

34. Satan’s Masterpiece

“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. . . . We are told in Scripture of their confederacy and government, of their various orders, of their intelligence and subtlety, and of their malicious designs against the peace and happiness of men.” - GC 513.

“None are in greater danger from the influence of evil spirits than those who, notwithstanding the direct and ample testimony of the Scriptures, deny the existence and agency of the devil and his angels. So long as we are ignorant of their wiles, they have almost inconceivable advantage; many give heed to their suggestions while they suppose themselves to be following the dictates of their own wisdom. This is why, as we approach the close of time, when Satan is to work with greatest power to deceive and destroy, he spreads everywhere the belief that he does not exist. It is his policy to conceal himself and his manner of working.” - GC 516.

SELECTED REFERENCES

PP 683-689; GC 551-562; 1T 343, 345; [4] Pages 304-315; [7] Pages 265-273.

Memorize: Isaiah 8:15-20.

A. SPIRITUALISM IN EDEN.

Read note, Lesson 10, B 3, “The First Lie.” Genesis 3:1-6.

“Spiritualism is not a new development. It is as old as the human race. It had its origin in the garden of Eden. The first spirit medium on record was the serpent in the garden. The fall of man and the ruin of the world were caused by heeding the counsel of a spirit medium. . . .

“Satan selected this ‘subtle’ beast as a medium through which to manifest the first spiritualistic phenomena. Through the serpent he spoke to Eve, the first woman, thus using the serpent as a medium to deceive her. . . . This, in fact, is the purpose of all mediumship.

“It is worthy of more than passing attention that it was by believing a spiritualist medium that this world has been overwhelmed with such a flood of sin, disease, sorrow, grief, misery, trouble, and death.” - C. B. Haynes, in “Spiritualism Versus Christianity,” pages 14, 15.

“Three things are worthy of special attention in this inspired narrative: First, Satan obtained control and took possession of the body of an animal or reptile, and retained that possession as long as he chose. Second, he held such complete control of this creature that he made it, for the period of his possession, lose the distinctive character which belonged to it, and to take on, in appearance at least, the character and attributes of another being. Third, by his control and possession of this creature he made an unfallen human being imagine that she was holding converse with an animal or reptile, when in fact she was holding a conversation with the devil himself, and he used this deception to cause this unfallen being to sin.” - Id., page 16.

B. SPIRITUALISM IN ANTIQUITY.

Deuteronomy 18:10-14; Ezekiel 21:21; Daniel 2:142, 27, 28.

“We are assured that Spiritualism is a new revelation which is destined to send all other systems of religion to the scrap heap, including the gospel. This, if true, is important. But it is not true. Spiritualism is not a new revelation. It is an ancient falsehood. It has existed for ages in the midst of heathen darkness. And its presence in savage lands has been marked by no march of progress, by no advance of civilization, by no development of education, by no illumination of the mental faculties, by no increase in intelligence. But its acceptance has been productive of and coexistent with the most profound ignorance, and the most barbarous superstitions, the most unspeakable immoralities, the basest idolatries, and the worst atrocities which the world has ever known.” - Id., page 24.

1. Moses, instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, listed eight different classes of those who dealt in occult and forbidden mysteries.

2. Israel in every contact with the heathen nations was exposed to spiritualism, with its characteristics of all ages. Joshua 13:22, margin; 1 Samuel 62; 2 Kings 21:6; 2 Chronicles 33:6; Isaiah 2:6;

Micah 5:12. Isaiah mentions still others, ‘astrologers,’ ‘stargazers,’ and ‘monthly prognosticators.’ Isaiah 47:13. From this it is clear that those of Old Testament times were not behind the present age in the knowledge and practice of occult arts and magic, with the phenomena of Spiritualism.

C. KING SAUL AND THE WITCH OF ENDOR.

1 Samuel 28:7-21; 1 Chronicles 10:13,14.

“Under the cover of darkness, Saul and his attendants made their way across the plain, and safely passing the Philistine host, they crossed the mountain ridge, to the lonely home of the sorceress of Endor. Here the woman with a familiar spirit had hidden herself away that she might secretly continue her profane incantations. . . .

