



Sams

**William F.
Dankenbring**

Enigma of the Ages

What is

SATAN'S FATE?

Satan the devil is the arch-enemy of mankind and the Enemy of God. He has attempted to thwart, subvert and oppose God's Plan all through history and prehistory! What will his final punishment be? What is his ULTIMATE FATE?

You will read in this book things NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN PRINT! You will find answers to such topics as:

- **Origin of Satan**
- **The Purpose of the Lake of Fire**
- **Can Angels Die?**
- **Satan's Fate Described**
- **The Meaning of the Word "Forever"**
- **"Wandering Stars"**
- **Eternal Punishing Versus Eternal Punishment!**
- **Did God Make a Fatal Assumption?**
- **What Is "Hell"**
- **Physical Stars — a Type?**
- **Supernovas**
- **"Black Holes" in Space**
- **The Meaning of Abad**
- **Katargeo Destruction**
- **Matter and Antimatter**
- **The Relevance of Einstein's Formula**
- **Satan's Fate — the Evidence Combined**

SATAN'S FATE

by

William F. Dankenbring



Triumph Publishing Company
P.O. Box 292
Altadena, CA 91001

SATAN'S
FATE

© copyright 1982 by William F. Dankenbring

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book, or any portions thereof, in any form, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review.

International Standard Book # 0-917182-21-9

Library of Congress Catalog Card # 81-85810

Thomas Publishing Company
P.O. Box 522
Alhambra, CA 91801

Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of
the book it is written of me, *I delight to do
thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within
my heart.*

—Psa. 40:7-8, *King James Version*

I have proclaimed glad tidings of
righteousness in the great assembly—
tidings of uprightness and right standing
with God. Lo, I have not restrained my
lips, as You know, O Lord.

I have not concealed Your righteousness
within my heart; I have proclaimed Your
faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not
hid away (concealed) Your steadfast love
and *Your truth* from the great assembly.

Withhold not Your tender mercies from
me, O Lord; let Your lovingkindness and
Your truth continually preserve me!

—Psa. 40:9-11, *Amplified Bible*

Table of Contents

Author's Foreword	xi
Why This Book Had To Be Written	xv
Preface	xxv
<i>Chapter One</i>	
The Origin of Satan	1
<i>Chapter Two</i>	
What Is "Hell"?	17
<i>Chapter Three</i>	
Is "Hell" Everlasting?	31
<i>Chapter Four</i>	
The Lake of Fire	41
<i>Chapter Five</i>	
Can Angels Die?	55
<i>Chapter Six</i>	
Satan's Fate Described	63
<i>Chapter Seven</i>	
Satan's Fate and the Fate of Stars	75
<i>Chapter Eight</i>	
The Evidence Combined	91
<i>Chapter Nine</i>	
The Two Trees	99
Appendix	125

Produce your cause, saith the Lord; bring forth your *strong reasons*, saith the King of Jacob.

—Isaiah 41:21, *KJV*.

Now, the Eternal cries, bring your case forward, now, Jacob's King cries, *state your proofs*.

—same verse, *Moffatt*.

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with *all readiness of mind*, and *searched the scriptures daily*, whether those things were so.

—Acts 17:11, *KJV*.

Important principles may and must be inflexible.

—Abraham Lincoln.

I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference.

—Abraham Lincoln.

From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth,
From the laziness that is content with half-truths,
From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,
O God of Truth, deliver us.

—*An Ancient Prayer.*

The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but
the righteous are *bold as a lion*.

—Proverbs 28:1.

Here I stand, I can do no other.
God help me. Amen.

—Martin Luther, before the
Diet of Worms, April 1521.

Author's Foreword

The opinions expressed in this book are solely those of the author. No warranty is made or intended as to the acceptance of the author's view by any church, denomination or other group. The author believes that the conclusions reached in this work are supported by the Biblical evidence. If he should be proved wrong, then he will most gladly acknowledge the same; if not, then he will hold to his conclusions even if unpopular.

The author trembles before the Word of God; therefore he is bound before God to accept His Word, and His alone, no matter how unpopular his views may appear to others. The author is bound before Almighty God to seek the truth, without fear of men, or seeking the favor of men, but the favor which comes from God only. As the apostle Paul so eloquently declared: "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased *men*, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10).

Jesus did not compromise with God's revelation, or allow Himself to change it, to please men. Unfortunately this was not true of all those who heard him. John tells us: "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him [or, believed what He taught]; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him [or publically admit that they agreed with Him!], lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they *loved the praise of men* more than the praise of God" (John 12:42-43).

As God's servants, we should be concerned not with the praise of men but solely with the praise of God. God will not praise us if we compromise with His truth, even if it does force or compel us to fly in the face of entrenched or established opinion.

It has been said that it is ten times harder to change and admit error, when proven wrong, than to simply imbibe new truth. That is certainly a true statement. Some people even reject the commandment of God that they may keep their own traditions (Mark 7:6-9, 13). It seems *so difficult* for one to admit it when he has been wrong for many years; it is worse than pulling teeth without a pain-killer. It is so difficult that most people simply will not do it.

Most people, sincere as they may be, are like those described by Winston S. Churchill, who declared: "Most people, sometimes in their lives, stumble across the truth. Most jump up, brush themselves off, and hurry on about their business as if nothing had happened."

Are we like that?

A story has been told about a well known scholar and scientist who one day was handed a beautiful sea shell of a strange species unknown to him. Its very existence tended to threaten ruin for his whole life's work in sea shell classification. It upset all of his finely researched theories!

As the biologist considered the sea shell, turning it over in his hands, his distress became acute. Abruptly he dropped the shell to the floor and stamped upon it with his foot, grinding it to powder and dust. "*There,*" he exclaimed with a sigh of relief, "*it doesn't exist!*"

But of course, although he denied its existence, it still *did* exist. And his hiding his eyes from the obvious eventually became a matter of grave concern to his colleagues, for they eventually found other sea shells of the same kind, and his entire work in classification still had to be altered and corrected.

The point is: It does no good to deny the truth. Even if we stubbornly refuse to accept it, eventually it will come back to haunt us. If we reject it, our rejection does not disprove it. It merely delays the day of reckoning. But eventually, at the coming of Christ, *all truth* will be revealed, and those who have stubbornly clung to error will be ashamed and crestfallen in that day.

As we study God's Word, and He instructs us, and teaches us new truth, we should welcome it and embrace it and cling

to it preciously. We should not depart from it or deny it. We should *love* it, and be thankful for the opportunity to grow and change!

Jesus said plainly: “Ye shall know the *truth*, and the truth shall make you *FREE!*” (John 8:32). Free from the bondage to error! Free from enslavement to false beliefs! Free from the shackles of human error and mistakes! Free from the gyves of sin!

The day is rapidly coming when the whole world will be powerfully deceived, in the grip of a mass delusion. And many people will be misled, the apostle Paul prophesied, “*because they received not the love of the truth*, that they might be saved” (II Thess. 2:10).

Do we have a “love of the truth”? Would we compromise with the proof from God’s own Word as to some truth He has revealed to us, to please or placate the opinions of other men or authorities? Would we compromise?

Those who deny Christ, or His truth, He will likewise deny at His second coming. Those who are ashamed of His truth, He will be ashamed of when He returns. Those who desire to please men more than God will receive no reward from God. Paul wrote, “*whatsoever is not of faith is sin*” (Rom. 14:23). If you compromise with your conscience, and fail to embrace truth which you know in your heart is right, because of the pressure brought to bear of men, or because of the fear of men, then you are not a true servant of God and of Jesus Christ.

God said to the prophet Isaiah, in a message for all of us: “*but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word*” (Isaiah 66:2).

Do we tremble at God’s Word? Do we love it and consider it priceless?

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
—I Thess. 5:21, *KJV*

Do not scoff at those who prophesy, but test everything that is said to be sure it is true, and if it is, then accept it.

—*Living Bible*

Put all things to the test: keep what is good and avoid every kind of evil.

—*Good News Bible*

Why This Book Had To Be Written

Years ago, in 1978 it was, I wrote a book entitled *Beyond Star Wars*, a fascinating book which proved to be very popular, and which in the hardcover and paperback first edition sold over 30,000 copies. That book had a great influence upon many people, opening their eyes to truths in the Bible they never before understood. It discussed, among other things, new facts on Atlantis, Easter Island, the Exodus, Joshua's long day, Noah's flood, the Babel cataclysm, the mystery of the Great Pyramid, Sodom and Gomorrah, UFOs, the extinction of the dinosaurs, the incredible Pleistocene extinctions including Neanderthal Man and the Beresovka Mammoth, and many other cosmic mysteries, explaining them from a Biblical point of view, addressing both biblical, paleontological, and archaeological evidence. Many people found the book to be profoundly inspiring.

However, in that book toward the end, in the last chapter, on pages 315 and 316 I wrote my personal opinion on a topic which proved to be very controversial in some circles. That is to say, a few people objected, and said that I had no right to write about the future judgment of Satan the devil and his angels, and to put my own conjecture, speculation, or personal opinion in the book, since it seemed to disagree with what they had been taught.

What I wrote proved to be a minor bombshell, like a time bomb ticking away. At that time I mentioned that some people believe the devil, being a spirit creature, cannot be destroyed or put to death. I added, "*But I am convinced* that such is not the case. Christ the Creator took on himself the nature and form of a man, and suffered death—but was resurrected from the dead. Even so, *I believe* it is certainly within the capability of the Creator God to change Satan from a spirit being into flesh, or physical matter, and then

cremate his remains in the lake of fire so that nothing is left but smoke and ashes—so there will be no vestige or hint of his former existence in the New Age to Come!”

Those comments and opinions proved to be somewhat controversial, although it was not my desire to be controversial.

What is the truth about this subject?

Solomon wrote: “A soft answer turneth away wrath” (Pro. 15:1). Peter wrote, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to *give an answer* to every man that asketh you a *reason* of the hope that is in you *with meekness* and fear” (I Pet. 3:15).

In the history of mankind, new truth or information which contradicts established opinion or orthodoxy has always had a “rough time” of it in the first few years. Galileo was called a rank heretic because he said the earth orbited the sun. Copernicus, also, was labeled a “heretic” for the same reason. Galileo was actually forced to *recant* before Papal emissaries or else he would have been thrown out of the Church, excommunicated, and he would have suffered all the indignities and injuries which that would have entailed to his person. He would probably have been put in prison, possibly even tortured or put to death.

In my book *Beyond Star Wars* I only said “*I am convinced,*” and “*I believe,*” showing that these were merely my own opinions and conjecture, based on some Biblical evidence and logical thinking.

So I have felt it very important, before God, to lay the case for Satan’s fate right out in the open. If just a few opinions or paragraphs resulted in such controversy, I have felt drawn of God and compelled by Him to study even deeper into this subject, to probe deeply, and prayerfully, with an open mind, to research this subject fully and completely, to determine once and for all whether I was right or wrong.

As for the question as to whether I should even write *my* opinion in this matter, I will simply say that the apostle Paul even wrote his opinion *in Scripture!* Writing about certain observations he was making in regard to marital relations,

Paul wrote: "But I speak this *by permission*, and not of commandment" (I Cor. 7:6). He later added, "But to the rest *speak I*, not the Lord" (v. 12). Then, in verse 25, he boldly says: "Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful." Paul concluded this chapter by saying, "I think also that I have the Spirit of God" (v. 40).

I feel the same way Paul did. In the *Phillips Translation*, Paul said in verse 25, "I give you *my considered opinion* as of one who is, I think, to be trusted after all his experience of God's mercy."

So, in the pages of this book, I dare, with the boldness and courage given to me by God, to give my considered opinion—to set forth the evidence, the incredible, majestic, impressive evidence, found in Scripture, regarding Satan's fate.

Truth is worth more than anything, regardless of where it comes from or who brings it. We should look to the message and not the bearer or human instrument. The truth will make us free. Christ came to bear witness to the *truth*. He says if we are faithful in the small things (even the little points of truth, as it were), then we will be faithful in the big matters. But if we are unfaithful in even little matters, we will be unjust and unfaithful when it comes to the big and important issues!

Are you faithful to the truth—no matter who brings it? Do you put God's holy, inviolate Word above all else in your life?

Think about it. The truth is precious. It is the way of life, the way of salvation. Only those who love the truth will escape being deceived by the incredible false miracles and signs and deceptions that are soon to come upon this world!

How important is *truth* to you?

As Paul wrote, "For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless *I am not ashamed*: for I know whom I

have believed, and *am persuaded* that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (II Tim. 1:12). Paul added, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel [good news] of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

Paul himself, I think, was like the man written about by Theodore Roosevelt, the flamboyant, vigorous advocate of the "strenuous life," and the unflappable and exciting twenty-sixth president of the United States. He wrote:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the *triumph* of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails *while daring greatly*, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

It takes courage to write these things; it takes boldness; it takes faith in God. But even the courage, the boldness, and the faith, all come from God, through His Holy Spirit! So with the boldness, and the courage which God gives, I offer to you, my readers, this new book, which I believe and hope you will find exciting, informative, inspiring, and precious beyond price. I wish you all God's blessing, and my prayers go with each and every one of you. May God bless you all!

Altadena, California

William F. Dankenbring

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

—Luke 16:10.

The man who is faithful in the little things will be faithful in the big things, and the man who cheats in the little things will cheat in the big things too.

—*Philips Translation.*

He that compromises in little things, will compromise also in the big things. Where do *you* draw the line?

Preface

Millions have wondered about the fate of Satan the devil. What is the true story about Satan? How did he originate? How did his conflict and antagonism toward the Supreme God begin? And even more, what will his final punishment be—his ultimate fate?

Will the devil live forever in some kind of eternal prison? Will he be chained up somewhere outside the pale of the Universe in some kind of abyss or bottomless pit—or a “black hole” in outer space, which modern astronomers tell us exist, and which were brought to the public’s awareness to a large extent by Walt Disney’s movie “The Black Hole”? Will he suffer indescribable torments for ever? Will he be tormented throughout all eternity, for all time?

Or will the devil be destroyed—caused to utterly perish—suffer the fate of utter destruction? “The wages of sin is death,” the Bible records in Romans 6:23. Does this awesome penalty of sin, which is lawlessness or disobedience toward God (I John 3:4), also apply directly to the chief instigator of sin, the “father of liars,” as Jesus called him? Will Satan eventually be put to death? Will his spirit being suffer some kind of celestial holocaust? Will he be devoured by flames? What does the Bible—which is the holy, inviolate, immutable Word of the Living God—say about the awesome and ultimate fate of Satan the devil?

Satan has, of course, apparently been around for millions, if not billions, of years. We will discuss his history and origin in the pages to follow, as well as the massive Bible evidence and Scriptural testimony attesting to his ultimate and final fate. The devil is, as the Bible tells us, a spirit being. The question arises, therefore, how can God punish properly a spirit being? Just what is a spirit being? Can God the Creator put a spirit being to death?

Angels, which are spirit beings, millions believe, cannot die. There is invariably one Scripture they turn to in the pages of Holy Writ to support this statement, to prove this point. This verse of the Bible many of us have read many times, over and over again. It seems to be quite conclusive, to be the final “proof” to end all argument about the matter. But have we

all assumed it says something which it really doesn't? Have we assumed something which really isn't there?

Let's read it again, very slowly and carefully.

A Much Misunderstood Scripture

Let us notice carefully, now, the verse which many seem to believe teaches that angels live forever—that they cannot die. Let us see exactly what Jesus said.

Turn to Luke 20, beginning in verse 27. "Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him, saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children. And the second took her to wife, and he died childless. And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife.

"And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: *Neither can they die any more*: for they are equal unto the *angels*; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection" (Luke 20:27-36).

Notice the point Jesus was making. These Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection, that the dead would live again. They brought up this hypothetical case of the seven brothers to entrap Jesus and to ridicule the resurrection. Jesus answered them, showing they did not know what they were talking about—they had no understanding of the resurrection from the dead. Human marriages are only binding until death (Rom. 7:2). There is no marrying or giving in marriage among those who will be raised from the dead, with glorified, immortal bodies. Also, they will not ever die again, for they will be "equal unto the angels."

In other words, they will live forever! But—does this mean that angels cannot die? What angels was Jesus talking about?

Does this verse mean, then, that Satan and the demon spirits also cannot die—that they will live forever?

That is precisely what many assume. But let's "Prove all things," as the apostle Paul commanded (I Thess. 5:21). This same encounter with the Sadducees is also recorded in Matthew's gospel and in the book of Mark. Let us see what understanding and additional information those two accounts provide, before we reach a decision.

In Mark's account, Jesus answered the Sadducees, saying, "Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; *but are as the angels which are in heaven*" (Mark 12:25).

Likewise, in the book of Matthew we read that Jesus said: "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are *as the angels of God in heaven*" (Matt. 22:29-30).

Which angels, then, will those who are resurrected from the dead be equal unto? Which angels cannot "die"? Jesus was specifically and plainly talking only about the "ANGELS OF GOD"—that is, the "ANGELS IN HEAVEN"—or, in other words, the *righteous*, holy, obedient angels! Those angels who obeyed God in the time of testing, who remained faithful and loyal, and who did not follow after Satan in rebellion—the righteous, law-abiding, obedient angels, will indeed live forever—for God says so!

But notice—Jesus was not talking about the "fallen angels," but only the "angels of God in heaven." He was talking about the "angels of God," specifically, not the angels of Satan, or those who followed the devil. Also, He was talking only about the "angels in heaven," not the evil angels who had been *cast out of heaven* to the earth!

Thus Jesus was not talking about "fallen angels," or Satan's angels, or demon spirits, at all, when He spoke of the "angels in heaven" which "cannot die." He was only talking about God's holy, righteous angels! What could be clearer than that? He very plainly said, in both Matthew's account, and Mark's account, "THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN."

Those are the righteous angels which will follow Christ as a huge angelic host, as a great innumerable army, when He returns to this earth in great and awesome power and majesty.

Jesus later told His disciples, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and **ALL THE HOLY ANGELS WITH HIM**, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (Matt. 25:31). In Revelation 19 we read of these angels, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. . . and his name is called The Word of God. And the *armies which were in heaven* followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean" (Rev. 19:11-14).

These holy angels, who remained steadfast and faithful to God are the "angels *in heaven.*" They are the ones Jesus specifically mentioned when He said we will be "equal unto the angels" and that like these holy angels, we cannot "die any more" (Luke 20:36). As the apostle John wrote, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: *on such the second death that no power*, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:6).

But what about the evil angels?

As opposed to the angels in heaven, which remained obedient to God, Jude tells us, "And 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).

The apostle Peter adds, "For if God spared not the *angels that sinned*, but **CAST THEM DOWN to hell (tartaroo**, a place or condition of "restraint" on this earth), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (II Pet. 2:4).

Jesus said that aeons ago He saw Lucifer, or Satan, like lightning cast out of heaven to the earth (Luke 10:18). Isaiah wrote, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!" (Isaiah 14:12). When Lucifer was cast down to the earth out of heaven, he drew all the wicked, evil angels

which followed him in rebellion with him. The apostle John records, "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth" (Rev. 12:4).

Describing this ancient celestial conflict (which will occur once again in our day in a final attempt by Satan to take over God's throne!), John wrote: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels (the righteous angels) fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; *neither was their place found any more in heaven.* And 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. 12:7-9).

The "fallen angels," which have become wicked spirits or demons, are presently chained to this earth awaiting their day of judgment. They are certainly *not* "the angels of God in heaven." They are not "of God," but are the angels of "the dragon," or Satan; nor are they "in heaven," but are bound in chains, awaiting judgment, having been *cast out* of heaven aeons ago!

Thus let us distinguish clearly between the angels of God in heaven which "cannot die," because God wills for them to live forever, and the evil, fallen angels which are not of God, nor are they in heaven, but were cast down to this earth, awaiting their final judgment.

The Time of Testing

Before we get into the pages of this book, and review all the Scriptural evidence regarding Satan's fate, as well as the fate of all the demons, and the Biblical fate of all the incorrigibly wicked among mankind, and learn the awesome truth about that place called "Hell," what it is, where it is, and what it really means, however, I would like to draw your attention

again to the fact that the angels which God Himself created—and he created them before the earth itself was made (Job 38:4-7)—were not only created out of spirit (“Who maketh his angels spirits,” Psalm 104:4), and also “excel in strength” (Psalm 103:20), but as individual created beings with powers of mind and independent thought, they were also created to be free moral agents, with powers of independent free choice. That is, from the beginning, they could *choose* what action to take, what decision to make, what road or pathway to follow. They could *choose* whether to obey or disobey their Creator. God created them with this power; He knew from the beginning, before they were created, that He was going to make them capable of independent thought and action. And He knew from the beginning that some of them would probably choose to disobey, to go their own way, to search things out for themselves. He knew that some of them would probably become jealous, or bitter, selfish, filled with egotism, vanity, rebellion and hatred against Him and His way of love and outgoing concern. God *knew* this. Don’t you think He planned from the very first to take care of this eventuality, this possibility? Don’t you think God had some kind of “*fail-safe*” *mechanism* He could institute just in case one of the angels went “bad”? Don’t you think God probably created, in advance, some kind of potential *self-destruct mechanism* or “doomsday device” to take care of the angels which turned to rebellion?

