

One reason to be urged against the use of flesh food is the diseased condition of the animals. Thinking people are beginning to awaken to the dangers threatening humanity from this source. Cancer, consumption, tapeworm, trichina, scrofula, etc., are becoming veritable plagues among flesh-eating nations. These and many other deadly diseases are exceedingly prevalent among the animals commonly used for food; and leading physicians of the world attribute the rapid increase of these diseases among the people in a large measure to their consumption of diseased animals, and the use of butter and milk from tuberculous cows.

Our bodies are the temples of God, and the Lord says, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy." 1 Cor. 3: 16, 17. We are admonished to glorify God *in our body*, and in our spirit, which are God's. 1 Cor. 6: 19, 20. Those who desire to do this will be careful of what and how they eat, that they may enjoy all the vigor of body and mind possible. Those who wilfully disregard the laws of health, and eat and drink such things as bring disease and defilement to the body, displease God. There can be no doubt, looking at the matter from every reasonable standpoint, that those who abstain from flesh foods and subsist on the bill of fare which God gave Adam, are able to live cleaner, sweeter, purer, more noble lives than is possible when one's diet is made up largely of the flesh of animals. Says the apostle Paul, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10: 31.

# MODERN SPIRITUALISM

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

In dealing with this important and wide-spread doctrine, we shall not insult the good sense of its advocates by characterizing it as a fraud, and its accompanying spirit manifestations as being simply human trickery. That there now is and has been in past ages a genuine spirit manifestation, the Bible plainly teaches. However, that these are the spirits of our dead friends we do not believe. In fact, there is no doctrine upon which the Bible is more explicit than that of the state of the dead. In Chapter XII we have already given the Bible testimony upon this subject, showing that the dead know not anything.

In view of these facts, it is certain that whatever the word of God may say about Spiritualism, both ancient and modern, it does not support the theory that communication may be held with the spirits of departed friends. While Spiritualists make a show of using the Bible in an endeavor to support their theory and practice, yet that they are wrong and that the Bible condemns their faith and practice, the following will show:—

### I. Against what persons does the Lord warn us?

"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.—Those whom the Bible speaks of as having "familiar spirits" are what we to-day call "mediums." The

Lord tells us not to regard them, nor to seek after them, for they are defilers.

2. What does God say he will do with those who consult mediums?

"The soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people." Lev. 20:6.

3. What sentence did God pronounce against those who were possessed with familiar spirits?

"A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them." Verse 27.

4. In addition to consulting with mediums, what other practices were forbidden among God's people?

"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 consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer." Dent. 18:10, 11.

**An Abomination to God**

5. How does the Lord regard those who follow these practices?

"For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord." Verse 12.

NOTE.—All the practices above named, properly come under the one head—spiritualism. Hence, according to these plain statements of the Lord, persons who consult mediums or fortune tellers, and who practice hypnotism, etc., are an abom-

ination to God. This is sufficient to show that spiritualism, in all its forms, is incompatible with the Bible and Christianity, and that its advocates cannot consistently use the Bible to support their theory and practice. The whole thing is a system of devil worship, as the following will show:—

6. While at Philippi, what experience did Paul have with one who had a familiar spirit?

"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. 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 16:16-18.

7. What similar experience did Christ have?

"They went into Capernaum; and straightway on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. . . . And there was in the synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. 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 1:21-26.

8. What were these spirits?

"And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed of devils. And all the city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many that were sick with divers diseases, and

cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him." Verses 32-34.

NOTE.—The reader is first asked to notice the fact that these familiar spirits *knew who Christ and Paul were*; and second, that they are devils; third, that these spirits have power to impart knowledge to those whom they possess, which is more than human. Hence, the conclusion to be drawn from this is inevitable, namely, diviners, mediums, etc., are possessed of devils.

While many who have been consulting these unclean spirits will be horror stricken at these plain statements, yet a statement of facts will admit of nothing else. But, says one, whence come this multitude of spirits, if they are not our dead friends? This question puzzles many to-day, but that it is easily answered from the Bible, the following will show:—

### ***Evil Spirits, and How They Came to be Here***

9. What other classes of beings besides man have sinned against God?

"The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Jude 6. See also 2 Peter 2:4.

NOTE.—Satan was the chief spirit in the great rebellion against God; and through his influence a large company of angels were led to leave their appointed work, and rebel against their Creator.

10. After Satan and his angels were expelled from heaven, to what place were they confined?

"The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was

cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Rev. 12:9.

NOTE.—By reading verse 4 of the same chapter, it will be seen that Satan drew with him one third of the stars of heaven; so primarily, the stars of heaven represent the angels which followed him in his rebellion against God. By reading the eleventh verse of the fifth chapter of Revelation, we are enabled to form some idea of how many angels took part in this rebellion. They numbered many millions.