“It was not God’s holy prophet that came forth at the spell of a sorcerer’s incantation. Samuel was not present in that haunt of evil spirits. That supernatural appearance was produced solely by the power of Satan. He could as easily assume the form of Samuel as he could assume that of an angel of light, when he tempted Christ in the wilderness.

“The woman’s first words under the spell of her incantation had been addressed to the king, ‘Why has thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.’ Thus the first act of the evil spirit which personated the prophet, was to communicate secretly with this wicked woman, to warn her of the deception that had been practiced upon her. . . . Saul had placed himself fully in the power of Satan; and now he whose only delight is in causing misery and destruction, made the most of his advantage, to work the ruin of the unhappy king. . . .

“All through his course of rebellion, Saul had been flattered and deceived by Satan. It is the tempter’s work to belittle sin, to make the path of transgression easy and inviting, to blind the mind to the warnings and threatening of the Lord. Satan, by his bewitching power, had led Saul to justify himself in defiance of Samuel’s reproofs and warning. But now, in his extremity, he turned upon him, presenting the enormity of his sin, and the hopelessness of pardon, that he might goad him to desperation. Nothing could have been better chosen to destroy his courage and confuse his judgment, or to drive him to despair and self-destruction.

“Saul was faint from weariness and fasting; he was terrified and conscience-stricken. As the fearful prediction fell upon his ear, his form swayed like an oak before the tempest, and he fell prostrate to the earth.” - PP 679-681.

“There are some who take the position that Samuel was actually present at the interview with Saul, but the Bible itself furnishes sufficient ground for a contrary conclusion. If, as claimed by some, Samuel was in heaven, he must have been summoned thence, either by the power of God or by that of Satan. None can believe for a moment that Satan had power to call the holy prophet of God from heaven to honor the incantations of an abandoned woman. Nor can we conclude that God summoned him to the witch’s cave; for the Lord had already refused to communicate with Saul, by dreams, by Urim, or by prophets. 1 Samuel 28:6. These were God’s own appointed mediums of communication, and He did not pass them by to deliver the message through the agent of Satan.

“The message itself is sufficient evidence of its origin. Its object was not to lead Saul to repentance, but to urge him on to ruin, and this is not the work of God, but of Satan. . . . It is distinctly stated [1 Chronicles 10:13,14] that Saul inquired of the familiar spirit, not of the Lord. . . .

“Nearly all forms of ancient sorcery and witchcraft were founded upon a belief in communion with the dead.

“The ‘familiar spirits’ were not the spirits of the dead, but evil angels, the messengers of Satan. Ancient idolatry, which . . . comprises both worship of the dead and pretended communion with them, is declared by the Bible to have been demon worship. The apostle Paul, in warning his brethren against participating in any manner in the idolatry of their heathen neighbors, says, ‘The things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God, and I would not that you should have fellowship with devils.’ 1 Corinthians 10:20. . . .

“Satan leads men to consult those that have familiar spirits; and by revealing hidden things of the past, he inspires confidence in his power to foretell things to come. By experience gained through the long ages, he can reason from cause to effect, and often forecast, with a degree of accuracy, some of the future events of man’s life. Thus he is enabled to deceive poor, misguided souls, and bring them under his power, and lead them captive at his will.” - PP 683-687.

D. SPIRITUALISM IN HEATHENISM.

1 Corinthians 10:20.

“In heathen lands Spiritualism has reached its great development. Here we can study Spiritualism as it is. In India, Africa, China, and other heathen lands Spiritualism has come to its fairest fruitage, and done its most perfect work. In these lands it manifests itself in its true colors, and makes no pretensions of being Christian. It is the direct cause of the deepest degradation and the most debasing superstitions. It fills the minds of its ignorant and superstitious votaries with constant terror for fear of physical and mental harm from evil spirits. The mediumship of its priests, witches, conjurers, powwows, and medicine men has opened the way to the most fearful tyranny and terrorism, in many minds resulting in complete mental wreck and ruin.