The angels which were created all apparently went through a special spiritual “time of testing.” We know from the Bible that the vast majority—at least two thirds of all the angels—remained faithful, loyal and obedient to God (Rev. 12:4). But apparently *one third*, including the great cherub Lucifer, the “shining star of the dawn,” whose name was changed to “Satan,” meaning “adversary,” *failed* that primordial, ancient test. They chose the wrong way; they chose the way of carnage, destruction and death—the way that inevitably and automatically, in the end, leads to doom and death and oblivion.

How then will God deal with, and punish, these violently destructive spirit beings? These beings which delight in wholesale slaughter and carnage and wanton devastation and devouring destruction—how will God finally render for them the perfect verdict—the equitable solution—the final awesome penalty—which they so richly deserve?

In the pages of this book, I believe, you will find the incredible answers.

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

—Jeremiah 33:3.

Ask me and I will tell you some *remarkable secrets* about what is going to happen here.

—*Living Bible.*

The Origin of Satan

Who—or what—is the Devil? Where did he come from? What is the origin, and the ultimate fate, of this being we call Satan?

Since time immemorial men have wondered about this question. Confusion has been rampant because the devil is the great deceiver of the whole world!

The apostle John wrote, speaking of the devil: “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, *which DECEIVETH the whole world . . .*” (Rev. 12:9).

Jesus affirmed this truth when He said to the Pharisees: “Ye are of your father the devil, and the *lusts* of your father ye will do. He was a *murderer from the beginning*, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for *he is a liar*, and the father of it” (John 8:44).

What did Jesus mean? He declared that the devil was filled with lust, was a murderer and destroyer from the very beginning of time, and the architect and beginner of liars, filled with mendacity and falsehood.

But the devil is also very clever and cunning. He very adroitly covers his lies and makes them palatable. He sugars and sweetens them and makes them appear attractive and shining on the outside. He is a crook. He was the first “hit man” in all creation—the first murderer!

But strangely, we read also in the Bible that this diabolical creature is also “the *god of this world*” who has “*blinded* the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (II Cor. 4:4). He is also “the prince of the power of the air, the *spirit* that now worketh in the children of *disobedience*” (Eph. 2:2).

Jesus acknowledged that Satan was the “ruler” of this present evil world, or society, or world civilization. The Pharisees falsely accused Him, “This fellow doth not cast out devils [demons], but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils [demons]” (Matt. 12:24). Beelzebub was one of the names for Satan.

Jesus answered them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his *kingdom* stand?” (Matt. 12:25-26).

Showing his power to Jesus, Satan tempted Him, and offered Him all the kingdoms of the world, if He would fall down and worship him. Satan said to Him: “All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me” (Matt. 4:9).

Did Jesus deny the devil’s claim? No, He did not. But rather, He said, “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (v. 10).

Thus the devil has great authority, today. He is a cunning being, appearing as an angel of righteousness, and is even worshiped by the whole world as their “god,” although the world obviously doesn’t realize that fact. He has palmed himself off as the true God.

The Word “Devil”

But who is this creature? Where did he come from?

Our English word “devil” actually comes from the Greek word *diabolos* which means “accuser,” “slanderer.” This

name is peculiarly appropriate for him because he is the "accuser of the brethren" in the Church of God, and constantly accuses them "day and night" (Rev. 12:10).

The Hebrew word *satan* literally means "an adversary," or "opponent" or "enemy." The Greek word *Satanas* has the same meaning.

Satan has many names in the Scriptures. He is variously called the Devil, the Dragon, the Evil One, the Angel of the Bottomless Pit, Leviathan, Beelzebub, Belial, the Prince of This World, the God of this World, the Prince of the Power of the Air, and Apollyon and Abaddon, which both mean "the Destroyer" (see Rev. 9:1-2; 12:9; Matt. 6:13, 13:38-39; 12:24; Psa. 74:14, Isa. 27:1; Deut. 13:13, I Cor. 6:15; John 14:30, 16:11; II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; Rev. 9:11).

Satan is characterized as a "roaring lion" seeking whom he may devour (I Pet. 5:8-9). He hates God's Church and loathes God's people, and has "great wrath" and furious anger against them (Rev. 12:12-17) and wages war against them!

But how did this all happen? How did this all begin? Where and how did this strange and powerful being originate? Where did he come from? And what will his ultimate fate be?

Did God create a Devil?

Many have puzzled over the question of the ultimate origin of Satan the devil. Scholars of the Bible and laymen alike have been mystified by this question. Millions of others have been perplexed about the ultimate fate of the devil.

According to popular theology, the devil is the "lord of darkness" and the "king of Hell," and his duties include broiling the wicked over flaming fires for all eternity, cackling with glee and mirth at their horrible screams and cries. Milton, the blind poet, in his epic *Paradise Lost*, has the devil exclaiming in effect, "I had rather reign in hell than serve in heaven!"

But contrary to the assumptions of millions, the Bible nowhere suggests or implies such a destiny for the devil! This popular concept is derived from ancient pagan mythology regarding the god Pluto, the "god of the dead" and "god of darkness," the "lord of the underworld." Dante in his *Divine Comedy* did much to popularize this belief.

In order to truly understand what God has revealed about Satan, we must turn to the Holy Bible for answers. First of all, then, who is this being called "Satan"? Where did he come from? Does he really exist? Let's understand!

The Dawn of Time

Some believe that from the very beginning Satan was an evil competitor and adversary against God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Some believe that Satan is co-equal with God. In actual fact, since most Christians will grant that the majority of mankind today are lost in sin, it would stand to reason that they believe Satan is stronger than God! For, if God is stronger and mightier than Satan, then why is the vast, overwhelming majority of mankind confused, lost in ignorance and darkness?

This concept, however, is false. The truth is, Satan can do nothing which God Himself does not allow or permit!

Who is this being called "Satan," then? When and how did he originate? What is his history? And what does the future hold for him and his followers?

To understand this, let us go back to the beginning. In the Bible we read: "*In the beginning, GOD created the heavens and the earth*" (Genesis 1:1). The Hebrew word for "God," here, is *Elohim* and literally means "the Mighty Ones." What this expression actually refers to is revealed in the New Testament book of John, where we read: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made*" (John 1:1-3).

The Godhead

John goes on to explain, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (verse 14). The Word, therefore, was the One who became Jesus Christ!

Thus the Bible reveals that from time immemorial there were two Beings who were God—that is, there were two members of the Godhead, or “God Family”—the one called God, and the one called the Word, who was also God. That is very plainly what John said! No wonder then that in the original Hebrew the word translated “God” in Genesis 1:1 was *Elohim* and means “the Mighty Ones”—a plural word! These two beings were united in purpose, plan and thought. They were both “God,” and one became known as the “Father,” whereas the other became known as the “Son of God,” when he took upon Himself human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary.

Notice, now, that these two beings, acting in concert, did all the creating—they created everything—the ENTIRE UNIVERSE! There was nothing else in existence beside them, therefore, and there was nothing created apart from them or without them!

The apostle Paul sheds further light upon this mystery. He wrote, speaking of Jesus Christ, “For BY HIM (Jesus) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: *all things were created by him, AND FOR HIM: And he is before all things*, and by him all things consist” (Col. 1:16-17).

Paul explains this mystery even further in the first chapter of the book of Hebrews, where we read: “GOD (speaking of the “Father”), who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by HIS SON, whom he hath appointed *heir of all things*, BY WHOM ALSO HE MADE THE WORLDS” (Heb. 1:1-2).

Notice that it was the One who became Jesus who did the actual creating—“by whom he made the worlds.” And it is the intention of God the Father that Jesus shall someday inherit “ALL THINGS”—that is, the ENTIRE UNIVERSE, as the Moffatt translation has it! The expression “all things” obviously leaves out *nothing*!

Paul provides even more light on this question when he explains in greater detail, in the book of I Corinthians: “For as

in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming (which prophecy indicates will be very soon, now!).

“*Then cometh the end*, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have PUT DOWN all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put *all enemies under his feet*. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him (Christ), it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him (that is, the Father).

“And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all” (I Cor. 15:22-28).

Fascinating! Do you grasp the marvelous nature of what we have just read? Eventually, all enemies, including Satan the devil, will be brought into subjection to Christ—shall be put “under his feet.” And when Christ shall have inherited the entire Universe, He will deliver up the entire Kingdom to His Father, in subjection to Him, that God may be all in all.

Lucifer, the Light Bringer

In the beginning, according to the Scriptures, there were only two beings—both members of the Godhead. They were the “Father” and the “Word.” The actual Greek word translated “Word” was *Logos* and literally means the “Spokesman” or “Revelatory Thought” of God. Both were God, and One—the *Logos*—later became Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

At that primordial time there was no devil, no Satan—in fact, nothing else.

At some point, God decided to begin creating. He began, as far as the Scriptures reveal, by creating a host of myriad angelic beings to serve and praise Him and carry out His commands. David, the Psalmist, declared: “Bless the Lord, ye his

angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word" (Psa. 102:20).

The angels were present when God created the heavens and the earth. God revealed this truth to Job when He said to him, "Where wast *thou* when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof? *When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*" (Job 38: 4-7).

"Morning stars" are a symbol for angels in the Bible (compare Rev. 1:20 where "stars" are shown to be "angels"). The angels were "sons of God" by an act of divine creation. They were His created subjects, and in that sense His "sons" or "children."

Among these rejoicing, joyous "morning stars" was one known by the name of Lucifer. We read more about this "morning star" or "son of the morning" in Isaiah, chapter 14. Something very bizarre happened to this particular created son of God. Notice the intriguing account: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!" Isaiah laments. "How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne *above the stars of God* (that is, above all the other angels!): I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:12-14).

Notice: 1) this particular "morning star" or angel had been given a throne, or rulership (he said, "I will exalt *my* throne"); 2) that throne was not in heaven; therefore, it was upon the earth! 3) he rebelled against the Most High God, and launched an assault against heaven; 4) he was filled with ego, and wanted to be "like the most High"—that is, he wanted to play "God"! He wanted to *be* God! Second fiddle was not good enough for him! Having his own throne upon the earth was not enough territory for him. He wanted it all!

Satan's Origin

This powerful angel had been given his own throne upon the earth. His name was then "Lucifer," which in Hebrew is *Helel* and means "brightness," "the morning star," "shining star of the dawn."

Ezekiel wrote: "Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the *king* of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty" (Ezek. 28:11-12). This could not have been written about any man, for no man has ever been "perfect," "sealing up the sum" of perfection, except Jesus Christ! The ancient king of Tyre was merely a human type, symbolizing the great fallen "shining one," as we shall see as we go on.

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast **CREATED**" (verse 13).

The king of Tyre was never in Eden, the Garden of God! Obviously this is talking about another being altogether! And this being was a "created" being—he wasn't "born" of a human father and mother. This was a brilliant, resplendent being, covered with precious gemstones—a perfectly, beautifully created being!

Verse 14 is the clincher. Here we read, very plainly: "THOU ART THE ANOINTED CHERUB that covereth; and I have set thee so; thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. *Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee*" (verses 14-15).

The word "cherub" is singular for "cherubim"—the super arch-angels, the greatest created beings God ever fashioned

and brought into existence. They were glorious and resplendent with beauty, wisdom, and power. The cherub Lucifer was at one time one of the two cherubs that "covered" the Throne of God.

The Cherubim

The fact that two cherubs covered the throne of God is revealed in the directions God gave Moses for the making of the ark of the covenant. Moses was told: "And thou shalt make a mercy seat (throne) of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And thou shalt make *two cherubims* of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, *covering the mercy seat* with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be" (Exodus 25:17-20).

What did the cherubim look like? A vivid description of these super-powerful angelic beings is given in Ezekiel, chapter 10. We read: "And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river Chebar" (verse 14).

Ezekiel continues, in verse 20: "This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubims. Every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings" (verses 20-21).

The first time Ezekiel saw these mysterious creatures was in the fifth day of the fourth month, the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity, approximately 595 B.C. He was among the Jewish captives, by the river Chebar, when, he relates, "that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of

God" (Ezek. 1:1). He saw a whirlwind, and a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and out of this frightening cloud came four living creatures. Ezekiel describes them vividly: "And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

"As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

"Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

"And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning" (Ezekiel 1:5-14).

What a strange sight! Can you imagine it? Here were these awesome creatures, identified in chapter 10 as the cherubim of God. They were brilliant and dazzling, super arch-angels of God. Each one had four faces and four wings. One of the four faces was the face of a "cherub," or an "ox." These were mighty creatures—created by God Himself to carry His Throne, and perhaps to guard it as well. They were very swift creatures. They could travel "like lightning"—that is, *at the speed of light!*

Ezekiel continues: "And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the ap-

pearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

“And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

“As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake” (Ezek. 1:26-28).

Here the very Throne of God is described!

Obviously, this was a scene of incredible majesty and brilliance and power—the nerve center of the entire Universe! The control-room of all Creation—the headquarters of the government of God!

At one time, long ago, one of these covering cherubs was Lucifer, the “morning star,” the “light-bringer.” But he lost his place—he forfeited his right to be among the guardians of God’s Throne! Iniquity—lawlessness—the spirit of disobedience—was found in him. He rebelled against God. When God gave him a throne of his own, in Eden the garden of God, it wasn’t good enough. He wasn’t satisfied. He craved more, more, more! He wanted to get, get, GET! He wanted to take to himself, to seize what did not belong to him, to grasp greedily for more power, glory and authority!

In this diabolical attitude, he launched from the earth an invasion of heaven—an invasion of outer space!

But his plot aborted. His coup failed. In the book of Revelation, we read what happened.

Cast Out!

In the book of Revelation, we read of a great red dragon whose tail drew one third of the *stars* of heaven and did cast them to the earth (Rev. 12:3-4). This great dragon, John tells

us, is "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan" (Rev. 12:9).

Apparently, one third of the angels followed Satan in his attempt to overthrow the throne of God, to kick God off His throne! "Stars" often symbolize angels (Rev. 1:20). When the devil was cast down to the earth, one third of the angels were cast down with him!

Isaiah described this battle this way: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" (Isa. 14:12).

Ezekiel added: "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast SINNED: therefore I will *cast thee* as profane out of the mountain of God; and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

"Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will *cast thee to the ground*, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee" (Ezek. 28:16-17).

Tohu and Bohu

When did Satan's original revolution begin? What happened? Not very much is told us about it in the pages of the Bible. However, with a little detective work, we can put two and two together.

We know that Satan had already corrupted his way before the time of Adam and Eve, for when they were created, he approached them in the guise of a snake, and lied to them, trying to turn them away from God (see Genesis 3:1-7). He was already in rebellion against God by that time, approximately 6000 years ago!

Jesus said of the devil, "He was a murderer *from the beginning*, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

“*From the beginning,*” Jesus said. That goes back a long, long way! Because it was “*in the beginning,*” you will remember, that God “created the heavens and the earth.”

Let’s go back to that “beginning,” and see if the Bible gives us any evidence what happened!

Let’s go back to Genesis 1. We have already seen that God created the angelic beings, and that they shouted for joy when He created the heavens and the earth. That original time of creation, if scientists and astronomers are right, may have been millions or even billions of years ago! The Bible doesn’t say how long ago God created the heavens and the earth; it simply says, “In the beginning.” God has left it to man to study, experiment, and try to ascertain when that original “beginning” was. As wise king Solomon wrote: “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter. The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable” (Proverbs 25:2-3).

What happened after that long ago, pristine and primordial creation?

We read: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was (BECAME, Hebrew) *without form and void; (tohu and bohu, Hebrew)* and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light” (Gen. 1:1-3). The word translated “was” in this verse is translated “*became*” in Genesis 19:26 where we read Lot’s wife “*became* a pillar of salt.”

What happened?

After God created the heavens and the earth, *chaos struck!* Something went wrong! The surface of the earth BECAME “tohu and bohu” in the original Hebrew—that is, chaotic and confused, desolate and ruined, a lifeless wasteland, a burned out orbiting lifeless planet, a burned out hunk of junk!

Everything God created is beautiful, and good. Isaiah tells us that originally when God created the earth, He created it

NOT "in tohu" or in chaos! Isaiah wrote: "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, *he created it* NOT IN VAIN (not a chaotic waste, Hebrew, TOHU), he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else" (Isa. 45:18).

How clear! Originally, the earth was a beautiful world—a place of dazzling beauty. According to the investigations of geologists and paleontologists, it was a world teeming with life—plant life and animal life. Fish swarmed in the seas, dinosaurs roamed the land, other animals flew through the skies. Many generations went on, perhaps millions of years. But then tragedy struck. Satan rebelled, and threw the earth into sheer chaos and confusion! He sinned, and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Disaster was visited upon the earth, and its creatures. Great extinctions occurred. The dinosaurs, which had existed for perhaps millions of years, suddenly perished—virtually "overnight," in the geological sense. Life on planet earth was destroyed in a massive cataclysm! All physical life as we know it perished in the maelstrom.

God's Word says, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace" (I Cor. 14:33). If God isn't the author of confusion, *who is?* Can there be any doubt? If God's way leads to peace, then whose way leads to *war*?

The apostle James tells us: "But if ye have bitter envying and *strife* in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom (or approach toward life) descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, *devilish*. For where *envying* and *strife* is, there is CONFUSION and every evil work"—that is, the works of the devil! (James 3:14-16).

Even so, perhaps it was millions of years ago that the devil—originally created to be a beautiful arch-angel, before the creation of the earth—began his rebellion against God, and has been a rebel ever since!

When the arch-angel Lucifer tried to take over God's Throne, and rose up from the earth to assault God, he and his minions were cast back down to earth in a flaming, stun-

ning display of power! Their revolution was squashed. And they were bound in chains to the earth. Their former brilliance and power was taken away from them. God did, however, leave them with enough power so that they would be useful to Him in carrying out His Plan on the earth with mankind!

The apostle Peter explains what happened to them after their original rebellion: "For if God spared not the *angels that sinned*, but CAST THEM DOWN to hell (Greek *tar-taroo*, meaning a "place of restraint" or condition of imprisonment), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (II Peter 2:4).

Jude elaborates a little further: "And 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).

Of this original time of rebellion and judgment, Jesus clearly told His disciples: "I beheld Satan as *lightning fall from heaven*" (Luke 10:18).

Whenever this original act of rebellion occurred, which we are not precisely given to know at this time, ever since then Satan the devil has been actively in rebellion against God on this earth, trying to thwart and stop the Plan of God.

When Lucifer rebelled, his name was changed from Lucifer, meaning "Light bringer," to Satan, meaning "adversary." He has been a murderous, lying, envy filled, hate filled adversary ever since that ancient time. Jesus called him a murderer and a liar.

Lucifer has been cast down to the earth. He is now in a condition of restraint and can do only that which God allows or permits. But the day is coming when he shall be judged and pay the penalty for his evil deeds and meretricious character. He will pay for his cunning savagery and mayhem. What will his punishment be?

What Is "Hell"?

Before we can really understand the truth about Satan's Fate, as it is described in the Bible, we must first of all understand what the Bible really teaches about "hell."

Does the Bible teach a literal "hell" for the wicked? If so, what is it? You would be surprised at the total confusion and immense ignorance that surrounds this question!

Before we discuss at length the subject of Satan's final punishment, let us thoroughly understand this matter of "hell." What is it? Where did this word come from? What is the Biblical meaning of "hell"?

Pagan Concepts of Hell

The concept of hell has been a vital part of pagan mythology since the earliest time. Ancient Egyptian religious texts, called the Pyramid Texts, are mainly concerned with the desire of the dead to avoid leading a gloomy existence in the "underworld." The Egyptians believed the souls of the dead had to traverse a vast wilderness region called the Tuat, which was inhabited by gods, demons, fiends, evil spirits, wicked souls, snakes and monsters of all kinds. After successfully traversing this deadly region, they would be ushered into the

Hall of Judgment of Osiris, the chief Egyptian diety. Those who received a favorable verdict were purified and transported to the fields of Alu to enjoy eternal life. But those who were condemned were dismembered, underwent a "second death," were tortured by burning coals, plunged into deep waters, and hacked to pieces by sharp swords.