### ***Unseen Principalities and Powers***

11. Into what is this vast host organized?

"Put on the whole armor 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 [margin] in high places." Eph. 6:11, 12.

NOTE.—Satan is called the god of this world, "the prince of the power of the air," and he now rules over thoroughly organized principalities and powers, composed of his followers among the angelic hosts. Although under ordinary circumstances they are invisible to the human eye, their existence is none the less real. It is with these powers that both Christ and his followers are called to wrestle; hence the necessity of being equipped with the whole armor of God.

It was these principalities and powers that Christ overcame, spoiled, and made a show of openly (Col. 2:15), by casting them out of men and women while here on earth. The organization of these hosts is no doubt such as to make their power to oppose the work of Christ, and to deceive men, the most efficient possible. And were it not for the fact that God has placed restrictions upon them, so that their power to deceive is limited to those who court their fellowship, they

would no doubt have destroyed the world ere this. Although sinners, yet they are angels still, and no doubt, were they permitted, could exercise all their original powers. In the days of Hezekiah an angel of God destroyed in a single night 185,000 Assyrians. 2 Kings 19:35. This shows what might befall those who fear God were it not for the merciful protection of good angels. Ps. 34:7.

### ***Fallen Angels Imitate the Dead***

In the light of the foregoing facts, the spirit manifestations which are so common to-day in seances are explained. Many, no doubt, will object to the idea that these spirits are not their departed friends, for they say, "We have seen them and talked with them, and we know their voices, and remember perfectly their looks. Moreover, they relate to us facts which were secrets, and no one else could possibly know of these things: so from these tests we know they are the spirits of our dead friends."

While admitting that thousands have this very experience, yet under existing circumstances this is no proof at all. In the first place, we should remember the fact that the good angels not only protect us, but they also keep the records of our lives. They know everything that we have ever done, whether in public or secret: they know the tones of our voice, and every expression of our features is before them like an open book. This same knowledge may be possessed by the evil angels, and used for the purpose of deception. For who would dare to say that there are not evil angels in the world who know more or less perfectly every human being? And remember, too, that they are acquainted with the dead as well as the living. How easy, then, when one disobeys God and goes to a medium, for one of these spirits who is familiar with their dead friends, to hypnotize the medium, and through him to imitate the voice of the dead, and relate things locked in secrecy to all human beings except the inquirer and the dead

friend. More than this, they can write on closed slates, imitate other's handwriting, materialize, and produce many other phenomena calculated to convince the doubters, and to overcome the scruples of the conscientious.

As illustrations of this, consider first the damsel out of whom Paul cast a devil. That evil spirit by its superior knowledge was able to impart through his victim information which was more than human. As another illustration, read the experience of King Saul with the witch of Endor. 1 Sam. 28:7-20. Here we have Saul, who, because of his wickedness, was forsaken of God, seeking, as a last resort, to a woman with a familiar spirit. In this experience it will be of interest to notice a few points:—

(a) Verse 8 shows that Saul was disguised, and that the medium did not know who he was. He asked the woman to bring up Samuel, who had recently died.

(b) Verse 12 tells us that as soon as Samuel appeared to the woman, she learned that her visitor was King Saul. How did she get this information? There is but one answer,—The familiar spirit, which was to play the rôle of Samuel the prophet of God, *told her*.

(c) Verses 13 and 14 show that none but the woman who was in a trance saw this supposed Samuel, and that Saul *perceived from her description of him* that it was Samuel.

Then follows a complaint from this pretended Samuel, such as would be expected from a peevish old man who had been disturbed while at rest; and then comes a message which drove Saul to despair and finally suicide. Notice also, that this familiar spirit took the form and appearance of Samuel as he was while alive on earth—an old man with a mantle on. How absurd! Yet it was necessary for this evil angel to appear *like Samuel before his death*, or he could not have been recognized by Saul.

Another point worthy of notice is the fact that this pretended Samuel virtually admitted that this wicked woman

exercised a controlling power over him, so that he was forced to come at her bidding. Verse 15. What a slander against God and his holy prophet! Furthermore, notice in verse 19 that Saul is told that on the morrow he and his sons would be with him. Think of it: wicked Saul and holy Samuel together after death!

In conclusion, the reader is urged to beware lest he give "heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1) in this time of peril. Our only safety is found in Christ and a knowledge of his word. "When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter" (Isa. 8:19), remember that all who do those things are an abomination to God; that they are cut off from among his people; that these familiar spirits are fallen angels, and that their one purpose is to lead men to disbelieve the gospel, and to hope for a future existence with friends regardless of Christ and the plan of redemption.

Spiritualism in all its forms is not only anti-christian, but its pretenses are a deception. That which Satan through the serpent taught Eve to believe, viz., "Thou shalt not surely die," he is still propagating through human agents over whom he has cast his spell. But contrary to this, God said to our first parents, and is still saying, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

Reader, whose testimony do you believe? and upon which side do you stand?