“There are spirit mediums in INDIA today by the thousand, and they are in all essential respects the same as the spirit mediums of England and America, for they do the same things, teach the same doctrines, perform the same wonders, and claim the same intercourse with the spirit world.” “There is not the shadow of a single degree of difference between the two.”

“For thousands of years CHINA has been worshiping spirits. There nearly every household worships about its ancestral tablets, invoking the spirits of the departed, and there spirits and spirit mediums abound on every hand.

“In AFRICA, the Dark Continent ‘dark because Spiritualism has cursed it for ages, there is the same barbarism and degradation as in other lands. It has its spirit mediums, its medicine men, its witches; and the spirits of the dead are the objects of worship. . . .

“Mr. White, a Wesleyan missionary, says: ‘There is a class of people in NEW ZEALAND, called Eruku, or priests. These men pretend to have intercourse with departed spirits . . . by which they are able to kill by incantation any person on whom their anger may fall.’”-C. B. Haynes in “Spiritualism Versus Christianity,” pages 62-68.

“We do not mean by this to assert that all Spiritualists are bad. We are not dealing with individuals who may be deceived, but with the system which has deceived them. Nor do we mean that Spiritualism in Christendom reveals itself in the same manner as Spiritualism in heathendom. What we do say is that the source of the spirit manifestations both in Christendom under the name of Spiritualism, and in heathendom under the name of demon worship and devilism, is identical.” - Id., page 63.

“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, ‘You shall not surely die.’ . . . 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.’ Revelation 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.” - GC 561, 562.

KEY TEXTS

Isaiah 8:19, 20

1 Chronicles 10:13,14

Daniel 2:27, 28

1 Corinthians 10:20

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. When and with what characteristics was Spiritualism first introduced?
2. Why do evil spirits choose to masquerade as the departed dead?
3. What leads men to desire communion with the spirits?
4. How may we know the source of superhuman messages?
5. Of what importance is it that we personally know the facts of this lesson.

TEST QUESTIONS

Answer With Ample Bible Proof

1. In what different ways was Spiritualism manifested in ancient times?
2. What facts of the experience of Saul show that Samuel did not appear to him at Endor?
3. How is the character of Satan seen in Spiritualism?
4. What works of evil does Satan accomplish by these methods?

5. How do we know there are evil spirits at work among men in this world?

35. Spirits of Devils Working Miracles

“I SAW that the saints must get a thorough understanding of present truth, which they will be obliged to maintain from the Scriptures. They must understand the state of the dead; for the spirits of devils will yet appear to them, professing to be beloved friends and relatives, who will declare to them that the Sabbath has been changed, also other unscriptural doctrines. They will do all in their power to excite sympathy, and will work miracles before them, to confirm what they declare. The people of God must be prepared to withstand these spirits with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who appear to them are the spirits of devils. Our minds must not be taken up with things around us, but must be occupied with the present truth, and a preparation to give a reason of our hope with meekness and fear. We must seek wisdom from on high, that we may stand in this day of error and delusion.” - EW 87, 88.

SELECTED REFERENCES

AA 288-290; GC 500-517; EW 59, 60; 262-266; [5] Pages 472-478; [6] Pages 224-245; [10] Pages 584-590.

Memorize: Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.

A. SPIRITUALISM IN MODERN ENLIGHTENMENT.

1 Timothy 4d, 2; Matthew 24:26; Revelation 22:15; 16:14.

The origin and progress of modern Spiritualism fulfilling prophecy.