Writes Kaufmann Kohler, "We have here the very *origin* of the Inferno and Paradiso" (*Heaven and Hell in Comparative Religion*, p. 23).

The Popular concept of "hell" is totally pagan in its origin. Writes Luran Paine in *The Hierarchy of Hell*: "Whatever the origin, Hell came into the Christian theology, not in an original form, but already fashioned and sustained by *thousand of years* of ceaseless forming, and, *like much else in Christian theology, was PAGAN in origin . . .*" (p. 11).

The pagans populated "hell" with fierce creatures of the night—creatures as terrifying as the human imagination could make them. Grotesque gargoyles, wolves and serpents slithering along beds of hot coals, creatures with frightful faces, mutilated, altered, exaggerated, horrible to look upon—these were the denizens of hell. Wolves with malevolent, red-glowing eyes, howling through the night, their howls approximating the shrieks and groans and wails of the tormented wicked, were for thousands of years regarded as a source of incarnate evil and associated with hell in pagan mythology.

Writes Paine: "Hell had wolves. It also had even more frightful demons: serpents. But the serpents of Hell could not be simple vipers. They were enlarged, armoured, thrice-fanged; they became winged and taloned, practically indestructible, highly intelligent, evil dragons, but the original concept was a worm" (*ibid.*, p. 12). Set, the malignant adversary of Horus, was the Egyptian devil.

The Egyptian Hell

From the eighteenth dynasty onward the Egyptians modified their concept of "hell" and called it "Taut" or

"Tat" and had it ruled over by the Devil, called "Taut" also. This was the place where all departed spirits went after death, but only the wicked were made to suffer.

Sir Wallis Budge in his *The Book of the Dead*, the world's leading authority on ancient Egyptian mythology, wrote: "The Taut was divided into twelve parts, corresponding to the twelve hours of the night. . . . In one of these divisions, which was under the rule of the god Seker, the entrance was guarded by a serpent with three heads, scorpions, vipers, and winged monsters of terrifying aspect; a vast desert place was their abode, and seemingly the darkness was so thick there that it might be felt. In other divisions we find serpents spitting fire, lions, crocodile-headed gods, a serpent that devours the head, a huge crocodile, and many other reptiles of divers shapes and forms."

Norse Mythology

Early Catholic theology borrowed heavily from the pagan concepts of hell, including old Norse mythology. To the ancient Scandinavians, Hel was the ill-favored goddess of a gloomy place, which was the Norse underworld. Whereas Norsemen who fell in battle went to Valhalla at death, all others went to Hel's underworld to wait for judgment. If they were judged evil, then they suffered the agonies of Hel.

But in "Christianizing" the pagan concept of Hell, the early Catholic Church adopted a hell of four divisions: "The first one was reserved for punishment of demons as well as men; this was the domain of the damned. The second division was for infants who died guiltless except for the original sin, and the presumption was that, after some mild form of punishment, these dead would not remain in Hell. Another division was a similar limbo; here the souls of those who died before Christ had to wait admission to Heaven until they could be enlightened. The fourth division was Purgatory of the Catholics; here the just who had died in venial sin were purified through suffering before being admitted to Heaven" (Paine, p. 15).

Did this popular pagan concept of Hell succeed in scaring

people and influencing them to lead pure and righteous lives? On the whole it was a dismal failure. Says Paine, "Whether Hell as a Christian adoptive was ever equal to the demands made upon it is questionable. Christians for 2,000 years shuddered at the prospect of damnation, but as a sect behaved no differently than pre-Christian peoples to whom Hell meant basically the same thing. Also, Hell could be brought to earth—as in the genocide-like murder of something in the region of half a million people accused, tortured, and burned at the stake as witches during the Middle Ages, for the salvation of their souls and to the Glory of God; or, well within the recollection of living men, the equally barbarous mass-murder of 6 million European Jews, Poles, and Russians, without even the same pretences."

The Etruscan Hell

The ancient Etruscans of Italy devoted much thought to where mortals went after death. They also placed Hell below the earth, and over this realm of darkness ruled Mantus and Mania, king and queen of the dead. The prime minister of the Etruscan Hades or Hell was a horrible half-human, half-animal creature noted for his cruelty. He was Charun, an ogre-like individual with flaming eyes, a savage aspect, with the ears and tusks of a brute, wings and cloven feet—a forerunner of the popular Christian concept of Satan the devil!

According to the Etruscans, Charun (Satan) stood by to receive souls at death and escorted them to Hades where he and lesser demons unmercifully beat and abused the souls.

Although it is interesting to read about the pagan ideas of hell, and Satan, and very informative to see how they became engrafted upon the beliefs and doctrines of the widespread, popular Christian Church, in order to ascertain the truth on this subject, from God's point of view, we must consult the one infallible source of knowledge—His revealed Word, the Bible.

"Thy Word is truth," Jesus said (John 17:17). He also said: "The Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). "All

Scripture is given by inspiration of God," Paul wrote to Timothy, "and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

What, then, is the *truth* about "hell"? And what does it really have to do with the enemy of mankind, Satan the devil? Is he really "Lord of Hell"?

Common Ideas

A Gallup survey in 1967 showed that 68 percent of Americans believe in heaven, but only 54 percent are persuaded of the reality of hell. Why the difference? Probably, many of those who believe in a heaven simply cannot bring themselves to think that a loving, merciful God could consign any poor wretch to a place of eternal torment!

A survey in New Zealand indicated that six out of ten believe hell is a state of mind. Only 26 percent believed hell was a literal place.

Interviewers of passersby on the street in San Francisco obtained the following descriptions when asked: "How do you picture hell?"

First person: "Honestly, I have doubts there is such a place. I feel hell is a means of scaring people, so they will lead a better life. . . . If there is such a place, I suppose it is craggy and filled with people feeding furnaces or breaking rocks."

Second person: "When I was young I had a clear picture of what hell is like—flames and a devil with horns and a pitchfork. But a person gets over this, just as he does with Santa Claus."

Third person: "The idea of hell is one of the greatest means in the world for teaching children good. Personally, however, I think it is just a Biblical term." (What did he mean by that?)

Fourth person: "I would rather not think about it."

Fifth person: "I have never thought of it except as I have seen it staged in operas or plays."

Sixth person: "I picture hell as a big, hot, uncomfortable desert. I think it does exist. Not down in the ground. But since Someone put us here, then He could easily have a place for us afterward."

Seventh person: "Hell is a place of unhappy confinement, like a prison. Not necessarily with flames. More a torment of the spirit. I believe it is an actual area, although not necessarily down any more than heaven must be up."

All of these were interesting comments. But what about you? Are you one of those who would rather not think about it? Is the thought of "hell" too much for your mind to stand?

Baffled Theologians

Today even theologians are perplexed. Most do not believe in a literal "hell." Said one: "The essence of hell is separation from God—not really torture, but torment."

Another described hell as "a condition of human existence." Still another said: "I am fully convinced that Satan as an independent personality does not make sense in the 20th century. . . ." He asserted that many theologians "argue that the devil is out-of-date."

One minister claimed hell is "the loss of communication, insensitivity to spiritual values, the realization of how far short of our capacities we have fallen, the memory of some of the things we have done."

What abysmal confusion!

Isn't it time we learned the TRUTH?

There is no reason why you should remain ignorant. The Bible speaks plainly about the subject of "hell." The truth about "hell" will astound you! There really is a "hell" according to the Bible—but it is not what you have been taught!

The Two Extremes

There are two extremes concerning "hell" in the world. One totally denies that hell exists. It passes hell off as a mere

ancient superstition which has no relevance whatsoever to modern life!

The other extreme, believed in by most so-called Bible fundamentalists, pictures hell as a terrible place of never-ending torment. It is ruled over by the devil and his demons who gleefully "roast" sinners like millions of weiners on a barbecue spit. According to this concept, there is a constant weeping, wailing, crying, cursing, shrieking and screaming coming from the mouths of those in hell. Their torment is for all eternity. They are forever doomed!

But consider: If this concept is true, and if all sinners or nonChristians go to such a fiery place of torment, doesn't it strike you as unjust and unmerciful since **MOST OF THE WORLD IS (FOR MOST OF ALL TIME) NONCHRISTIAN?**

Look at the world! Most of its population of 4.6 billion inhabitants are Buddhists, Moslems, Taoists, Hindus, primitivists, atheists, animists, Communists, etc., etc. The Bible says none can be saved unless they believe—and obey—Christ (Acts 4:12).

Therefore, if only Christians can be saved, and if all others are doomed to the fires of a never-ending hell, that must mean that the **VAST MAJORITY** of mankind has been and *is* **DOOMED!**

Doesn't such a concept picture Satan the devil as frightfully more powerful, successful, and intelligent than God? Doesn't it picture God as being woefully impotent and weak, incapable of doing His job?

Something is surely wrong with such a concept of hell! The Bible reveals that God is **ALL POWERFUL**, the **ALMIGHTY** God. Satan can do nothing unless God permits it (Isa. 14:12-14, Luke 10:17, Job 1:8-12). When Christ Himself commanded the devil to leave, he immediately slunk away (Matt. 4:1-11).

God is also **ALL MERCIFUL**. He is a God of **LOVE** (I John 4:8-10). Therefore, it is totally inconceivable that such a

mighty, merciful God would allow Satan to thwart His plan, that He would allow billions of human beings to be lost and doomed to hell, even though they NEVER HEARD the name of Jesus Christ even so much as *uttered* during their whole lives! Such a God would not be a God of love, but a sadistic monster, an evil fiend!

Thank God that such a concept of "hell" is totally erroneous—and the Bible proves it so.

The Greek Words

Actually, there are three *Greek* words used in the Bible, all of them translated "hell." They do NOT refer to the same thing. Their meanings are *totally different*.

One word is *tartaroo*. It is used only *once* in the entire Bible—II Peter 2:4—and refers to the condition of restraint of the fallen angels. It *never* refers to men!

"Hades"—the Grave

The second Greek word often translated "hell," in English, is *hades*. The word *hades* comes from two roots which literally mean "unseen," "unknown," "unperceived," or "unconsidered." It always refers to the *grave*, the place the dead are buried! You can see the connection easily. When a dead person is buried, he is out of sight, unseen—no longer known or perceived. He is gone. The word *hades* is never used in the Bible to refer to *gehenna* fire, or the final hell fire! It always refers to the GRAVE! The Old Testament Hebrew word translated "hell" is *sheol*. It has the same meaning as *hades* and refers to a grave or pit or hole in the ground.

Hades (the grave) is the "hell" Christ was in for three days and nights (Acts 2:26-27). The Moffatt translation renders this verse: "because thou wilt not forsake my soul in the *grave*, nor let thy holy one suffer decay." (When the King James translation of the Bible was made, Englishmen com-

monly spoke of putting potatoes in "hell" for the winter. They used the word to refer to a pit or hole in the ground.)

The King James translators themselves knew that *hades* meant "grave." They so translated it in I Corinthians 15:55. It could not possibly refer to the lake of fire or *gehenna*, because we read in Revelation 20:14 that "death and hell (*hades*, the GRAVE)" will both be cast *into* "the lake of fire." *Hades*, then, refers to the *grave*—the abode of the dead—not God's final punishment upon the wicked!

Hades is the "hell" that every human being, except those who are alive and changed to meet Christ at His second coming, goes to when they die! All men alike, saint and sinner, rich and poor, kings and slaves, whether white, black, brown or yellow, go to this "hell" when they die. No one escapes!

Solomon explained it clearly: "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts, even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. *All go unto one place [THE GRAVE]*; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again" (Eccl. 3:19-20).

Think on that a moment. *If* men go to a fiery hell when they die, then so do cats, dogs, rabbits, chipmunks, skunks, deer, elk, moose, and every kind of animal! Isn't it ridiculous to think "good" animals go to heaven, but "bad" animals go to hell forever and ever? Animals don't sin. But Solomon said men have the same fate as animals—one is no better than the other in death. Both go to the grave and turn to dust after they die!

Solomon understood. He declared: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten" (Eccl. 9:5). Solomon said in verse 10: "For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, *in the grave*, whither thou goest."

How clear, then. When people die, they go to the GRAVE and remain there. Their bodies turn to dust. The Bible says *nothing* about them being plunged instantaneously into a fiery "hell." "Dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return," God says (Gen. 3:19).

Yet there is one more Greek word translated "hell" which we have not covered. And it does indeed refer to a fiery type of hell fire!

Let's notice just what this "hell" is, when it occurs, and how long it lasts—and who will be sent there!

"Gehenna"—"Hell Fire"

What is the fate of the wicked, those who reject God and despise Christ?

John the Baptist spoke about the final fate or destiny of the wicked. Seeing evil-minded, blasphemous Pharisees and their ilk coming around him as he preached the Gospel, John was moved to exclaim: "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet [fitting] for repentance" (Matt. 3:7-8). He thundered to these hypocrites, "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and *cast into the fire*" (verse 10). Speaking of Jesus Christ, he said, "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will BURN UP the chaff with unquenchable fire" (verse 12).

Here John described the fate of the wicked. Like worthless brush, thistles, or the chaff of the threshing floor, they will ultimately be cast into a fire and burned up! This fire doesn't just "singe," or scorch; it thoroughly CONSUMES whatever is cast into it!

What strange fire was John talking about? Let's read on, and see what Jesus Himself had to say about this mystery.

Jesus first mentioned hell in Matthew 5, the "Sermon on the Mount." Jesus declared, "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say unto his brother, Raca, ["vain fellow"] shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of HELL FIRE" (verse 22).

What "hell" was Jesus talking about? And what did He mean by these strange-sounding remarks?

The Greek word for "hell" Jesus used in these verses is *geenna* (usually spelled and pronounced *Gehenna*), and refers to the ancient dwelling place of the sons of Hinnom, a valley just outside the city of Jerusalem which came to be used as a garbage dump or rubbish pit. Filthy, dirty garbage, dead bodies, and corpses of criminals were thrown into this valley and burned up. Jesus used this figurative expression as a symbol of the final HELL FIRE which will consume the bodies of the incorrigibly wicked!

But when will the wicked perish in this fire? When will unrepentant sinners be cast into *Gehenna* fire? Turn to the Book of Revelation, where we find the answer.

The Lake of Fire

In the 20th chapter of Revelation we find a brief summary of God's plan for the future. We learn that when Christ returns, Satan the devil will be bound, the saints will be resurrected, and will reign on the earth with Him for one thousand years (verses 1-4).

"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished," the Apostle John writes (verse 5). Therefore, at the end of the thousand years, all those who lived and died, who were not saints, will be resurrected. This tremendous resurrection, of untold billions of people, is recounted in verse 12.

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

Notice. This is a resurrection to life. The book of LIFE was opened. Those coming up in this resurrection will be judged "according to their works"! This is not a resurrection to condemnation. Rather, these people will be the uncountable

billions who lived and died in this life, who never even had a chance for salvation—those who lived and died in ignorance, those who never even heard the true Gospel of Christ during their lives! At that time they will be given a period of time in which God will open their eyes, show them His truth, and give them their *first* and *only* chance for salvation!

But now, notice what will happen **AFTER** this period of time. “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [*hades*, already explained] delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell [*hades*] were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:13-15).

Here is another entirely different resurrection! This is the final resurrection to condemnation!

This “lake of fire” is the *Gehenna*-fire Jesus spoke of; it is the “fire” that John the Baptist warned the hypocritical Pharisees about; it is the hell fire of your Bible!

Notice. This fire is called the “second death” (Rev. 20:14). It is the **FINAL DEATH** from which there is no resurrection! This death is the penalty of sin (Rom. 6:23). It is the death Christ Jesus came to spare you from!

John writes, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).

The Tremendous Holocaust

What about this “hell fire?” Where will it be? How hot? How big? How long will it last?

Peter helps us understand. “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with

fervent heat, the earth also and the *works* that are therein shall be *burned up*" (II Peter 3:10).

Notice verse 7: "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the *day of judgment* and perdition of ungodly men"!

How plain. This great fire is the same as the "lake of fire," mentioned in Revelation, when God judges the incorrigibly wicked. It will sweep around the entire earth! The elements themselves will be dissolved, the surface of the earth will be purged and consumed with tremendous heat. Every remnant of man's sin, every sign of iniquity, every last trace of evil will be devoured by the heat of this fire.

Then there will be new heavens and a new earth, in which the immortal, everliving sons of God will live and reign, throughout all eternity (Rev. 21:1-2).

But the incorrigibly wicked, those who deliberately persist in rebellion against God when they *know* better, will have no part in it. They will be annihilated in the lake of fire! (Mal. 4:1-3). God will never entrust the awesome powers of the God-Family to rebellious, selfish, spiteful, perverse men who have repudiated His love and despised His government throughout their lives.

Those who refuse God's mercy, those who refuse to repent when they receive God's truths, will be blotted out of existence! Actually, this punishment will be *merciful* for them. How much better it will be for them to simply die, rather than to have to suffer the agony of living forever and SEEING what they have missed out on, forever.

God is not a cruel, harsh monster. Nor is He vindictive. He does not intend to torment the wicked for all eternity. Rather, He is going to punish them for their sins, in justice—and give them merciful *death* instead of *endless pain* and eternal agony in some man-devised "hell"!

Notice more proof.

"But the wicked shall PERISH, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the *fat of lambs*: they shall *consume*; into *smoke* shall they consume away" (Ps. 37:20). This describes the true fate of the wicked.

The prophet Malachi writes of this awesome day. "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be *stubble*: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch And ye shall tread down the wicked; for *they shall be ashes* under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts" (Mal. 4:1, 3).

These are not any man's words.

These are the words of God.

Is “Hell” Everlasting?

In the book of Matthew, Jesus Christ twice uses the expression “everlasting fire” (Matt. 18:8; 25:41). Notice 25:41—“Then shall he say also to them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into *everlasting fire*, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

What did Jesus mean by “everlasting”? The Bible does not contradict itself (John 10:35).

He used a Greek word—*aionios*—which comes from the Greek *aion*, meaning an “AGE.” The word *aion* is translated “AGES” in Ephesians 2:7 and Colossians 1:26. The *aionios* fire Jesus spoke of refers to the age-ending fire which will occur at “the end of this world,” and which will introduce the “world to come”! It is an *epochal* event!

This is why Jesus calls it *aionios* or age lasting fire! The translation “everlasting” is misleading, since the fire itself will not burn forever. Obviously not, since God’s Word clearly shows that when the present earth is purged and purified, it will be refashioned into a resplendent NEW EARTH!

Notice a Bible example which proves Jesus was *not* talking about an “everlasting” fire, in the sense people assume.

Turn to Jude 7, where the identical Greek expression is

used, but where it is translated "eternal fire." Read this verse carefully: "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of *eternal fire*."

Jude said the destruction of these two cities is an example for us. Their fate depicts the fate of all the wicked, at the end of the age! They suffered—notice it—the vengeance of "ETERNAL fire."

Now, *what happened* to these two ill-fated cities?

Read the answer in the book of Genesis. "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah *brimstone and fire* [a type of the "lake of fire"!] from the Lord out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground And Abraham got up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, *the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace*" (Gen. 19:24-28).

This terrible destruction is a direct type of the age-end fire which will consume and annihilate the wicked!

But did you notice? Jude calls this ancient punishment "eternal fire"—yet, the fire which devoured these cities in ancient times *is not still burning in Palestine today!* It burned itself out, long, long ago! Nevertheless, the awesome EFFECT of this tremendous fire *IS* "eternal"—and is a witness for us, today!

Now you should be able to understand what the expression "everlasting" fire or "eternal" fire means. It does not mean the fire itself will burn forever, any more than the "eternal" fire which destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah is still burning, today. Rather, this expression refers to a great AGE-ENDING FIRE, whose awesome EFFECT *will be eternal!* The fire itself will not last forever, but its *effect* is complete, total, and permanent destruction!

But if this is the case, some will wonder, what about the

parable of Lazarus and the rich man? Wasn't the rich man cast into an ever-burning fire?

What about this story?

Lazarus and the Rich Man

In Luke 16:19-31 Jesus gives the parable of Lazarus and the Rich man. "There was a certain rich man [Jesus meant there really was] who was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day . . . there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores . . . and it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame . . ."

What Is Abraham's Bosom?

This story says Lazarus died and was carried to Abraham's "bosom."

What exactly is a bosom? If we can find out what a "bosom" is—in this case Abraham's—we will know where the beggar was taken.

Any dictionary will tell you that a bosom is the breast of a human being, with the arms as an enclosure; a loving embrace by the arms of one person about another; an intimate relationship.

