy task?

“And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:31.

14. The Church

The Israel of God

1. WHEN God began to gather out a people for Himself, whom did He choose to be their progenitor?

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee.” Genesis 12:1.

2. What did God declare He would accomplish through Abraham?

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shall be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curses thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Genesis 12: 2, 3.

3. In what way does the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews bring out the two distinguishing marks which were henceforth to characterize the people of God?

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.” Hebrews 11: 8.

4. How soon was it manifest that mere literal descent from Abraham did not qualify men for a place among the chosen people of God?

“Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.” Romans 9:7.

5. Why was the line of Isaac chosen rather than that of Ishmael?

“That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the Promise are counted for the seed.” Romans 9:8. (Read Genesis 21:10-12.)

6. What further selection took place among the sons of Isaac?

“Was not Esau Jacob’s brother? said the Lord: yet I loved Jacob.” Malachi 1:2.

7. What name did God give to Jacob in confirmation of his election?

“And He said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince has thou power with God and with men, and has prevailed.” Genesis 32:28.

8. How are God’s people thereafter designated?

“Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou may bring forth My people the children of Israel out of Egypt.” Exodus 3:10.

9. On what condition only would literal Israel continue to be God’s chosen nation?

“Now therefore, if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine: and you shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.” Exodus 19:5,6.

10. What complaint, however, had God to make against the nation?

“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord has spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me.” Isaiah 1:2.