“To the secluded and unambitious village of Hydesville, Wayne County, New York, belongs the preeminent distinction of being the place where originated, in a manner most casual, and seemingly insignificant for the time, in respect to duration or results, this most mysterious, wonderful, and widespread psychic psychological phenomenon. It was from Hydesville that these manifestations were introduced—so to speak—in the city of Rochester, and where, by the great notoriety which soon characterized them, they came to be known, universally, as the ‘Rochester Knockings.’ . . . The humble house in Hydesville was occupied, in 1847, by Mr. Michael Weekman, who at different times that year, heard rappings upon his door, but on every occasion failed to discover any person present, or any producing source or cause. . . . Under these strange and uncomfortable circumstances, Mr. Weekman left the premises, which, however, were soon tenanted by the family of Mr. John D. Fox. But, so far from a change of occupants being attended by a cessation of the rappings, the very reverse was the fact. From March, 1848, the house was disturbed, from night to night, by the same constantly recurring sounds, rappings, tappings, knocks, and even shuffling of furniture, and which could not be accounted for on the hypothesis of natural agency.

“The source of the noises appeared to be in close proximity to the bed occupied by two of the Fox girls. It is related that one of them, some ten or eleven years of age, thought she would just try the experiment, sportively, of responding to the raps by a close and accurate repetition of them with her fingers. Her efforts were so far successful as to elicit reciprocal sounds from the invisible agency. In a little while, the parties were enabled to open a distinct communication. “-R. M. Devens, in “Our First Century,” pages 472, 473.

“On the family moving, soon after, to the neighboring city of Rochester, the manifestations still accompanied them; the family took up their abode with a married sister, Mrs. Fish, who subsequently became celebrated as a medium, through whom the manifestations were exhibited.” -Id., page 483.

“I saw that the mysterious knocking, in New York and other places, was the power of Satan, and that such things would be more and more common, clothed in a religious garb so as to lull the deceived to greater security, and to draw the minds of God’s people, if possible, to those things, and cause them to doubt the teachings and power of the Holy Ghost. This view was given in 1849, nearly five years since. Then spirit manifestations were mostly confined to the city of Rochester, known as the ‘Rochester Knockings.’ Since that time the heresy has spread beyond the expectations of any one. . . .

“I saw the rapping delusion—what progress it was making, and that if it were possible it would deceive the very elect. Satan will have power to bring before us the appearance of forms purporting to be our relatives or friends now sleeping in Jesus. It will be made to appear as if these friends were present; the words that they uttered while here, with which we were familiar, will be spoken, and the same tone of voice that they had while living, will fall upon the ear. All this is to deceive the saints, and ensnare them into the

belief of this delusion.” - EW 86, 87.

“In all the nations of Europe, Asia, and Africa, the phenomena of Spiritualism have become widely prevalent. And only ten years subsequent to the first development, its newspapers estimated the number of its avowed adherents at one and a half million, with one thousand public and private mediums, and a literature of five hundred different works.” R. M. Devens, in “Our First Century,” page 478.

B. MANIFESTATIONS IN MODERN SETTINGS.

It Spiritualism did not remain a manifestation merely in the form of rappings. It has developed through various stages, and its manifestations are now revealed in a number of different forms. One of the usual modes of operation is for a few individuals to sit at a table, one of whom must be a medium, that is, a person who acts as a connecting link between the visible and the invisible, through whom the invisible agent may operate. All lay their hands upon the table, touching it lightly, and observe the utmost silence, when shortly the table begins to move.”-C. B. Haynes, in “Spiritualism Versus Christianity,” page 18.

“Another form by which messages come from unseen spirits is the ouija board. This is a board upon which stands a small triangular table with three legs. On the board are printed the letters of the alphabet, the figures from one to ten, and the three words ‘yes,’ ‘no,’ and ‘good-by.’ . . . Of this ouija board an advertisement declares that ‘many people have demonstrated that this wonderful talking board is the link that connects the living with the spirits of those who have gone before.’”-Id., pages 20, 21.

“But the phenomena of Spiritualism are manifested in other forms. Other material objects are moved about, lifted up, and broken in pieces. . . . Musical instruments play themselves [?], the bows of violins moving over the strings without being touched by a visible hand. Hands have appeared writing upon the wall; these hands have been touched and felt, some warm and some cold to the touch; individuals have been seized and shaken with violence, while their clothes have been torn off them. The very forms of individuals known to have been long dead have been made to appear. Facts have been revealed and secrets made known which were beyond the power of the living to discover; dead friends have been represented as returning from the world of spirits, and talking with the living, sometimes comforting, sometimes warning, sometimes telling the truth, and sometimes lying.