Lazarus then, was carried into an intimate relationship with Abraham. Lazarus is pictured here as a Gentile who received salvation, by becoming Christ's follower or disciple. Notice "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye *Abraham's* seed (children), and *heirs* according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29).

Through Christ, Gentiles may become Abraham's

children. Through faith we all become "the children of Abraham" (Gal. 3:7).

The Promise to Abraham

Abraham is a heir of God. God gave Abraham a promise and his children will become heirs of it. But what was this promise that Abraham will receive, and the beggar who is his heir?

In Genesis 12 we read where God told Abraham of the land of Canaan: ". . . Unto thy seed will I give this land." The land of Canaan is called Palestine today. Again, later God promised Abraham: "For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed FOREVER" (Gen. 13:15).

The promise was not heaven. The promise God gave to Abraham was the land of Palestine, on this earth. It was forever, so the promise given to Abraham and his seed (which the beggar became spiritually) included eternal life, and eternal inheritance on planet earth!

The beggar, like all Christians, is an heir to the promise to Abraham.

In Acts 7 Stephen, the first Christian martyr speaks of Abraham: "And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our Father Abraham . . . and said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into THE LAND which I will show thee. Then came he out of the land of the Chaldeans . . . into this land, wherein ye now dwell [Palestine]. And He gave him none inheritance in it . . . yet He promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him."

This truth is also stated in Hebrew 11:8-13: "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; . . . By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise . . . These all died in faith, NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE PROMISES, but having seen them afar off . . ."

In John 8:52 we read "Abraham is dead"—Notice: Abraham was not up in heaven, but dead, in the days of Christ!

Jesus said Abraham would receive the promises, including eternal life, through the RESURRECTION: "But *as touching the resurrection* of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living" (Matt. 22:31-32).

Jesus told the Pharisees they would see Abraham in the Kingdom because Abraham, now dead, will be RESURRECTED from the dead (Luke 13:28).

Abraham is dead, and so is the beggar. When will they receive the promises? Both will receive the promises at the resurrection when Christ returns to set up His kingdom: "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:31-34).

Carried by Angels

In Luke's account we read where Lazarus was to be carried by angels into Abraham's bosom. We know that Lazarus is in a state of sleep as is Abraham awaiting the return of Christ when the resurrection will occur. In Matthew 24:31 we read that Christ shall "send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds"—out of their graves in a RESURRECTION. Lazarus and Abraham are to be carried by the angels through the air to meet Christ, at His return.

There is no doubt as to how the Bible uses the word "bosom." In Isaiah 40:11 God shows he will care for His people as a shepherd cares for his sheep, which He will carry "in his bosom."

Jesus says He was in the bosom of the Father (John 1:18), enjoying the Father's blessings and close relationship.

To be in one's bosom is to have that one's love and protection, and share his blessings and inheritance. So it will be at the RESURRECTION that Lazarus will be in Abraham's bosom.

The Rich Man in "Hell"

What did Jesus mean when He said ". . . the rich man also died, and was buried; and in *hell* he lift up his eyes, being in torments. . . . (Luke 16:22-23).

The Greek word used for "hell" in this verse is *hades* which I have already shown to mean "grave" or "tomb."

Jesus said, "When the rich man lifts up his eyes he will see Lazarus and Abraham." Lazarus and Abraham will not be together till the resurrection—this is when the rich man will open up his eyes and see them.

Daniel speaks of the resurrection of the just, and of the unjust: "And many of them that sleep [their eyes are closed while sleeping] in the dust of the earth [their graves—buried—in "hades"], shall awake [lift up their eyes] some to everlasting life [Lazarus and Abraham] and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan. 12:2).

Jesus said: ". . . the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE: and they that have done evil [including the rich man], unto the RESURRECTION OF JUDGMENT" (John 5:28-29).

Here Jesus speaks of TWO DIFFERENT, SEPARATE RESURRECTIONS. The first resurrection will be of the righteous at Christ's coming and the resurrection of judgment will occur one thousand years later, after the Millennium!

So, while Jesus in speaking about the rich man and Lazarus, did not say WHEN the rich man will open his eyes and be resurrected out of his grave, other scriptures do reveal that it will be after the Millennium!

What Is This Flame?

But when the rich man is resurrected after the Millennium, he will open his eyes and see Lazarus and Abraham and also a "flame" which torments him. What is this flame?

Jesus spoke of a "gehenna" fire or "a lake of fire" that will be used to destroy the wicked. This is the second death, which will be by fire. This death is for all eternity! ETERNAL PUNISHMENT—but not eternal punishing!

When the rich man opens his eyes, he will see Lazarus in Abraham's bosom—his embrace. He will also see this awful flame of fire—this lake of fire which is about to destroy him forever! He becomes terrified. His mouth suddenly becomes very dry, and his tongue sticks to his mouth. The rich man cries out in mental anguish, "Father Abraham have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

The rich man will be in a condition of WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH at this time for he knows he is about to be burned up and destroyed! Jesus said this same thing to the Pharisees in Luke 13:27-28: "Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity. There shall be *weeping and gnashing of teeth*, when ye shall see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the Kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out."

What Is the Great Gulf?

Jesus continues the story of the rich man in verse 25 describing what Abraham would say to the rich man. That he had his reward in material things he sought and craved and because of this he is now doomed!

The "great gulf" mentioned in verse 26 by Abraham represents IMMORTALITY which prevents the wicked from escaping death by hell fire and also keeps the righteous from being burned.

The rich man realized he is doomed in verse 27 and now asked if Abraham would send Lazarus to his father's house to plead with his brothers, lest they come to his terrible fate. Abraham replied they had the writings of Moses and the prophets. But the rich man realized they would not hear these Scriptures. "Nay, Father Abraham," he screamed, "but if one went unto them from the dead they will repent!" (Verse 30). Obviously, the rich man had no idea of the passage of time while he had been dead. He assumed his brothers were still alive. It seemed to him only a split second between his death and his resurrection.

The rich man knew Lazarus was RAISED FROM THE DEAD! This one statement proves that the whole experience of Lazarus and the rich man was given by Jesus to show the truth of the resurrection—not to teach any immediate going to "heaven" or "hell" at the instant of death. It shows mortality which dies, and is DEAD—not immortality which never loses consciousness and lives forever in an eternal punishing of an imaginary "hell" of Dante!

"Unquenchable Fire"

Another much misunderstood scripture is Mark 9:43 where Jesus speaks of "the fire that never shall be quenched."

Does this mean the fire burns forever?

Not at all. Take a match, light it and set a piece of paper on fire. Let it burn. Don't put it out, or snuff it out. Just let the paper burn, until it burns up. Soon it will burn itself out.

Now, what do you have? A burned-up piece of paper. But did you put it out? Did you "quench" it? No. You left it unquenched. It was *not* quenched. Not at all!

Even so the final *Gehenna* fire will not be "quenched," or "put out." Nevertheless, in time it will burn itself out, when the wicked and all their wicked works are burned up!

Any fire will go out when it runs out of fuel. That's the way the final *Gehenna* fire will be. In time, it will naturally burn itself out!

There you have it.

The fate of the wicked, in the Bible, is death—the second death in the lake of fire. The wicked will die (Ezek. 18:4, 20). Their consciousness will be destroyed for all eternity. They will have no feelings, thoughts, emotions. They will be dust and ashes under the feet of the righteous! As we have seen before, man is composed of dust. He *is* dust. He does not have an immortal soul abiding within him. Therefore, when the wicked are destroyed, there will be nothing left of them to show they ever existed.

Only those who obey God—true Christians—will inherit eternal *life* (John 3:16). All others will die the second death. Those are the two alternatives God places before *you*: eternal *life* on the one hand, and everlasting *death* on the other hand.

But what, then, about the final fate of the devil himself? What does the Bible say about *Satan's* final punishment? And what about the myriads of demons who followed him in rebellion?

The first thing I saw when I stepped
 out of the door of the ship was
 a bright light. It was not the sun,
 but a light that seemed to come
 from the sky. I looked up and
 saw a great host of angels
 standing in the clouds. They
 were all dressed in white robes
 and had their hands joined
 together in prayer. I felt
 a great awe and reverence
 as I looked upon them. They
 seemed to be waiting for me,
 and I felt that I was about
 to enter into a new world.
 I stepped forward and they
 all bowed down before me.
 I felt a great joy and
 peace as I looked upon them.
 They were all so beautiful
 and so full of life. I felt
 that I was in the presence
 of something great and
 wonderful. I felt that I
 was about to enter into a
 new world, a world of
 peace and joy. I felt that
 I was about to enter into a
 world where I would be
 free from all my sins and
 from all my troubles. I
 felt that I was about to
 enter into a world where I
 would be able to live in
 peace and joy forever.
 I felt that I was about to
 enter into a world where I
 would be able to see the
 face of my Father in
 heaven. I felt that I was
 about to enter into a world
 where I would be able to
 live in the love and
 mercy of my Father in
 heaven. I felt that I was
 about to enter into a world
 where I would be able to
 live in the presence of my
 Father in heaven. I felt
 that I was about to enter
 into a world where I would
 be able to live in the
 love and mercy of my
 Father in heaven. I felt
 that I was about to enter
 into a world where I would
 be able to live in the
 presence of my Father in
 heaven. I felt that I was
 about to enter into a world
 where I would be able to
 live in the love and mercy
 of my Father in heaven.

I felt that I was about to
 enter into a world where I
 would be able to live in
 the love and mercy of my
 Father in heaven. I felt
 that I was about to enter
 into a world where I would
 be able to live in the
 presence of my Father in
 heaven. I felt that I was
 about to enter into a world
 where I would be able to
 live in the love and mercy
 of my Father in heaven.

The Lake of Fire

In the book of Mark we read an intriguing and dramatic encounter Jesus Christ had with a man who had an unclean spirit. When Jesus was preaching with authority in the synagogue, the unclean spirit cried out.

The demon said to Jesus Christ: “*Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to DESTROY us?*” (Mark 1:24). The Greek work for “destroy” here is *apollumi* and means “to destroy fully, destroy, die, lose, mar, perish” (see *Strong’s Concordance*). Does this verse indicate the demons have a dark inkling of the future fate which beckons them?

Exactly what will be the fate of Satan? What will his punishment be? What does God have in store for him and his demons? Can we know the answers to these questions?

The apostle John records:

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit (the abyss) and a great *chain* in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and *bound him a thousand years*, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no

more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" (Rev. 20:1-3).

At the beginning of the Millennial reign of Christ, the old serpent, the Devil will be bound and chained, totally restrained, so that he can deceive no one. He will be put into total "isolation." It will be severe punishment of itself, and he will have 1,000 years to bemoan his fate.

But then what will happen?

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his *prison*, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of *fire and brimstone* [Gehenna fire!], where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:7-10).

Here, Satan's fate is dramatized. After the Millennial reign of Christ, he will be given one more opportunity to deceive any nations who have seen the light and justice of God's government, and spurned it. He will lead them in one final rebellious attempt to overthrow God's government. His armies will be consumed with fire when they surround the holy city, Jerusalem, and then the Devil himself shall be cast alive into a flaming lake of fire—the "hell fire" of the Bible, perhaps the very site of the ancient valley of Hinnom to the south of Jerusalem, where the garbage dumps were kept burning perpetually in ancient times.

This lake of fire will spread and consume the face of the entire earth, when God makes a new heaven and a new, purified earth.

Peter tells us: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with *fervent heat*, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be *burned up*.

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation [conduct] and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (II Pet. 3:10-13).

Notice that in the new heavens and new earth only righteousness will dwell (II Pet. 3:13). There will be no devil or his demons [fallen angels] in the new heavens and new earth.

“*Day and Night Forever*”

Does Revelation 20:10 mean, then, that the devil will be *tormented* “day and night for ever and ever”? Let’s understand this. The word “torment” in this verse is the Greek word *basanizo* and means “to torture,” “pain,” “toil,” “torment,” “toss,” “vex.” Can you imagine this scene?

Picture it vividly in your mind. Here is a creature being tormented at the command of God, by the will of God, who we know is a *loving*, wonderful God and a righteous God, and also a very *merciful* God. How long will this torture or torment last? According to the popular concept, this torture will continue for all eternity—for an infinity of time—it will *NEVER* cease!

Throughout the future aeons, in the new heavens and new earth, there will *always* be this despicable spirit being suffering indescribable torments . . . a millions years from now . . . a hundred million years from now . . . a *billion* years from now . . . a billion **TIMES** a billion years . . . and even that is as a *short* span of fleeting time compared to the full meaning of **ETERNITY!**

Can your mind grasp that?

Why would God allow such a thing?

Eternity is a *long* time. Consider this scenario seriously.

What is the real meaning of this verse in Revelation? Why would God allow the devil to exist in a tormented state for all eternity? Would a loving God *will* such a fate? Doesn't an omnipotent God have the power to literally *destroy* the devil if he chooses to do so? Is the power of God limited? Has God determined that He has no control over the life span of a spirit being? Will the devil really suffer torture for ever, in the strict sense of the word, merely because he is composed of spirit instead of material flesh? What is the truth?

Take a closer look at this verse. Notice that it says the devil will be tormented "*day and night* for ever and ever." Before we discuss the meaning of the expression "for ever and ever," let us consider the matter of "day and night." Here is a strong clue to the devil's fate which has been totally overlooked.

However long this torment is, it will be for "day and night." That is, it will last as long as day and night exist. That much is clear, isn't it?

How long, then, will we have "day and night"? Day and night are today a function of the revolving of the earth upon its axis as it goes around the sun. In grade school we learn that it is the sun which shines upon the earth, giving light, and creating what we call "day," but when a spot on the earth turns away from the sun, and is cut off from the sun's rays, night time occurs. Will then "day and night" exist forever?

What does God's Word say?

Notice. We read in Revelation 22, speaking of the new heavens and the new earth, and the Throne of God upon the earth, that "there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall serve him; and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in

their foreheads. *And there shall be NO NIGHT there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever*" (Revelation 22:3-5). Read this entire chapter, as well as chapter 21. In this new world, when the saints are immortal sons of God, there will be no more need of day and night alternating. There will be no more need for sleep every twelve hours or so. We will be "on the go" continually, actively serving God and helping Him to rule over the entire Creation! There will be *no more night*.

Obviously, then, any "torture" or "torment" of the devil, which will last as long as day and night last, will *cease* when day and night itself ceases!

The devil will be tormented "for ever" as long as day and night continue. But day and night will *not continue* into the New Heavens and the New Earth! "There shall be *no night* there," God says.

What could be clearer than that?

Now, to notice even more proof, so that we can understand this subject in its crystal clarity and entirety, so that no questions remain unanswered, let's notice the expression "for ever and ever" in Revelation 20:10. What does it really mean?

The Word "For Ever"

In understanding the Biblical usage of the word "forever," we must be very careful. Sometimes the context of the word indeed shows that it can and should be interpreted as "always," or "for eternity." For instance, when it is used in reference to God, and His laws.

But there are other cases where the context of the word clearly shows that another meaning is evident. For example, in Exodus 21:5-6 we read: "And if the servant (slave) shall

plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him *for ever.*"

Likewise, many of the Biblical references to the Levitical priesthood refer to its ordinances and statutes being "for ever" (Exodus 27:21, 28:43, 29:28, 30:21; Leviticus 6:18, 22, 7:34, 36, 10:9, etc.). In some cases, the word "for ever" means "throughout your generations." In the case of the bondservant or slave, it obviously meant "*until his death,*" or "*so long as he lived.*" It obviously did not mean for all eternity! Some have explained the use of the word "forever" as meaning "so long as the conditions exist." The Levitical priesthood, for example, and its physical rituals and services of the sanctuary were a *type* of the spiritual Melchisedec priesthood and the *heavenly* sanctuary, and the Levitical priesthood has been superseded by the priesthood of Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 6:20, 14, 24-28, 8:1-6, 9:1-14). The physical Levitical priesthood was temporary, but the spiritual priesthood of Christ is eternal!

The Hebrew word for "for ever" in these many verses is *olam* and means "concealed, i.e., the vanishing point." It means, generally, "time out of mind"—past and future. It is variously translated in the Bible "always," "ancient time," "any more," "continuance," "eternal," "for ever," "ever," "ever lasting," "ever more," "of old," "of old time," "lasting," "long," "long time," "perpetual," "at any time," "beginning of the world," "world," "world without end." But the gist or idea of the word is in the sense of something lasting or enduring till it becomes invisible, or to the vanishing point of human vision and knowledge. In some cases it means literally forever; in other cases it means lasting until a certain point or event, continual up until something happens to interrupt it—for example, the servant was to be the master's slave throughout his life, continually, *until he died.*

The Greek word in the New Testament which is equivalent

to the Hebrew word *olam* is *aion* and means properly "an age." By extension, it can refer to "perpetuity," the past, and by implication "the world." It is variously translated "age," "course," "eternal," "for ever," "ever," "evermore," "never," "beginning of the world," "world without end."

"Everlasting" Fire?

Speaking of this lake of fire, or Gehenna fire, which will utterly destroy all the incorrigibly wicked among mankind—those who refuse to repent of their blasphemies and abominations—Jesus told us: "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into *everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels*" (Matt. 25:41).

This final Gehenna fire, then, is specifically prepared for the devil and his angels, Jesus said. Although it will also consume the incorrigibly wicked among humans, its primary purpose is to serve as punishment for the devil and his angels—it is "prepared" for *them!*

Does this mean the devil and his angels will burn forever in an endless fire? The original Greek word for "everlasting" is *aionios*, from *aion* meaning "age." It means for the "ages." The *results* of this fire will last forever—in perpetuity—but that doesn't mean that the flames will soar heavenward forever. We have already seen from II Peter 3, that when this fire finally consumes everything to be consumed, it will burn itself out—and then there shall be NEW heavens and a NEW earth! Then this purging, purifying fire will no longer burn!

This fire will not burn forever, although its *results* will last forever. This same type of fire is mentioned in Jude 7 where it is called "eternal [*aionios*] fire." Jude writes that "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an *example* [of Gehenna fire], suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Those cities are still destroyed. But is their "eternal fire" still burning today? Of

course not. But its *results* are still evident.

Here the apostle Jude writes that the cities of ancient Sodom and Gomorrah "are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of *eternal fire*." This is the very same Greek word translated "everlasting" in Matthew 25:41. Although the fire which destroyed ancient Sodom and Gomorrah is not still burning today at the south end of the Dead Sea, the *eternal results* of that ancient fire, which burned itself out aeons ago, are still self evident today! Thus we know that Jesus was not talking about a fire which burns forever, but whose results are lasting forever!

However, all those wicked who burn up in the lake of fire, will perish forever! They will never again come back to life, or be resurrected. Their existence will be finished—they will be blotted out of the book of life forever.

The prophet Malachi tells us a little more about this consuming fire. He writes: "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall *burn them up*, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch" (Mal. 4:1).

The ultimate fate of the wicked is to become ashes under the feet of the righteous. Malachi continues: "And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be *ashes* under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts" (Mal. 4:3).

Let us turn back to Revelation 20:10. We read that the devil will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, "where the beast and the false prophet *are* (the "are" is in italics in the King James Version and all italicized words in the King James Bible were *added* by the translators), and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." What does this mean?

First, the correct translation should be "where the beast and false prophet *were cast*." The "are" was supplied by the translators, who erred in this case. The beast and false prophet were cast into this burning lake of fire at the *beginning*

of the Millennial reign of Christ (see Revelation 19:19-21).

What does it mean that the devil will be tormented day and night, for ever and ever? It simply means that as long as he exists, he will be tormented, until his punishment is finished. The devil will be tormented day and night in this flaming fire until the job is complete. As long as it takes. Till the job is done. Compare this expression with Revelation 14:10.

In Revelation 14:10, speaking of the incorrigibly wicked among mankind, John tells us: "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be *tormented with fire and brimstone* (that is, be cast into the lake of fire) in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: *and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever*" (Rev. 14:10-11).

What does this mean? In this case, notice: the *smoke* from their torment rises up and up and up—for ever, being dissipated into the air. This verse does not say the wicked will be "tormented" forever, just that the smoke from their torment rises up until it is out of sight.

Again, to clearly grasp these verses, turn to the example of the "eternal" fire which totally destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven. . . . And Abraham got up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord. And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the *smoke* of the country went up as the *smoke of a furnace*" (Gen. 19:24, 27-28). The smoke of their torment just went up and up and up—it soared into the heavens, until "out of sight"—thus, it went up "for ever," until no longer visible.

What Will Happen to the Devil?

Right now, God's Word says, the devil and his angels are being "reserved" for their future judgment. Their judgment day has not yet come. But did you know that we who are

Christians will have a part in determining their eventual fate?

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian brethren, "Know ye not that *we shall judge angels?*" (I Cor. 6:3). He also said: "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?" (verse 2).

Since Satan and his demons have tried their utmost to do their dirty work against the Church of God, how fitting it would be for the Church—the saints—to eventually sit in judgment of Satan and the fallen angels!

What will their final judgment be? Satan and the fallen angels are, of course, spirit beings. They have lived for a long, long time—perhaps millions or billions of years. The things which are not seen, Paul said, are "eternal" (*aionion*, Greek) (II Cor. 4:18). Jesus Himself said, "The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: but they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: *neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels . . .*" (Luke 20:34-36).

Since angels were created as spirit beings, they cannot die. But this does not necessarily imply they could not be put out of existence, or destroyed, by a superior power—God. If left alone, they would never die—their spirit bodies would never "wear out." However, that does not necessarily imply or say that they could not be *executed* or destroyed if God chose to do so.

Does the Bible reveal the ultimate fate of the devil and his demons? We know they will not be in the new heavens and the new earth. Some have quoted Jude 13 as a reference, or as proof, that the devil and his demons will exist for ever.

The apostle Jude speaks of "raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; *wandering stars*, to whom is *reserved the blackness of darkness for ever*" (Jude 13). What does this verse really mean?

“Wandering Stars”?

Notice these verses. Read them carefully. Jude actually was primarily speaking of those ministers who corrupt God’s truth. Jude writes: “Likewise also these filthy *dreamers* defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities” (verse 8). “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, *The Lord rebuke thee*. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, *as brute beasts*, in those things they corrupt themselves. *Woe unto them!* for they have gone in the way of *Cain*, and *ran greedily* after the error of *Balaam* for *reward*, [they wanted to make a profit, and get rich off religion!], and perished in the gainsaying of Core [Korah and his followers, who rebelled against Moses in the wilderness and were swallowed up by a great earthquake].”

Jude continues: “These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they *feast with you* [obviously, this is referring to false ministers and false brethren—*human beings!*], feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, *twice dead* [that is, they will suffer the “second death”—see Revelation 20:6, 13-14], plucked up by the roots;” and then Jude goes on, carrying right on to the next verse, speaking of these same individuals, “Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever” (Jude 9-13).

The main thrust of these verses is showing the behavior and judgment, or fate, of *false prophets, not the devil and his demons*. We know the final fate of these false prophets is to be destroyed forever—burnt up—in the Lake of Fire, the “hell fire” known as “Gehenna” (Mal. 4:1-4). They will not live forever. However, since “stars” can refer to “angels” in type (Rev. 1:20), “wandering stars” could refer to fallen angels in type.

Let's take a closer look at Jude 13, and see if many of us haven't assumed it says something it actually does *not* say.

Many of us have thought this verse alludes to the final fate of the devil and his demons, fallen angels or "stars." This verse speaks of "wandering stars." However, it does *not* say that their fate is to be "wandering stars"—wandering throughout the Universe, like directionless derelicts, or the fabled "Flying Dutchman," for ever and ever. The expression "wandering stars" is in the present progressive tense—in other words, they are like wandering stars, *today*—not a future fate or destiny.

Rather, their future *fate*—according to this verse—is: "to whom is *reserved*" (that is, whose punishment *shall be*, since they are now *reserved* unto judgment; see verse 6, where we are told the fallen angels are "reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day")—what? What is reserved for them? "To whom is reserved THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOR EVER"!

That is to be their final fate! "The blackness of darkness for ever"! But what is that? Does the Bible itself give us the answer, or at least a strong clue?

Yes, it does!

But notice carefully. This verse does not say that the final fate of the devil and his demons is to be "wandering stars for ever" at all. It speaks of them as being wandering stars *today*, compared to raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame today. What is reserved for them, what their future *fate* is to be, is simply "the blackness of darkness for ever"—whatever that is.

Outer Darkness

Speaking of the incorrigibly wicked among men, Jesus said: "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into *outer darkness*: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:30). In several scriptures, we are told the wicked

shall be cast into "outer darkness." What is this "outer darkness?"

It is an awesome term, evoking thoughts of impenetrable blackness, in which there is not a single sliver of light—not the faintest gleaming. Carlsbad Caverns gives the impression of total darkness when all the lights and torches are extinguished. The darkness is so complete you cannot even see your hand or fingers before your face.

Of course, the second death—destruction in the lake of fire—will also result in *total darkness*. Those who perish in the lake of fire will never again see any light. To them is reserved the blackness of darkness forever! The "blackness of darkness" of Jude 13 is the same as the "outer darkness," and actually means total *unconsciousness* and inability to perceive any light.

Satan Is Not Equal To God

One thing we should remember. Satan is not God. He is not Elohim or Jehovah, or Yahveh—the "Self Existent, Eternal One." He does not possess life inherent within himself. He is a created being. Although he was created out of spirit, he was created, nonetheless. The apostle Paul said of Jesus, who is very God: "Who *only* hath immortality" (I Timothy 6:16). God himself says, "For I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22). He says also, "I am the LORD [Yahveh, the Self-Existent, Eternal One], and *there is none else*, there is no God beside me" (Isaiah 45:4); "there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else" (verse 6).

Only God is named "*The Eternal*." Not Satan. Satan is not "The Eternal." He would *like* to be. He craves to be. But he is not.

Again, we read: "Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last: and beside me there is no God" (Isa. 44:6).

God has all power. His power is infinite. His ability and authority is limitless. And His power can only be described as awesome. We human beings cannot begin to comprehend it.

How, then, is God going to handle the Devil and his demons?

Can Angels Die?

Will Satan the devil live forever in some kind of perpetual torment? What does the Bible say about the ultimate fate of Satan the devil?

We all realize that human designers of automobiles plan ahead *in case* of a mechanical failure. Therefore, in the very beginning would not the GREAT CREATOR GOD have planned ahead in the event Lucifer and the angels sinned? Undoubtedly God planned ahead. He knew, before the creation of the earth, that angels, with independent powers of thinking, reasoning, choosing, forming opinions and decisions, *could* rebel and turn to iniquity.

Since God knew this possibility existed, would it not seem, also, that God planned ahead how to deal with such an eventuality—what punishment they would receive? Would God have not created them in such a way that He would definitely be able to punish them *appropriately* in case they did turn to lawlessness?

What punishment did God plan for them, in the eventuality that they sinned? What did God have in mind, from the very beginning?

What Is Life?

This physical life is but a physio-chemical existence, and is the result of the combustion of oxygen in our body cells. Without oxygen being oxidized by our cells we would all die. Our life is completely dependent on air, first of all, and then food and water—the environment around us. Without any of these things, we should shortly die. The Bible says our life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11-14). The blood carries the oxygen we breathe from the lungs to all the cells of the body, to sustain this physical life and keep us functioning. The air which we breathe, containing oxygen, is called “the breath of life” (Genesis 2:7; 6:17). All physical life forms are dependent upon the “breath of life” in one way or another.

“Life” is the most complex subject scientists have ever investigated. It mystified and dazzles them. They have studied intricately its structure, but its essential meaning and definition continues to elude them. They probe it with microscopes, and stand amazed and aghast at its bewildering complexity and ability, but they cannot understand it. What distinguishes living things from non-living things? What is it that provides the “spark of life” to something?

Evolutionists cannot explain the origin of life apart from the existence of a life-giver or Creator, although they continue to speculate and theorize and try. If you would like to study into this amazing subject, and ponder the mystery of life and its origin, then you should write for my book *The First Genesis: The Saga of Creation Versus Evolution*.

Admits the *World Book Encyclopedia*: “Biologists, however, find it *hard to define life*, though they have vast knowledge of living things. They have difficulty locating the *dividing line* between living and nonliving things. For example, a virus is a lifeless particle by itself, but it becomes active and multiplies rapidly when inside a living cell. *Rather than trying to define life* precisely, biologists concentrate on deepening their understanding of life by studying living things.

“The earth has an enormous variety of living things—more than 1½ million species. They range in size from microscopic bacteria to gigantic blue whales and towering sequoia trees. Living things can be found in all kinds of environments. Some organisms live in sun-scorched deserts. Others flourish in icy polar waters. Still others thrive in steamy jungles. Living things also vary widely in their behavior and food requirements. In spite of their differences, however, all living things consist of the *same kind of chemicals and carry out the same kinds of chemical reactions*” (Life, vol. 12, page 242).

Physical-chemical life forms all share certain basic characteristics. These include 1) reproduction, 2) growth, 3) metabolism, 4) movement, 5) responsiveness, and 6) adaptation. Although not every living thing may exhibit all these features, and even some nonliving things may show some of them, these basic characteristics are generally used to establish whether something is “living” or not.

Our physio-chemical life is completely dependent on the environment around us. Astronauts in space must take along with them a portion of “earth’s environment” in order to sustain life—oxygen, pressurized suits, water, food, and other things from the earth. Otherwise they would soon *die*.

All living things in the physical world are made up of “cells.” The simplest organisms consist of only one cell, although these so-called simple one-celled animals or plants are actually extremely complex. Upon close examination their interior functions seem as complex as the subway system of New York City.

All physical life is based on chemicals. All the chemical elements that make up living things are also present in nonliving matter. The most common elements in living matter are carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulphur. Living things also contain smaller amounts of other elements such as calcium, iron, magnesium, potassium and sodium. Most living organisms consist also of from 50 to 95 percent water. Water is absolutely essential to physical-chemical life processes. For one, its ability to dissolve a great

variety of substances is necessary because most chemical reactions within organisms can occur only in a water solution. Water itself enters into many chemical reactions, and is also needed to transport nutrients within organisms.

Physical life itself is a marvelous mystery. King David exclaimed to God, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: When I awake, I am still with thee" (Psalm 139:14-18).

David also exulted, "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands" (Psalm 138:8).

Physical life is indeed a fascinating mystery. Did you know there are over 7,500 varieties of *apple* tree? Did you know that one square foot of good, rich soil can produce up to 15 pounds of potatoes? Or over ten pounds of tomatoes? Did you know that there are termites which "discovered" the principles of ventilation and "air conditioning" long before men, and that some termite nests are actually central cities with satellite suburbs? Did you realize that there are amoeba which can live in the hot, boiling waters of the springs of Yellowstone National Park?

Life is indeed a tremendous mystery! But one thing we do know: God, the Creator, is the One who fashioned and created every life form on earth. One cubic foot of seawater may contain 12 million living plants called diatoms—the phytoplankton or the "meadows" of the sea. Creatures have been found living thousands of feet below sea level. In a 6 square mile section of the Panama Canal Zone, biologists catalogued some 20,000 *different* species of insects! Most

scientists claim there are some three million plant and animal species on the earth, all of them uniquely interrelated and interdependent in one way or another. Truly, our God is a great *Creator!* We learn more about Him as we study the marvels and mysteries of His handiwork—the Creation around us! We learn more about His intricate mind, His infinite patience, His joy of beauty and radiant landscapes, His appreciation of music and color and all the hues of the rainbow, and the virtually infinite variety of His handiwork—from atoms to sea shells, from fruit flies to towering redwoods, from molecules to man.

But what about spiritual life? What about spirit beings? The Bible tells us God also created millions upon millions of spirit beings called *angels* to serve Him.

Angels have an entirely different kind of *life*.

Spirit Life Forms

God created angels before He created the earth itself (see Job 38:4-7). They were created with great strength (Psalm 103:20). They were created out of a substance called “spirit.” David tells us: “Who maketh his angels *spirits*; his ministers a flaming *fire*” (Psalm 104:4).

Since they are like “flaming fire,” it would seem that physical flames cannot hurt them. And, indeed, this is so. We read in the book of Judges that when an angel appeared to Manoah, the father of Samson, he did “wondrously” as Manoah and his wife looked on. “For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the Lord ascended *in the flame* of the altar” (Judges 13:19-20). Similarly, when Daniel’s three friends were cast into a fiery furnace, an angel appeared in the flames with them—and not one of them was hurt, or even had one hair of their heads singed in the flames! (See also Daniel 3:22-27).

Angels are spirits, and fire cannot hurt them. The Hebrew word for "spirits" in Psalm 104:4 is *ruach* and comes from the word meaning "wind," "to blow," or "breath." *Strong's Concordance* says it is by resemblance "breath, i.e. a sensible (or even violent) exhalation; fig. *life, anger, unsubstantiality*; by extens. a *region* of the sky; by resemblance *spirit*, but only of a rational being (includ. its expression and functions):—air, anger, blast, breath, cool, courage, mind" etc.

That which is spirit cannot be seen by the natural man, even as we cannot see the wind or air, unless a spirit being chooses to reveal itself in a physical manifestation. The things which are not seen—that is the spirit world, the world of angels—are eternal. The apostle Paul wrote: "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; *but the things which are not seen are eternal*" (II Cor. 4:18).

Angels then have "spirit life." They are not seen. They are "ETERNAL." They were created out of spirit and it is God's intention that they live forever, serving Him. For this reason Jesus Christ said the *righteous angels of God* in heaven "cannot die" (Luke 20:36; Mark 12:25; Matt. 22:30).

That which is spirit will always exist. It cannot be simply done away. It is not like physical life, or this temporary physio-chemical existence we human beings have, or the other physical life forms on the earth.

How then will God punish the wicked angels who rebelled against His government? How will He deal with Satan, the devil, and his legions of demon spirits who were cast down to earth ages ago. What will their final fate or punishment be? Does the Bible give us an inkling or insight into this matter?

Still a Mystery

What is Satan's fate? In truth, since our present minds are human and distinctly limited, we can only see through a glass darkly, as the apostle Paul said. We cannot understand with

total clarity and crystal clear knowledge, because, first of all, we are fleshly, human—we are not divine, resurrected sons of God, and we cannot therefore yet understand fully the things of God and the spirit world. We are a little bit like the ant in the sand box, who travels from one end of the sand box to the other, and then boasts to its fellow ant, “I have seen it all!” Yet beyond that sand box is a whole realm of vast creation. When it comes to the things of the spirit, we are like a child sitting on a mountain top, staring in fascination at the thousands of twinkling and shining stars.

Some things about Satan’s fate are spelled out in the Bible; other things remained cloaked in darkness, hidden as it were from our understanding. We do know that Satan will be brought into total submission to God, “under his feet.” Paul wrote: “Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have *put down all rule and all authority and power*. For he must reign, till he hath put ALL ENEMIES (including Satan and his demons) *under his feet*. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be *subdued* unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all” (I Cor. 15:24-28).

Satan will no longer terrorize the world. He will no longer have any power whatsoever to deceive the nations. He will be totally helpless—totally restrained—totally idle. He will do no work whatsoever. He will cease to function as a thinking, planning, active personality. He will have no more effect on creation than a few randomly moving molecules or atoms. In this sense of the word, as God says in Hebrews, he will be “totally destroyed.” He will be totally insignificant insofar as the world and cosmos of the new heavens and new earth are concerned. For all practical purposes, you might say he will only be vague, nebulous, ancient “memory.” His evil doing will perish with him.

This is a mystery. Since we are not yet spirit beings, born of God, we cannot fully comprehend it all. As the apostle Paul said, "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child. I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (I Cor. 13:9-12).

We cannot fully comprehend Satan's fate, now, even as we cannot fully comprehend the magnificence and majesty and marvelous reality of our own awesome destiny in the family of God. There are so many things we cannot fully understand. As Paul also wrote, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Cor. 2:9).

Paul also said, "But we speak the wisdom of God in a *mystery*, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princess of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (vs. 7-8).

The Scriptures often speak of the "mystery of the kingdom of God" (Mark 4:11), the "mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:4), the "mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:19), and the "mystery of God" (Col. 2:2). There are many things which remain a mystery, which we do not fully understand. As Paul said, we "know in part." And as he also was inspired by God to write, "And without controversy, *great is the mystery of godliness*: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (I Tim.3:16).

Satan's Fate Described

The fate of Satan, in type, is vividly described in Ezekiel 28. The first ten verses of this chapter describe the fate of the prince of Tyre, the proud human ruler of the commercial capital of the ancient world, a city overflowing with wealth and commercial success, the envy of nations.

The Moffatt Translation

The Moffatt Translation says in vivid language and beautiful prose: "This word from the Eternal also came to me: 'Son of man, raise a dirge over the king of Tyre, and give him this message from the Lord the Eternal—"You were the very father of wisdom, the perfection of beauty; *you lived in Eden*, the garden of God; you were adorned with every jewel, the jasper, the chrysolite, the sardonyx, the topaz, the beryl, the onyx, the sapphire, the garnet, and the rock-

crystal, their setting wrought in gold . . . On the day you were *created*, I placed you beside the cherubs on the sacred hill of God; you walked amid the flashing thunder-stones. From the day you were *created*, you lived a perfect life, till you were discovered doing wrong; rich traffic made you rife with violence, and you sinned. Hence I have expelled you as a profane thing from the hill of God, and the cherub has *driven you to your RUIN away from the flashing thunderstones*. Your beauty made you proud of heart, your brilliance depraved your wisdom; so I have cast you down, abandoning you for kings to feast their eyes on you [could not this refer to the *kings* of the World Tomorrow, the resurrected saints? See Revelation 2:26, 5:10, and 20:4 and 21:24]. By the greatness of your guilt, by the crimes of your commerce, you have profaned your sacred position; *therefore have I made you set fire to yourself, with flames that CONSUME YOU, and reduced you to ASHES* on earth in the sight of all who behold you. All who know you among the nations [the immortal sons of God—Revelation 21:24] shall be *appalled* at you—*your fate is AWFUL, there is no future for you*” ’ ’ (Ezek. 28:11-19).

The GOOD NEWS Bible

Notice also the GOOD NEWS Bible's rendition of this passage of divine Scripture: "The Lord spoke to me again. 'Mortal man,' he said, '*grieve* for the *fate* that is waiting for the *king* of Tyre [Satan is the true "king" of this world and its commercial system, sometimes called "Tyre" and "Babylon the Great" in the Scriptures]. Tell him what I, the Sovereign Lord, am saying: You were once an example of perfection. How wise and handsome you were! You lived in Eden, the garden of God, and wore gems of every kind: rubies and diamonds; topaz, beryl, carnelian, and jasper; sapphires, emeralds, and garnets. You had ornaments of gold. They were made for you on the day you were created. I put a

terrifying angel there to guard you. You lived on my holy mountain and walked among sparkling gems. Your conduct was perfect from the day you were created until you began to do evil. You were busy buying and selling, and this led you to violence and sin. So I forced you to leave my holy mountain, and the angel who guarded you drove you away from the sparkling gems. You were proud of being handsome, and your fame made you act like a fool. Because of this I hurled you to the ground and *left you as a warning* to other kings [Satan's fate will be an awesome warning to any future "kings" who would attempt to rebel against God and revolt against His government]. You did such evil in buying and selling that your places of worship were corrupted. So I set fire to the city and burned it to the ground (in the future anti-type of this prophecy, the whole world's surface will sizzle and burn—see II Peter 3:10-13 once again). All who look at you now see you *reduced to ashes. You are gone, gone forever*, and all the nations that had come to know you are terrified, afraid that they will share your fate."

But what does this really mean? Since the devil is a spirit being, how can he be destroyed? The Bible seems clear enough in Ezekiel 28, depicting the fate of the devil. But let us notice another translation, from the *Living Bible*:

"Son of dust, weep for the king of Tyre. Tell him, the Lord God says: You were the *perfection* of wisdom and beauty. *You were in Eden*, the garden of God; your clothing was bejeweled with every precious stone—ruby, topaz, diamond, chrysolite, onyx, jasper, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald—all in beautiful settings of finest gold. They were given to you on the day you were *created*. I appointed you to be the *anointed* GUARDIAN CHERUB. You had access to the holy mountain of God. You walked among the stones of fire.

"You were perfect in all you did from the day you were *created* until that time when *wrong* was found in you. Your great wealth filled you with internal turmoil and *you sinned*. Therefore, I cast you out of the mountain of God like a common sinner. *I destroyed you*, O overshadowing *cherub*, from

the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was filled with *pride* because of all your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. Therefore I have cast you down to the ground and exposed you helpless before the curious gaze of kings. You defiled your holiness with lust for gain; therefore I brought forth *fire from your own actions* and let it *burn you to ashes* upon the earth in the sight of all those watching you. All who know you are *appalled at your fate*; you are an *example of horror*; *you are destroyed forever*" (verses 12-19).

Notice! This anointed "guardian cherub"—obviously Lucifer, the devil—according to several translations of the Bible in modern English will be consumed with fire from his own actions which will burn him to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all the nations. He will be an example of horror—the ultimate example of the fate of the wicked. All who have known him will be appalled at his final fate. God says he will be "**DESTROYED FOREVER.**" Moffatt translates this verse that *God* will make him "set fire to himself" with flames that will "**CONSUME**" him.