“Some of these wonders and antics are doubtless frauds, tricks, and impositions done by sleight of hand, but many of them are so mysterious and remarkable that they have produced conviction in the minds of some of the world’s profoundest thinkers, that some strange and unseen intelligence is thus operating. Performing marvels, and communicating information to those who are led to seek the aid of these invisible spirits and to submit to their control.”-Id., pages 19, 20.

“We must remember that the conclusions which have been drawn from these so-called spirit manifestations by such men as Crookes, Curie, Lombroso, Morselli, Sir Oliver Lodge, and several score of their brother scientists, are not the credulous mingling of hysteria, darkness, and fraud which we commonly associate with mediumship and seances, but are the cold deductions of calculating, unsympathetic science. Such men can scarcely be mistaken when the exacting methods of the laboratory have demonstrated the existence of intelligences outside the physical realm.” - Bible Truth Series, No. 51, page 2.

C. SCIENTISTS BAFFLED-WHY?

“Scientists can perform an experiment in chemistry or physics again and again, and under similar conditions will get unvarying results. But when a scientist comes to deal with the caprices of a living, self-determining, self-acting thing, he can no more predict its next whim than the most unscientific mortal. The operations of a machine may be accurately forecast, but the wisest of men will have difficulty in predicting the antics of a monkey. An astronomer would have no difficulty in locating on his celestial map the farthest planets and stars, but all his mathematical learning and astronomical wisdom would not help him in locating his boy’s cap the next morning.”-C. B. Haynes, in “Spiritualism Versus Christianity,” P. 88.

D. WHY? WHY? WHY?

“If these avowed communications from our dead are authentic, why, in the name of reason, must those who were sober, refined, and inspiring in life, resort to circus tricks after they die, and blow horns, and strike strings of musical instruments, and tip tables, and make chairs dance, and write between the leaves of sealed slates? . . . Why? Simply because those departed friends are peacefully sleeping.”-Bible Truth Series, No. 51, page 4.

“I believe that there is not a single one of the long list of advanced spiritistic operators who has not

been convicted time and again of fraud and deceit. And we are led to ask, with Mr. Rupert Hughes, noted American novelist, ‘If our departed dead-are trying to communicate with us at all, why should they choose as their medium of communication only cheats and swindlers?’ “-Id., page 6.

“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, 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?” - GC 551, 552.

E. THE SINISTER FIGURE BEHIND THE SCENES.

“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.

“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.’ “- GC 552.

“If there were no other evidence of the real character of Spiritualism, it should be enough for the Christian that the spirits make no difference between righteousness and sin. Between the noblest and purest of the apostles of Christ and the most corrupt of the servants of Satan.” - GC 556, 557.

F. FORBIDDEN GROUND.

Leviticus 19:31; 20:6, 27; Jeremiah 27:9, 10; Isaiah 8:19, 20.

“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 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.” - GC 558.

“Angels of God will preserve His people while they walk in the path of duty; but there is no assurance of such protection for those who deliberately venture upon Satan’s ground.” - 5T 198.

KEY TEXTS

1 Timothy 4:1, 2

Matthew 24:26

Leviticus 20:6

Revelation 16:14

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. How, when, and where did modern Spiritualism begin?
2. What subtle deceptions lead men and women into its snares?
3. What characteristics prove the messages are not from the dead?
4. Why are scientists at a loss to explain the true manifestations?
5. What is the true Christian’s only safety from evil spirits?

TEST QUESTIONS

Answer With Ample Bible Proof

1. What prophecies and statements warn us against the seance?
2. How does God regard any of these ways of communication?
3. What will yet be seen in spiritualistic delusion?
4. What final doom is pronounced upon the multitude of ensnared?
5. Have the living ever received a message from the dead?