Now let's notice the authorized King James Version:

In Ezekiel 28, speaking of the king of Tyre, which blends into the anti-type of Satan the devil, God says: "Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a *fire* [remember the "lake of fire"] from the midst of thee, it shall DEVOUR THEE, and *I will bring thee to ashes* upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee" (Ezek. 28:18).

How could God do this if Satan is a spirit being and therefore "cannot die"? Perhaps we have overlooked the simple explanation.

Could God not *change* Satan's spirit into flesh or physical matter, and *then* destroy him? Even Christ, very God, the Logos, "became flesh" and subsequently *died* on the stake. *God* died. If God Himself could die, surely he could likewise terminate the devil.

Does this verse only refer to the king of Tyre, or could it also be referring to Satan's fate in the lake of fire? The last

event John mentions regarding Satan in the book of Revelation is his being cast *into the lake of fire*. Jesus said the lake of fire is “prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Einstein's Formula

It is interesting to note that on the physical level scientists since Albert Einstein have learned that *energy* and *matter* are completely interchangeable. Einstein expressed this reality in his famous formula E (energy) = m (mass) times C (the speed of light) squared (times itself). This means there is a lot of energy locked up in a small amount of matter. Understanding this concept led to the development of the atomic fission bomb and the nuclear fusion hydrogen bomb—and the threat, for the first time in centuries, of the possible *extinction* of the human race and all animal life on earth!

But wait a minute. If energy and matter are totally interchangeable, and a piece of matter can be totally converted into pure energy, the reverse is also true. Energy can theoretically be converted into pure matter or material substance.

Also consider this fact. Nuclear physicists have discovered a type of matter which they call “anti-matter.” In all respects it is like a parallel creation, only its electrical charge is the reverse or opposite of regular matter. What happens when the anti-matter collides with regular matter? Scientists have seen it happen in nuclear reactors and laboratories. The awesome result is . . . the *total annihilation* of both particles into pure energy!

Even so, then, is it not possible that the great God could annihilate the devil? Could He not “transform” his spirit body into its material equivalent and then annihilate him forever and ever? Matter and energy are interchangeable, two

forms of the same reality (sort of like water and steam are two forms of water). God created *all things* from His Spirit energy (Heb. 11:3). Does God not possess the formula, then, to convert spirit into matter, or spirit energy into material substance or flesh? Of course God has the power and knowledge to do that. All creation is a witness to that truth.

Since the devil and his angels are spirit beings, just *how* God will punish them remains a mystery. The Biblical indication is, however, that in His great power, He will devise a means to totally destroy them, and put them out of existence forever, putting them out of their misery.

God does say, "*the wages of sin is death.*" (Romans 6:23). Surely the greatest sinner and transgressor of all time is the devil. Perhaps his final "death" will be so much greater than we can begin to imagine, that God only hints at his punishment in the Scriptures. But would it not seem fitting that in the end, the "lord of death," who was conquered by Jesus Christ, the "Destroyer," called Abaddon and Apollyon, should himself suffer that which he least expects—the finality and perpetuality of Destruction, and Death! Perhaps even Satan has never really considered the possibility of his own *death*. Extinction. Perhaps now, as he sees his ultimate fate approaching, that is why he is becoming so violently active, knowing he has only "so much time left." As the apostle John wrote in Revelation 12:12: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, *having great wrath*, because he *knoweth* that *he hath but a short time.*"

The Word "Destroy"

II Peter 3:10 says the earth and "the *works* that are therein shall be burned up," and makes no mention of the devil and his demons directly. But in Ezekiel 28:16 God says: "And I will *destroy* thee, O covering cherub, *from* the midst of the stones of fire." In this verse, the Hebrew word for destroy is *abad* and means to break, destroy, cause to perish, cause to

be undone, to make void, to have no way to flee or escape, to wander away, to lose oneself.

How is this word used in the Scriptures? What does it mean? In Leviticus 23:30 we read: "And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I *destroy from among* his people." This is speaking of those people who defiled the Day of Atonement by working upon it. They were to be "cut off" (verse 29). Those who worked on God's Sabbaths were to be *put to death* (Exodus 35:2). That is how they were "destroyed from among God's people."

In Numbers 33:52 we read: "Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and *destroy [abad]* all their pictures, and *destroy [abad]* all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places." The Hebrew word for "destroy" both times in this verse is *abad*. Does it mean merely "banish" or "exile" or "throw out"? Very plainly, in these verses, it means to cause to perish, to *break in pieces* and cause to be undone, to *literally destroy* or *obliterate*. Nothing could be plainer.

For other examples where this word is used, and where it is translated "destroy," see also Deuteronomy 7:10 and 24; 9:3; 28:63; Joshua 7:7; II Kings 10:19; 24:2; Esther 4:7, 8:5, 9:24; Psalm 5:6, 21:10, 119:95, 143:12; Proverbs 1:32; Jeremiah 1:10, 12:17, 15:7, 18:7, 23:1, 31:28, 46:8, 49:38; Ezekiel 6:3, 22:27, 30:13, 32:13; Obadiah 8; Micah 5:10; Zephaniah 2:5, 13; besides Ezekiel 28:16, in reference to the covering cherub, Lucifer. In all these other places, the word literally means destruction, annihilation, obliteration, reducing to dust and powder.

Notice again in the book of Deuteronomy. Moses wrote in plain language: "Ye shall *utterly destroy [abad]* all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: And ye shall *overthrow* their altars, and *break* their pillars, and *burn* their groves with *fire*; and ye shall *hew down* the graven images of their gods, and *destroy* the names

of them out of that place" (Deut. 12:2-3). Clearly, the word *abad* does not mean banishment, exile, or being cast out, doomed to wander forever like the Flying Dutchman. It involves far more than mere banishment or exile. It also involves a great change or disintegration in the object itself, rendering it powerless, useless, totally unlike its previous essence or shape.

God says of Lucifer: ". . . thou hast sinned: therefore I will CAST THEE AS PROFANE OUT of the mountain of God: AND I WILL DESTROY THEE, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire" (Ezek. 28:16).

Notice two things here: God says Lucifer's punishment will involve TWO THINGS: 1) expulsion from the kingdom of God, and 2) DESTRUCTION!

As we have seen, this word "destroy" in Hebrew literally means: "to wander away, lose oneself, PERISH, (causative, *destroy*)—break, destroy (destruction), fail, lose, cause to perish, make to perish." The basic root meaning of the word means "TO DESTROY, PERISH."

God will *destroy* the Devil! He will not play games with him, or merely banish him, or expell him, or send him into exile. He will BOTH "cast him out," AND—ALSO—"DESTROY" HIM!

Going on, describing the final fate of this cherub, this fallen arch-angel, Ezekiel continues:

"Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: *I will CAST THEE TO THE GROUND*, I will lay thee before kings (the coming kings and rulers of the World Tomorrow!), that they may behold thee.

"Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I BRING FORTH A FIRE FROM THE MIDST OF THEE (a self-consuming blaze from within Satan's own being), *IT SHALL DEVOUR THEE*, and *I will bring thee to ASHES* upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

“All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and *never shalt thou be any more*” (Ezek. 28:16-19).

Read in any translation you wish; they all say much the very same thing. Satan's fate is spelled out in the Bible. It is delineated quite clearly. His ultimate DOOM is to be annihilated, extinguished, expurgated, expunged, obliterated, and utterly destroyed!

These verses in Ezekiel all refer to the satanic king of the fallen angels, and his final fate. In type they can also refer to the king of Tyre, or even the coming king of Babylon, the Beast of Revelation.

God has not left himself without a solution—a truly “Final Solution” to the fate of Satan. He did not “box himself” in; he did not forget temporarily when He created the angels that it would be impossible to punish them adequately or properly since they were spirit beings. He had His plan in mind all the time.

Katargeo Destruction

Paul wrote of Christ: “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same, that *through death he might DESTROY him* that had the power of death, that is, *the devil*” (Hebrews 2:14).

The word for “destroy” in this verse is *katargeo* in the Greek language. It literally means to *render entirely useless, to abolish, cease, do away with, destroy, make of no effect, bring to naught, put away, vanish away, make void*. See *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, or Arnt Gingrich or any other reputable lexicon. To the extent that our human minds

can understand it, this verse describes the ultimate *fate* of Satan the devil!

This verse is not talking about destroying merely the *works* of the devil, or his plans, ambitions, schemes, plots or machinations. It says "*destroy HIM*"—"that is, the devil" *himself!* His very being, his nature, his character, his essence, his personality, his very totality!

How God will accomplish this since the devil is a spirit being, we do not know. But God will render Satan "entirely useless," cause him to "cease," "make (him) of *no* effect," "bring (him) to naught," cause him to "vanish away." *He will have no more effect than a few random, wandering molecules, or atoms!*

How is the Greek word for "destroy" used elsewhere in the Bible? As we have seen, it is the word *katargeo*. It is translated "destroy" two other times in the New Testament, Notice!

In I Corinthians 6:13, we read: "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall *destroy* both it and them."

Now notice II Thessalonians 2:8: "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall *consume* with the spirit of his mouth, and shall *DESTROY* (KATARGEIO) with the brightness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (vs. 8-9).

How is this wicked one, the great False Prophet to be "destroyed"?

Revelation 19:20: "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. *These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone!*"

That lake of fire will totally *destroy* them—turn them into nothingness—ashes—random atoms and disassembled

molecules! Thus the Greek word *katargeo* in its Biblical usage does mean to literally “destroy.” It also means to “bring to nought” (*nothing*) (I Cor. 1:28); “make of *no* effect” (Rom. 3:3); “annulled” (I Cor. 15:24); “cease,” “put an *end* to,” “do away,” “*abolish*” (see I Cor. 6:13; 13:11; Rom. 3:31; Eph. 2:15). For further study see *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, p. 336.

There is an ancient tradition among the Jews that the angel of death, that is, the devil, shall be destroyed by the Messiah! Quoted in Adam Clarke's commentary, the tradition runs: “Satan said to the holy blessed God: *Lord of the world, show me the Messiah.* The Lord answered: *Come and see him.* And when he had seen him he was terrified, and his countenance fell, and he said: *Most certainly this is the Messiah who shall cast me and all the nations into hell, as it is written Isaiah 25:8, The Lord shall swallow up death forever.*”

This is a very remarkable tradition, and I quote it here not to prove Satan's fate but merely for its own inherent interest and the insight it provides.

The Bible does say, “for the things which are seen are temporal [temporary], but the things which are not seen are eternal” (II Cor. 4:18).

If this means spirit is eternal, then perhaps the spirit essence of Satan will first be changed by God to physical matter or flesh so Satan will burn up and be destroyed. Or, perhaps the spirit essence Satan is composed of will remain forever, but perhaps God will totally destroy, blot out, *erase*, the personality and character of the devil from that spirit—just like a computer programmer erases a computer tape, and then reprograms it. The “tape,” or spirit, will remain, but the individuality, personality, and character of the being known as Satan will be erased from that “tape,” and forever removed from it.

This, of course, is only speculation, at this point. In the light of what we know about tape recordings and video tapes, today, however, it makes for an intriguing possibility—a way to get rid of Satan the devil once and for all, and yet for the “spirit essence” to remain, and continue to exist.

Satan's Fate and the Fate of Stars

Since angels are compared to “stars” in the Bible, maybe we can learn something about Satan’s fate studying physical stars, and their eventual “fate.”

This should be very revealing to us, because the apostle Paul wrote clearly: “For the *invisible things of him* from the creation of the world are *clearly seen, BEING UNDERSTOOD by the things that are made*, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:20).

Astronomers have learned many marvelous things about stars, in these “last days” spoken of by Daniel the prophet, when “knowledge shall be increased” (Dan. 12:4).

Just as the Bible tells us there are untold multiple millions of angels (Daniel 7:9-10), even so astronomers, probing the heavens with their telescopes, tell us there are more than 200 billion billion stars (200,000,000,000,000,000,000). Stars

range in diameter from 1,000 times the size of our sun to smaller than the earth. We can hardly imagine the great distances separating the stars. The star nearest to the sun is 25 million million miles away, and that is only one billionth of the distance to the farthest stars known to man.

Stars differ greatly in color and brightness, as well as size. Some are yellowish, some reddish, and some have a blueish appearance. Some sparkle like rubies, some like sapphires, some like jaspers, some like emeralds, and some like diamonds. Each star is unique—different. No two are the same.

What makes a star shine? Stars give off tremendous energy. A star is like a huge nuclear furnace. Inside the furnace, stars convert hydrogen gas into helium in a process known as nuclear *fusion*. During this process, some of the hydrogen does not become helium but is transformed into pure energy. This atomic furnace creates such tremendous amounts of energy that temperatures at the center of stars reach *millions* of degrees. From the surface of the stars, this energy is radiated into space in transmissions of light energy, heat energy, radio waves and cosmic rays.

Theoretically, astronomers tell us, stars will shine for billions of years. They have enough hydrogen to last that long, before running out of fuel. Compared to the life span of man, or even the age of the earth since dinosaurs roamed the marshlands perhaps millions of years ago, the age of stars seems "endless" or "eternal." By comparison, a man's life span is like a short jerk of the reflex action of a knee. Just a split second, a mere ripple in time.

The largest stars are larger than the inner solar system, some with diameters a thousand times the sun's. But other stars, incredibly dense, called neutron stars, have a diameter of only 10 miles! A neutron star may weigh in, tipping the scales at 10 *billion* tons per cubic *inch*! A teaspoon of neutron star "stuff" would equal the weight of 200 million elephants!

How old are the stars? Astronomers have detected clues as to the possible ages of various stars by determining mathematically how fast they are using up their fuel, by stu-

dying their spectral "fingerprints," their heat and energy radiation. They estimate that most stars began shining between 1 million and 10 billion years ago.

It is possible that God is still creating new stars today within the clouds of dust and gas within the Milky Way galaxy and other galaxies.

The Time of Creation

The original Creation of the Universe itself, astronomers think, occurred about 10-15 billion years ago, as men count time. Of course, this figure of time is as *nothing* to God, to whom a day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a single day, and who "inhabits Eternity" (Isaiah 57:15).

Isaiah the prophet, speaking of God, said: "Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle [sphere] of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that *stretcheth out* the heavens as a curtain, and SPREADETH THEM OUT as a tent to dwell in" (Isaiah 40:21-22).

This verse is an allusion to the fact of the EXPANDING UNIVERSE! Astronomers have discovered during this century that the Universe is truly spreading out, all the stars are speedily racing outward from a central point, those nearest the outskirts or rim of the known Universe approaching speeds near the speed of light itself (186,000 miles per *second*, or 7½ times around the earth in one second!).

What a fantastic confirmation of the Word of God!

But this same evidence of the expanding Universe has other vital significance. Astronomers have concluded that the Universe is expanding and stars are racing away from each other by means of the so-called "Doppler effect" on light radiations or emissions reaching the earth from those stars. Just as you can tell, by standing alongside a train track, by listening to the train's whistle, whether that train is approaching you, or going away from you, because the pitch of the train's whistle will differ either way, so astronomers have

deduced from the variations in the "pitch" as it were of the spectral radiations from various stars and entire galaxies that they are all receding from us at varying speeds. And the farther away they are, the faster they appear to be going!

The Universe appears to be expanding somewhat like when a small boy blows up a big balloon. If you take a pencil and mark "dots" all over the balloon, and then blow it up, the bigger it gets the farther those "dots" move away from each other!

But since the Universe is expanding, at a velocity which scientists can mathematically calculate, they can extrapolate back in time to the period when all the stars and galaxies must have been all clumped together. That point they call the "Creation," and the sudden impetus which sent the stars flying outward, creating stars and galaxies, they call the "Big Bang."

What caused that "Big Explosion," perhaps 20 billion years ago? They don't know. They don't even want to guess Why? Because the answer to that question points them face to face with the Creator . . . *GOD!*

Have Astronomers Found God?

To illustrate the truth of what I have just said, not long ago astronomer Robert Jastrow penned an article entitled, shockingly enough, "Have Astronomers Found God?" The article originally appeared in the *New York Times Magazine* in 1978.

Dr. Jastrow begins his article with the candid confession, "When an astronomer writes about God, his colleagues may assume he is either over the hill or going bonkers." He then goes on to say that although he is an agnostic in religious matters, he is "fascinated by strange developments going on in astronomy"—partly because of their religious implications, and the peculiar reactions of some of his colleagues.

Asserted Dr. Jastrow: "The crux of the new story of Genesis, better known as the 'big-bang' theory, is that we live in an expanding universe, in which all the galaxies around us

are moving away from us and one another at enormous speeds. It is as if we are witnessing the aftermath of a gigantic explosion.

“If we trace the motions of the outward-moving galaxies backward in time, we find that they all come together roughly 20 billion years ago.

“At that time, say scientists who hold to the big-bang theory, all the matter in the universe was packed into a dense mass at temperatures of many trillions of degrees. The dazzling brilliance of the radiation in this dense, hot universe suggests the explosion of a cosmic hydrogen bomb.

“The instant in which the cosmic bomb exploded marked *the birth of the universe*”—that is, CREATION ITSELF!

Thus astronomical science vindicates, corroborates, substantiates—indeed, even *proves*—the accuracy of the first statement in the Bible: “In the beginning, God CREATED the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). They were indeed *created*! They haven’t always existed.

Says Dr. Jastrow: “The essential elements in the astronomical and Biblical accounts of Genesis *are the same*: The chain of events leading to man commenced *suddenly and sharply, at a definite moment in time in a flash of light and energy.*”

That was the moment of the original CREATION—when God, by His spirit and power, began the drama of creating the physical Universe!

But, admits Dr. Jastrow, “Some scientists are unhappy with the idea that the world began this way.” Why? Obviously, they don’t want to admit there is a God!

Continued Jastrow: “Now that evidence pointed to the fact that the universe had a beginning, a few scientists dared to ask, ‘What came before the beginning?’

“Some, even bolder, asked, ‘Who was the Prime Mover?’ ”

An obvious—yet highly important—question.

Jastrow says:

“The British theorist Edward Milne wrote a mathematical treatise on kinematic relativity, which concluded by saying, in

the context of expansion, 'The first cause of the universe is left for the reader to insert. But our picture is incomplete without Him.' "

How beautifully true!

Nevertheless, most physicists and astronomers don't agree necessarily, with that view—or the obvious implications of the new evidence.

They prefer to ignore the obvious. Their attitude is like that of the theologian who, when asked what God was doing before He created heaven and earth, replied, "He was creating hell for people who ask dumb questions like that!"

Dr. Jastrow points out in his article that in 1965 Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson of the Bell Laboratories made a shocking discovery. They found that the earth is bathed in a faint radiation coming from all sides of the heavens. The entire universe seemed to be the source of the radiation. What was it?

Says Jastrow: "The two physicists, puzzled by their discovery, did not realize that they had stumbled upon the answer to one of the cosmic mysteries. Scientists who believed in the big-bang theory had long asserted that the universe must have resembled a white-hot fireball in the first moments after the big bang occurred.

"Gradually, as the universe expanded and cooled, the fireball would have become less brilliant, but its radiation would never have disappeared entirely. It was the diffuse glow of this ancient radiation, *dating back to the birth of the universe*, that Penzias and Wilson apparently discovered."

Adds Dr. Jastrow, in dumbfounding words:

"The clincher, which has convinced almost the last doubting Thomas of the big-bang theory, is that the radiation discovered by Penzias and Wilson has exactly the pattern of wavelengths expected for the light and heat produced in a great explosion."

How about that?

Here we have amazing, incredible new evidence proving God created the heavens and the earth. There was a precise moment of Creation. And the aftereffects of that explosion

of energy at Creation, the residual radiation, is still with us today, as further *proof* Creation indeed occurred, as the Bible says it did!

Doesn't that make you want to shout with joy?

Unless, of course, you are an agnostic or atheist. Then this new discovery would probably make you very uncomfortable, perhaps even angry.

The apostle Paul wrote: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even his eternal power and Godhead*; so that they are *without excuse*. Because that, when they knew God [had proved He existed], they glorified him not as God [refused to admit the significance of the evidence staring them in the face!], neither were thankful; but became VAIN in their imaginations [tried to invent ridiculous ways around the evidence, so they could squirm out of it], and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise [thinking themselves to be educated, erudite, brilliant, mentally gifted, highly intelligent], *they became fools*" (Romans 1:20-22).

Indeed, David wrote centuries ago, as if he had a 3,000 year advance scoop on scientists who deny God's existence. He wrote: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1).

Dr. Jastrow had an interesting comment on the reaction of astronomers to this strange, startling new discovery: "Theologians generally are delighted with the *proof* that the universe had a *beginning* [just as the Bible says!], but astronomers are curiously upset. Their reactions provide an interesting demonstration of the response of the scientific mind—supposedly a very objective mind—when evidence uncovered by science itself leads to a conflict with the articles of faith in our profession."

Says Jastrow, "This faith is violated by the discovery that the world had a beginning under conditions in which the known laws of physics are not valid and as a product of forces we cannot discover.

“When that happens, the scientist has lost control. He reacts by ignoring the implications or by trivializing and calling it the big bang, as if the universe were a firecracker.”

They sort of make fun of creation and ignore its vast implications.

Jastrow continues:

“Consider the immensity of the problem. Science has *proved* that the universe exploded into being at a certain moment.

“It asks, What cause produced this effect? Who or what put the matter and energy into the universe? Was the universe created out of nothing or was it gathered out of pre-existing materials?

“And science cannot answer these questions because, according to the astronomers, in the first moments of its existence the universe was compressed to an extraordinary degree and consumed by the *heat of a fire beyond human imagination.*”

Doesn't this sound similar to the event pictured by the apostle Peter in II Peter 3, describing the “fiery” blast and “fervent heat” in which the present earth and heavens are destined to perish, out of which God Himself will create a NEW HEAVENS and a NEW EARTH—that is, a NEW UNIVERSE?

Think about it.

Jastrow continues:

“The shock of that instant must have destroyed every particle of evidence that could have yielded a clue to the cause of the great explosion.

“*The scientist's pursuit of the past ends in the moment of Creation.*”

What a sublime and wonderful truth!

Says Jastrow: “This development was *unexpected* by all but the theologians. They have always accepted the word of the Bible: *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth* [emphasis his].

“But we scientists did not expect to find evidence for an abrupt beginning because we have had, until recently, such

extraordinary success in tracing the chain of cause and effect backward in time."

Dr. Jastrow concludes, with a note of irony, "Now we would like to pursue that inquiry further back in time, but the barrier seems insurmountable. For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a *bad dream*.

"He has scaled the mountains of ignorance. He is about to conquer the highest peak. As he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of *theologians* who have been *sitting there for centuries*."

Those are astonishing words.

It is time astronomers come to their senses, admit it to themselves, and humble themselves before their Maker. Scientists have probed the Universe with their far-reaching eyes of the telescope. They have peered far out into space, and also back in time. They have probed the heavens.

And they have found God.

The past twenty years have been an unparalleled period of discovery in astronomy, called the "golden age of astronomy." Said Gary Mechler of the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona, near Tucson: "It would not be hyperbole to describe this as the richest and most promising era in the history of astronomy."

During this phenomenal time, astronomers have dramatically changed our perception of the universe. They have stretched back the edge of the universe, they have encountered fascinating quasars, and pulsars, clouds of superheated gas, and mysterious black holes. But most important of all, they have pushed back through the years, and proved there was a specific moment of Creation—the time when God set it all in motion!

In man's new assessment, the universe is no longer seen merely as a magnificent pageant of a serene night sky with twinkling stars and far off galaxies. Now the cosmos is seen more as a place of constant change, exploding stars, whirling galaxies, of superpowerful quasars, oceans of hot gases and

cooling clouds, eddies and whirlpools in space, and black holes that even swallow light.

But most important, new astronomical discoveries have pushed back the horizons of space and the frontiers of knowledge . . . and have found God.

The Exploding Universe

Radio telescopes have discovered black holes in space, stars called pulsars which emit a definite pulse of energy at very precise intervals, like the ticking of a watch or a precision celestial clock. Optical telescopes have provided sharply focused views of distant galaxies. And with the onslaught of computers, astronomers now can make models of the universe. The electronic brains of computers can scan millions of pictures in seconds, a laborious task which would take years for the human eye.

Satellites and rockets with delicate sensor probes investigate the invisible spectrum of X-rays, cosmic rays, ultraviolet light, and gamma rays. They have found the universe is teeming with radiation.

Spacecraft sent to Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and other planets have sent back sharp, beautiful, amazing photographs showing the awesome bleakness and desolation of the outer planets, providing incredible new knowledge about Saturn's rings and Jupiter's moons. But much remains to be learned.

Says Geoffrey Burbridge, Director of the Kitt Peak National Observatory: "Some believe we've discovered the skeleton of the universe and are now looking at the flesh. Others say we lack even the skeleton as yet."

Adds Dr. Burbridge: "We have a broad outline now. But we're fuzzy at the beginning and the end."

Do Stars Die?

With new orbiting telescopes envisioned by scientists, much remains to be discovered about the Universe around us.

However, much is already known as well.

The overwhelming evidence indicates that most of the stars were created millions or billions of years ago. They have been around for a long, long time.

Nevertheless, each star continually burns up nuclear fuel. They generally use up their fuel at a steady, predictable, continual rate. Eventually, the stars will run out of fuel, or, "die."

Most astronomers now believe that the present Universe began some 15 or 20 billion years ago. Our own sun, they believe, was a relative latecomer, and made its appearance about 5 billion years ago. They believe the sun will continue to shine for another 5 billion years. Then its store of hydrogen will be exhausted. As it runs out of fuel, it will explode into a red giant, sending out a spherical cloud of superheated gas as far as the orbit of the Earth, which would burn the Earth to a smoking cinder.

Eventually the sun's remnants would collapse inwardly and form a small star called a white dwarf, or a neutron star, or even a "black hole."

And the sun would die.

Of course, God could somehow decide to re-charge the sun's fuel, stoke up its furnace by supplying additional hydrogen fuel, but unless He did supernaturally intervene, eventually stars would burn out and perish. Whether God will ever let that happen is another question.

However, there are other stars which definitely *DO* perish, or "die." Astronomers have studied them in great detail, baffled at their odd behavior. But sometimes a star seems to go "beserk," or on the rampage, stellarly speaking, and seems to "blow up."

For example:

The Strange Truth about Supernovas

It is speculated by scientists—paleontologists and paleo-astronomers and astrophysicists—that the primary *cause* of the GREAT DYING of the dinosaurs which once ruled the

earth was a tremendous "supernova" explosion in space several million years ago. Could that *physical* "supernova" explosion have been connected with the *spiritual* fall of Lucifer out of heaven, of whom Jesus said: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:18)?

A Supernova is a star that literally *explodes*, becomes billions of times brighter for a few weeks, and then becomes dim again. Exploding stars burst unexpectedly with such tremendous energy that they hurl huge amounts of dust and gas into space. One type, the *nova*, becomes thousands of times brighter than normal. This extraordinary brightness may last for a few days or a few years, and then the star returns to its dim appearance. Some nova explode *several times* after an indefinite period.

But the *supernova* is a thousand times brighter than an exploding *nova*. The most famous *supernova* occurred in the Milky Way in 1054 A.D. and produced a huge cloud of dust and gas called the Crab Nebula. This huge cloud of dust and gas is the stellar remains of what was once a brightly burning, shining star!

Says the *World Book Encyclopedia*: "Many stars *end their existence* in explosions like the one that produced the Crab Nebula. Such an explosion creates a *cloud* containing the hydrogen, helium, and heavier *elements* that made up the *former* star. *In time*, the material in the cloud forms a *new* star. This new, second-generation star thus includes the *remains* of a star that was rich in the heavier elements" (article, "Star," p. 666a).

Think of that! Isn't this a clear *type* of the final, ultimate *fate* of that "shining star of the dawn," that once heralded "Light-bringer," whose name Lucifer was changed to *Satan*?

What could be clearer?

Says *World Book*: "The life of most stars lasts billions of years. Most stars began shining between 1 million and 10 billion years ago. Some will keep shining for billions of years. Obviously, no one has ever watched a particular star take shape, change, and finally die. But astronomers have ob-

served many different stars at various stages of their existence" (*ibid.*, p. 666b).

Astronomers get much of their information by studying star clusters. They can determine much about the "life-cycle" of stars based on known chemical and physical laws.

Since stars are a type of angels, cannot we also learn from them vital information about the final fate of the *wicked* or "fallen" angels?

How Stars Die

Says the *World Book Encyclopedia* again:

"A star changes because its supply of hydrogen decreases. The star's center contracts, and the temperature and pressure at the center rise. At the same time, the temperature of the outer part gradually drops. The star expands greatly and becomes a red giant.

"In time, the red giant begins to lose material from its surface. The force of gravity in the star overcomes the pressure in the star's core, and the star begins to *collapse*. The star shrinks, and its pressure and temperature INCREASE. *During this stage, the star may EXPLODE* into a supernova. The star may eventually become a white dwarf, perhaps the *last visible stage* of a star. The material that makes up a white dwarf is so tightly packed that the star may be only about the size of the earth, or smaller. The star may then cool down slowly or contract even further. If it contracts, it may become either a neutron star *or a collapsed star* called a *black hole*. A black hole has so much gravitational force that *not even light can escape from it*" [remember Carlsbad Caverns? Here is the "ultimate" in outer darkness!] ("Stars," p. 666c).

The Black Hole

Walt Disney popularized it in his movie by the same name, but scientists have been studying "black holes" in space for decades, ever since J. Robert Oppenheimer postulated their existence.

Actually, the existence of such monstrosities as "black holes" was first advanced by J. Robert Oppenheimer and Hartland Snyder in 1939, over forty years ago.

A "black hole" would be totally invisible. It has such a strong gravitational force that nothing, not even *light*, can escape from it.

Summarizes *World Book Encyclopedia* about "black holes":

"Some astronomers think a black hole may form when a large star collapses inward from its own weight. The star is compressed as it collapses, and its density increases greatly. The extreme density of the collapsed star causes its surface gravitational force to increase tremendously. *This force becomes so great that the star's light cannot escape and the star becomes invisible.* Astronomers visualize such a collapsed star as a "hole" in space. The hole may attract and retain nearby orbiting objects, including comets and planets.

"When a star becomes a black hole, its size decreases greatly. The sun, which is a star, has a diameter of about 865,000 miles (1,392,000 kilometers). To become a black hole, the sun would have to be compressed to a diameter of less than 4 miles (6 kilometers)."

The article continues:

"Astronomers have been unable to prove the existence of black holes because the holes are invisible. These scientists have tried to locate black holes by observing the effect of their gravitational pull on other objects. During the early 1970's, some astronomers discovered a star that orbited what seemed to be an invisible object in the constellation Cygnus. They believed this object was a black hole. Some astronomers think black holes make up as much as *a third* of the material in the earth's galaxy, the Milky Way" (article "Black Hole," p. 307).

Isn't it interesting? In the book of Revelation we read: "And there appeared another wonder *in heaven*; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And *his tail* drew the THIRD

PART OF THE STARS OF HEAVEN, and did cast them to the earth . . . ” (Rev. 12:3-4).

One third of the angels *sinned*.

Astronomers speculate that perhaps *one third* of the stars of the Milky Way galaxy have been turned into “black holes” in space.

Could there be a connection?

Type and Antitype

The physical world is a type of the spiritual. And stars are a type of angels (Rev. 1:20). God spoke of the time, at the creation of the earth, “When the morning *stars* sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:7).

God Himself says of Satan: “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations?

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne *above the stars of God*: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:12-14).

This “Lucifer” is called in the *Moffatt* Translation “O shining star of the dawn.”

The word “Lucifer” is from the Hebrew *helel* and literally means “brightness.” It is coupled with the words “son of the morning” in Isaiah 14, and means the “bright star,” or the “morning star.” Lucifer was the name for the planet Venus, the brightest object in the sky apart from the sun and moon. It means “shining one,” “light bearer,” “the bright shining one.” Venus sometimes appeared as the morning star and sometimes as the evening star. Some connect this description with the planet Jupiter.

This shining star of the dawn was cast down to the earth. *James Moffatt* translates this passage beautifully: “What a fall from heaven on high, O shining star of the dawn! How low and limp you lie, who once swayed all the nations! You,

who once said to yourself, 'I will scale the sky, I will set my throne supreme above the stars on high, I will sit on the hill of the gods in the far, far north; I will scale the cloud-banks, and rival the Most High!

"And down you drop, to the world below, down to *death's abyss* you go!" (Isaiah 14:13-14).

The authorized King James Version renders it: "Yet thou shalt be brought down to *hell* (*hades*, meaning the *grave*), to the sides of the pit" (verse 15).

Although in anti-type these verses also refer to the king of proud Babylon, the key spiritual meaning is to Lucifer, the anointed guardian cherub who rebelled against God aeons ago, and sought to replace Him as the ruler of the Universe.

His fate, as Moffatt so eloquently puts it—"down to *DEATH'S ABYSS* you go!"

The Evidence Combined

Thus when we take all the evidence, both from many, many passages of Scripture—and Jesus said the Scripture “cannot be broken” (John 10:35)—with the physical evidence of the fate of stars, including the supernovas, which literally **BLOW UP** and **EXPLODE**; and since physical stars are a “type” of angels, as many Biblical verses show; when we take and assemble all the evidence, and marshal it together, the truth becomes as amazing as it is plain.

Satan the devil, Lucifer, the former light bringer, Abaddon, Apollyon, the arch enemy of all mankind, and the accuser of the brethren, will finally meet his fate. His utter *DOOM* is sealed. He will be expunged, obliterated, erased from existence and from the memory of man. One way or another—we don’t know exactly how God will do it—Satan will be eradicated once and for all. He will no longer come into thought or mind.

Like an exploding supernova, God will bring “forth fire from the midst” of him, or from “within him,” and it will “*DEVOUR*” him (Ezek. 28:18). His fate will be an astonishing thing. And God says, “Never shalt thou be any more” (v. 19). He will perish *FOREVER*.

Satan the devil will no longer be around to torment or plague the Kingdom of God any more. His awesome end will come.

And God says of that new heaven and that new earth: "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

"And God shall *wipe away all tears* from their eyes; and there shall be *no more death*, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the *former things are passed away*" (Rev. 21:3-4).

"For our God," Paul wrote, "is a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29). God is going to shake the earth and the heavens, and purge away all that is evil and false and corrupt (Heb. 12:26-28, II Pet. 3:10-13). Even death and hell (the grave) shall be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14). "The *last enemy* that shall be destroyed is *death*" (I Cor. 15:26).

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, will "*destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil*" (Hebrews 2:14).

What could be plainer, clearer?

Thank God for our Saviour, and Deliverer, Jesus Christ!

The Enemies of God

What is the fate of the enemies of God? Surely, Satan the devil is the chief of all the enemies of God, and his demon spirits are also enemies of God. They attempted to take over His throne, and fought against Him and His angels (Rev. 12:1-4, Isaiah 14:12-15). Satan is even called, in Hebrew, and the very name "Satan" means, "Adversary," or "Enemy."

Jesus specifically called the devil an "enemy." He said: "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed

good seed in his field: But while men slept, his *enemy* came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way” (Matt. 13:24-25).

“So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst thou not sow good seed in thy field? from when then hath it tares?

“He said unto them, *An enemy* hath done this” (vs. 26-28).

Who is this enemy? Who was Jesus referring to? His disciples did not know, so they asked Him. Jesus explained to them, “He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man [meaning Himself]; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of *the wicked one; the enemy that sowed them is the devil*” (Matt. 13:37-39).

Satan is the “enemy” or “opponent” or “adversary” of God. He is named what he is, and that is precisely what he is! What, then, does God specifically say will be the fate of His enemies?

This may seem like a round about way to prove what the fate of the devil and his demons will be, but notice what the Bible says.

David was inspired by God to write: “But the wicked shall *perish*, and the ENEMIES OF THE LORD shall be as the *fat of lambs*: they shall consume; *into SMOKE shall they consume away*” (Psalm 37:20).

They that are “cursed” of God, we read, shall be “CUT OFF”—and that surely applies to the Devil himself (Psa. 37:22, 34). David said, and this certainly applies to the Devil in type, as well as to wicked princes and rulers: “I have seen the wicked in GREAT POWER”—Satan is the prince of the power of the air, the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2)—“and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he

passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found" (vs. 35-36). "But the TRANSGRESSORS SHALL BE DESTROYED TOGETHER: *the end of the wicked shall be CUT OFF*" (v. 38).

The Fate of the Wicked

Satan is referred to in Scripture as "the wicked one" (Matt. 13:13, 38; I John 2:13, 14, 3:12, 5:18). He is the chief of all the wicked. He inspires the wicked to commit their wickedness. He was a murderer and a liar from the beginning, Jesus said.

According to our Saviour, Satan is the essence of foul wickedness. He told the Pharisees of His day, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the *lusts* of your father ye will do. He was a *murderer* from the beginning, and *abode not in the truth*, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for *he is a LIAR*, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

The *Living Bible* puts it: "For you are the children of your father the devil and you love to do the things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning and a hater of truth—there is *not an iota of truth in him*. When he lies, it is perfectly normal; for he is the father of liars" (same verse).

Surely, then, Satan will be deserving of the Biblical fate described for the wicked! He will be richly deserving of that precise fate the Bible says is appointed for "the wicked," as he himself is the chief architect of wickedness.

What is the Biblical fate of the wicked?

"Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast *destroyed the wicked*, thou hast *put out their name for ever and ever*. *O thou enemy*, destructions are come to a PERPETUAL END: and thou hast destroyed cities; their *memorial is perished with them*" (Psalm 9:5-6).

This is speaking of the wicked—the enemy—Satan, and his angels, as well as the incorrigibly wicked among mankind, the "children" of the devil who follow his example. Those who follow his example, his way of life, *will share in his fate!* That is what the Bible teaches!

This will be their "PERPETUAL END."

Verse 17 of this Psalm says: "The wicked shall be turned into *hell*, and all the nations that forget God." God says: "For yet a little while, and *the wicked shall not be*: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and *it shall not be*" (Psa. 37:10).

Surely that refers to the Devil and his minions!

God thunders: "As *smoke* is driven away, so drive them away: as *wax melteth before the fire*, so let the *wicked PERISH* at the presence of God" (Psa. 68:2).

The opposite of life is death. The only proper and just fate for all the wicked who have perverted their lives is death. "The WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Lawlessness leads to the penalty of DEATH!

That is God's spiritual, supreme LAW! It is immutable! It is inexorable! It is more binding than the law of gravity! Those who persist in wickedness—WILL ALL DIE!

God Almighty thunders in His Word: "When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; *it is that they shall be DESTROYED FOR EVER*. But thou, Lord, art most high for evermore. For, lo, THINE ENEMIES, O Lord, for, lo, *thine enemies SHALL PERISH . . .*" (Psa. 92:7-9).

What is this word "destroy?" It is the Hebrew word *shamad* and means "to desolate, destroy, bring to nought, overthrow, perish, pluck down," to "*utterly destroy*."

What about this word "perish"? It is the Hebrew word *abad* and literally means "break, lose, fail, perish, destroy, be undone, be void of, no way to flee," with the sense of adding the word "*utterly*" to all of the preceding.

This is the very same word the Bible uses for the *fate of Satan* in Ezekiel 28:16! Look it up! Check it out! Prove it to yourself! Don't take my word for it, or believe me because I say it, but prove it to yourself in your own Bible concordance, Hebrew dictionary or lexicon!

God says: "I will early *destroy ALL the wicked* of the land; that I may *cut off all wicked doers* from the city of the Lord" (Psa. 101:8). Satan the devil is the *chief* of all the wicked doers of all time. His fate, again, is to be "cut off."

Psalm 104:35 says: "Let the sinners be *consumed* out of the earth, and let the *wicked be no more.*" Satan the devil, and all the rest of the wicked, will "no be more."

Isn't that the only just and deserving fate for the arch-enemy of God, the one who has caused so much havoc, wrought so much confusion, brought so much pain, anguish, suffering and death?

What could be more just than that?

"The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall PERISH" (Psa. 112:10). "Thou putttest away all the wicked of the earth like *dross*" (Psa. 119:119).

"Surely thou wilt *slay* the wicked, O God" (Psa. 139:19). "The Lord preserveth all them that love him: but *all the wicked* will he DESTROY" (Psa. 145:20).

Solomon in the book of Proverbs added: "But the wicked shall be *cut off* from the earth, and the transgressors shall be *rooted out* of it" (Pro. 2:22).

In the tenth chapter of Proverbs he wrote: "The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall *rot*" (v. 7). "As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked *no more: but* the righteous is an everlasting foundation" (v. 25). "The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: *but the expectation of the wicked SHALL PERISH*" (v. 28). "The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall *not* inhabit the earth" (v. 30).

"For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the *candle* of the *wicked* shall be *put out*" (Pro. 24:20). The light of life,

the flame of existence, of the wicked, shall be snuffed out, as when you pinch the wick of a candle or blow on it. They will never ever see life again.

Satan is the "wicked one." He is the instigator of all sin. Surely his punishment cannot be any *less* than the permanent destruction which will utterly consume all his followers and his "children"—those who choose his way versus God's way!

The Hebrew word *abad* is used for the fate of the Devil in Ezekiel 28:16 as we have already seen. It is there translated "destroy." But in many places in the Bible this same word is translated "PERISH." It literally means to perish and there is no room for argument, quarreling, or disagreement over this fact. The two best English words to translate this one Hebrew word are "destroy" and "perish." God is going to DESTROY the devil! He is going to make him "PERISH!"

The word abad is translated "perish" 73 times in the Old Testament! It is translated "perished" 17 times! It is translated "destroy" 39 times! It is translated "destroyed" 17 times.

Can there really be any doubt?

God uses the *very same word* in referring to the final fate of all the incorrigibly wicked among mankind and Satan. God says in His Word that they all shall "perish"—be "destroyed."

God says very plainly that He will "DESTROY" Satan, that is, the devil (Heb. 2:14). Somehow, He will completely put Satan and his demons "out of commission"—"out of operation." They will be rendered totally useless, idle, of no importance, with no impact—to all intents and purposes, they will be rendered totally impotent, powerless, with no energy or ability left to carry on any undertaking or plan. For all practical purposes, they will be rendered as good as *dead*—they will cease to exist, as separate, powerful, intelligent, active beings. God will "DESTROY" them, and they will then be accounted of as the "small dust of the balance," treated with utter and total contempt.

Obviously, since they are spirit beings, composed of spirit, the spirit essence itself will remain—but its glory and ability and power will be stripped from it. It will be left with *nothing* except its spiritual essence itself.

What will God do with the spirit essence that is left? When men die, the spirit returns to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7). But what will God do with the impure, unclean, wicked spirits of the disobedient angels, and Satan himself?

Will their spirit essence be cast out into the void of outer space? Will they be bottled up in some cosmic "black hole" in space? Will their disembodied spirits wander the stark nether regions of the universe, like a gaseous cloud?

Perhaps Jude 13 does apply to them in a sense. Although this verse is basically speaking of false prophets who run the way of Cain and Balaam (v.11), they are compared to "wandering stars" (v.13). Since stars are a type of angels (Rev.1:20; Job 38:4-7), this passage of Scripture could give us an inkling of the final doom of the fallen angels, also.

The apostle Jude writes: "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear; clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; **RAGING WAVES OF THE SEA, foaming out their own shame; WANDERING STARS, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever**"!

For all practical purposes, they will cease to exist. Their wandering spirit remains will experience the totality of eternal blackness and darkness, without even the barest glimmer of light. They will wander like flotsam and jetsam, like so many aimless molecules, with no power or ability to do anything whatsoever. They will experience the spiritual *equivalent* of death of physical life forms. Since they are spirit creatures, they will continue to exist, because spirit itself cannot be destroyed—it is eternal. But they will be as good as dead.

Chapter Nine

The Two Trees

There are only two ways of life—two trees in the Garden that have rich symbolic meaning. One is the tree of LIFE. The other is the tree that leads to DEATH. One is the way of LIFE. The other is the way of DEATH!

Aeons ago Satan chose which tree he would eat of; and he has led the whole world into partaking of that evil tree. But as the children of God, we should be rejecting the *tree of death* every day, and eating daily of the fruit of the tree of LIFE!

Final Words

Seeing these things are coming, how zealous and fervent we should be that we can escape the fate of the wicked.

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?*” (Hebrews 2:1-3).

Let us continue to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (II Pet. 3:18).

“Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness” (II Peter 3:17).

Let us draw near to God, praying earnestly, and watching, that we may be accounted worthy to escape the terrible things shortly to come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man, Jesus Christ!

As Jesus Christ charged us all, “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:34-36).

Remember the admonition of Paul: “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath [don’t hold grudges, or allow bitterness to creep in]: Neither give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:26-27).

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Eph. 6:11-13).

Don’t allow pride to enter your heart, or begin to feel “lifted up” in your own self esteem, “lest being lifted up with pride [you] fall into the condemnation of the devil” (I Timothy 3:6).

Maintain a good reputation, lest you “fall into reproach and the snare of the devil” (verse 7).

Consider these instructions of the apostle Paul, and this deadly serious warning and admonition: “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves [who are all mixed up and confused]; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare [the lethal trap] of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (II Tim. 2:24-26).

James tells us boldly what we should do: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. *Resist the devil*, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

And Peter admonishes us: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: *whom resist stedfast in the faith*, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (I Peter 5:8-9).

And finally, remember these words of the apostle John, who tells us plainly: "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin [or practices sin, or disobedience and lawlessness] is of the devil; for the *devil sinneth from the beginning*. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might *destroy the works of the devil*" (I John 3:8).

"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another" (verse 10).

Let's take these words to heart, meditate upon them, and bind them up in our hearts and minds.

The Master of Subterfuge

The Devil is the master of ruses, aliases, disguises and double crosses. He is a master engineer of shams, fronts and facades. Satan the devil is a master of the art of dissimulation. He knows every cunning sleight of hand and mental delusion. He can convincingly appear one way while being the exact opposite.

The devil possesses "incredible cunning, superhuman wisdom, the most acute penetration, consummate prudence, an incomparable skill in veiling the most pernicious artifices under a specious disguise, and malicious and infinite hatred toward the human race, implacable and incurable" wrote Johan Weyer, personal physician to the Duke of Cleves, a very learned man who lived between 1515 and 1588. How true! When it comes to plotting, masking purposes, covering up motives, intrigue and Machiavellian strategy and political

shrewdness, the Devil wrote the book. As Jesus Christ Himself said, the devil is the "father of liars"—when it comes to dishonesty, fraud, craftiness, clever manipulation, lying and half truths, deceit and deviousness, the Devil has no match. The most underhanded, self-serving, crooked and conniving "deals" are engineered and inspired by the Devil himself.

The apostle Paul warned, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent *beguiled* Eve through his *subtility*, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (II Cor. 11:3).

We must be very wary of the Devil, his influence in the world around us, and his sophisticated siren songs luring us ever toward the shoals and rocks and cliffs of disaster and ruin. We must, for example, never hold grudges against others, or harbor bitterness in our hearts, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (II Cor. 2:11). Satan will stop at nothing to derail us; he will try anything to sidetrack us from God's Kingdom! He will pull out all the stops, make the most blatant promises, insinuations, and bald-faced lies, to get you to forsake God's way and go the way of the tempters, the way of the flesh, the way of the world and its corruption.

We fail to remember, perhaps, how crafty and brilliant the Devil is. In the book of Ezekiel, God says of Satan, "You were the perfection of wisdom and beauty" (Ezek. 28:12). "Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor" (v. 17). "You defiled your holiness with *lust* for gain" (v. 18).

The Armor of God

But through the power of Jesus Christ, and His dwelling within us, we can have the mastery and victory over this arch-enemy, this fiend who hates mankind! We can overcome him "by the blood of the Lamb," Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:11). We can conquer him by the power of God's Holy Spirit within us (Gal. 2:20; Acts 5:32). But to be overcomers, we must always *resist* his influence, his arguments, his clever traps and enticements (I Pet. 5:8). We must put on the "whole armour of God" that we may be able to stand (Eph. 6:10-14), especially

the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (vs. 14-18), the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, the belt of truth.

“Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.

“So use every piece of God’s armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up.

“But to do this, you will need the strong belt of truth and the breastplate of God’s approval. Wear shoes that are able to speed you on as you preach the Good News of peace with God. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. And you will need the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the Word of God.

“Pray all the time. Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit’s wishes. Plead with him, reminding him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere” (Eph. 6:10-18, *Living Bible*).

This is the way to conquer the Devil, once and for all! For a much more thorough explanation of the Christian fight, and the keys to overcoming Satan, be sure to read my book entitled *Overcoming Satan*. It provides much greater depth of information than I can even begin to give here. It thoroughly explores the deceptive myths foisted off on the world by Satan, the incredible delusions and false doctrines, and explains in detail the true keys to overcoming Satan—the keys of genuine repentance, belief in Christ, real dynamic faith, the power of prayer and even spiritual fasting, and many, many other vital, essential tools for defeating the Devil on his own turf and battlefield!

The Power of the Spirit

To put it in a nutshell, the secret of spiritual power, is the

Spirit of God. Also, the *key* to success and overcoming obstacles, hindrances, opposition of all kinds, and every conceivable enemy, pitfall, trap or snare, hurdle or perilous encounter, is also the Spirit of God!

God's Holy Spirit *is* an all-conquering, all-powerful, irresistible force. God's Spirit is the source—the only real source—of dynamic, mighty FAITH! The true faith—the only faith that conquers every obstacle, climbs every mountain, and that even *moves* mountains, is the faith that comes from and through the Spirit of God! It is not a mere *human* faith, or some humanly contrived emotion called "faith" that we work up ourselves or stir up within our hearts. Not at all!

The apostle Paul said: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

Paul was speaking of the Spirit of God and of Christ which dwelled inside him—which united with his mind and inspired his life! Notice also that he lived not by his own faith which he worked up in his mind, but literally by the "FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD," the very faith of Jesus Christ abiding within him by means of the Holy Spirit within him!

Paul wrote of the magnificent power of God's Spirit working in his life. He declared: "We are praying, too, that you will be FILLED with his *mighty, glorious strength* so that you can keep going no matter what happens—always full of the joy of the Lord, and always thankful to the Father who has made us fit to share all the wonderful things that belong to those who live in the kingdom of light" (Col. 1:11-12). The King James Version has this verse: "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; *strengthened with all might*, according to his glorious power . . ."

What is our hope? Paul wrote, "Christ in you (is) the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). Because of this hope, Paul exclaimed, "I also labour, striving according to his working, *which worketh in me MIGHTILY*" (Col. 1:29).

Is God's Spirit mightily at work in your life? Have you yielded yourself to the powerful working of the Spirit of

God? Is your life a witness to being strengthened with "all might," according to His "glorious power"? Are you overcoming sin, temptation, evil lusts, pride and vanity, lethargy and lukewarmness, boredom and lassitude?

God wants our "love to abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being **FILLED** with the fruits of righteousness, which are *by Jesus Christ*, unto the glory and praise of God" (Phil. 1:9-11).

God wants us to "put off concerning the former conversation (conduct) the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be **RENEWED** in the **SPIRIT** of your minds; and that ye *put on the new man*, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:22-24).

God says: "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30). "Quench not the Spirit," Paul adds (I Thess. 5:19). We are to put sin out of our lives, and exercise and use God's Spirit daily. We are to stir it to flame, rekindle it, and let its fire blaze out through our life, letting our light shine forth; we are not to quench it, or put it out, or hide it under a bushel basket!

As Paul wrote to the Romans, "But *put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ*, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:14).

Paul said to the Galatians, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until *Christ be formed in you*" (Gal. 4:19).

He added to the Romans: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye **TRANSFORMED** *by the renewing of your mind*, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

This is all done by the power of God's Spirit working within us, and within our minds and hearts. How much is God's Spirit working within you?

What we need to realize is that we, of ourselves, are nothing—worthless, of no real value to God or man. Of ourselves, we are only worthy of death. Why? Because of our sins and weaknesses. But once we repent of our sins, and allow God to clean us up, and simply give our lives over to

Him, if we let Him He can make something miraculous out of our previously worthless lives! God can work miracles in our lives!

As Paul wrote: "But we have this treasure *in earthen vessels*, that the excellency of the POWER *may be of GOD, and not of us*" (II Cor. 4:7). "We have the same spirit of faith," he wrote, "according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak . . . For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed DAY BY DAY. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are *not seen*: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (vs. 13, 16-18).

A Renewed Mind

Paul writes: "And be *renewed* in the spirit of your *mind*; and that ye *put on* the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:23-24). He adds: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to *awake out of sleep*: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us PUT ON the armour of light.

"Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering, and wantonness, not in *strife* and *envying*.

"But PUT YE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14).

Read it in the *Living Bible*: "Another reason for right living is this: you know how late it is; *time is running out*. WAKE UP, for the coming of the Lord is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is far gone, the day of his return will soon be here. So quit the evil deeds of darkness and put on the armor of right living, as we who live in the daylight should! Be decent and true in everything you do so

that all can approve your behavior. Don't spend your time in wild parties and getting drunk or in adultery and lust, or fighting, or jealousy. But ask the Lord Jesus Christ to help you live as you should and don't make plans to enjoy evil" (Rom. 13:11-14).

Let us not argue or have strife among ourselves. Let us leave off contention and the fruits of darkness. Let us rid ourselves of vain comparisons, vanities, fleshly egos, and the unfruitful works of the carnal mind. Let us train ourselves to think right, do right, and live right.

Paul says: "In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing, so that no one can speak a word of blame against you. You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of people who are crooked and stubborn. Shine out among them like beacon lights, holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:14-16).

Paul adds, with great comforting and warming words of wisdom: "Is there any such thing as Christians cheering each other up? Do you love me enough to want to help me? Does it mean anything to you that we are brothers in the Lord, sharing the same Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic at all? Then make me truly happy by loving each other and agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, working together with one heart and mind and purpose" (Phil. 2:1-2).

More Than Conquerors

What can God's Spirit actually do in us? How much can it accomplish?

Paul exclaimed: "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. *I can do ALL THINGS through Christ which strengtheneth me*" (Phil. 4:12-13).

There is *no limit* to what a man can accomplish through the indwelling power of the Spirit of God!

Think about that!

The Living Bible has it: "for I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the *strength and power*" (same verse).

Paul exulted, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but *after the Spirit*. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:1-2). He went on, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the *carnal mind is enmity against God*: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the *Spirit of God dwell in you*. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, *he is none of his*" (Rom. 8:6-9).

You either have the Spirit of God, and Christ, or you do not! There is no "Mr. Inbetween." You either do or you don't. Paul writes, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (v. 14). And, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Rom. 8:16-17).

If we have God's Spirit, and follow the leading of the Spirit, then nothing in this world can defeat us, overcome us, or destroy us! Paul wrote: "And we know that ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (v. 28).

Paul thrilled: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. *Nay, in all these things we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through him that loved us*. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:35-39).

Overwhelming Victory

This is the Spirit which you and I can have operating mightily, powerfully, in our lives!

As the *Living Bible* puts it: "Despite all this, *OVERWHELMING VICTORY IS OURS* through Christ who loved us enough to die for us" (v. 37).

God's Spirit fashioned the worlds. It set the planets spinning about the sun. It formed the stars, and set the galaxies spinning through space. It created every atom and every molecule of every star and planet and living creature.

Is anything too powerful for God's Spirit? We human beings don't *begin* to remotely consider or comprehend the magnificent POWER that is ours for the asking—the power of God's Holy Spirit!

This Spirit, of course, always acts in harmony with God's laws. It never disobeys them. You cannot use the power of God's Spirit for selfish motives or personal ends or to fulfil your own fleshly lusts or the lusts and vanities of your human mind. It cannot be used that way. This supreme, mighty power *always* flows through the channels—or the river bed—of God's inviolate, immutable spiritual LAWS!

Are you in harmony with God's Laws, His commandments, and His Holy Spirit?

Do you want to tap this supreme power source of the entire Universe?

How does this Spirit act? What does it do? What fruits does it produce in a person's life? How can you know if you really have it or not?

The identifying fruits of the Spirit of God are set forth in the Scriptures. Paul wrote and told the Galatians, this vitally important truth: "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law (that is, condemned by the law, or under the power of the law of the flesh). Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication,

uncleanliness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:16-21).

Those are the fruits of the carnal mind, the flesh. But what are the fruits of the Spirit of God in a person's life?

The Fruits of the Spirit

Paul writes: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (self-control, restraint): against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23).

Paul goes on: "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another" (vs. 24-26).

These are the wonderful, positive, wholesome, healthful fruits produced by the Spirit of God. Look at them! If you are filled with God's Spirit, these things are automatically being grown and harvested and produced in your life! You see, the Holy Spirit is like a tree which bears only this kind of fruit. It does not bear thistles, or briars, or poisonous berries. It only produces good, healthful, wholesome fruit—like apples, oranges, grapefruit, cherries, peaches, lemons, grapes, figs, persimons, and the like!

Do you have the Spirit of God? How much is it operating and how much fruit is it producing in your life? How much are you diligently cultivating it, pulling up the weeds and watering it and encouraging it to grow strong and vibrant and healthful?

If you allow the lusts of the flesh, or the cares of this world, to intrude in your life, they can begin growing like strong weeds and tangling vines, and crowd out the tender young shoot of the Spirit of God even before it really gets a chance to grow big and tall!

Think about it! What fruits are dominating in your life?

James talked a little more about the fruits of God's Spirit. He declared: "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation (conduct) his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, *devilish*. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace" (Jas. 3:13-18).

Notice the *Living Bible* here: "If you are wise, live a life of steady goodness, so that only good deeds will pour forth. And if you don't brag about them, then you will be truly wise! And by all means don't brag about being wise and good if you are bitter and jealous and selfish; that is the worst sort of lie. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, *inspired by the devil*. For wherever there is jealousy or selfish ambition, there will be disorder and every other kind of evil.

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure and full of quiet gentleness. Then it is peace-loving and courteous. It allows discussion and is willing to yield to others; it is full of mercy and good deeds. It is wholehearted and straightforward and sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness" (same verses).

Among all these good fruits produced by God's Spirit, notice that one of them is "faith" (Gal. 5:22). In fact, God's Spirit is specifically called "the Spirit of *faith*" (see II Cor. 4:13).

In the early New Testament Church we read about a man named Stephen, "a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5). "And Stephen, *full of faith and power*, did great wonders and miracles among the people" (v. 8).

Faith is one of the gifts of God's Holy Spirit—one of its

wonderful fruits!

We also read that Barnabus was "a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith" (Acts 11:24). Faith obviously goes hand in hand with God's Holy Spirit! Speaking of the "gifts" of God's Spirit, the apostle Paul wrote, "For to one is given by the Spirit the *word of wisdom*; to another the *word of knowledge* by the same Spirit; to another *faith* by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy . . ." (I Cor. 12:8-10). "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" (v. 11).

Notice that FAITH is one of the powerful gifts and attributes of the Spirit of God. Therefore, if you are lacking in the Spirit of God, obviously you would be also lacking in *faith*! On the other hand, if you are *FILLED* with the Spirit of God in your life, you could not help but also be *FILLED WITH FAITH!*

But how?

What do you need to do to be filled with faith? with the Spirit of God?

Is it a difficult thing? Is it a rare thing? Is God some kind of respecter of persons? Do you think you are unworthy, and that He would *never ever* give YOU great shining, towering, scintillating, sparkling streams of faith?

But why?

Indeed, God's Word says: "*For there is no respect of persons with God*" (Rom. 2:11). God's wisdom is "without partiality" (Jas. 3:17). Peter said: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34-35).

Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you" (Mat. 7:7; Lk. 1:24).

The GIVING Way

A true Christian's life will be filled with love and compassion for others. He will radiate joy, happiness, peace and contentment. He will not be striving, struggling to get ahead. His mind will not be darkened with selfish ambitions. He will

not be a competitive or boastful person, having merely the outer appearance of godliness. He will not be in a hurry all the time. He will have a relaxed, contented attitude, even in trials and tests. He will be patient and willing to suffer a long time—long suffering—if and when necessary. He will not rail against God or complain and vent his spleen while under duress or suffering trials. He will commit his cause and his problems to God.

The truly righteous man will be kind hearted toward others, sympathetic to them, concerned for their welfare, and not just his own. He will have an attitude of generosity as opposed to selfishness. He will have a “giving” attitude instead of a “getting” approach toward life.

Jesus Himself laid down this fundamental principle of life when He said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). The good man wants to GIVE out of the generosity and good will of his heart. He is not stingy, crabby, selfish. He does not look upon life as an immature child would, wondering what he can personally “get” out of every relationship. Rather, his whole and total concern would be “what can I give” to this person, to this relationship! “How can I help” this other person!

So few people have learned this vital, fundamental lesson. They have forgotten the real meaning of the words of Paul the apostle: “But remember this—if you GIVE little, you will GET little. A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much. Every one must make up his own mind as to how much he should give. Don’t force anyone to give more than he really wants to, for *cheerful givers are the ones God praises*. God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to *give joyfully* to others. It is as the Scriptures say: ‘The godly man *gives generously* to the poor. His good deeds will be an honor to him forever.’ ”

Paul continues:

“For God, who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on, good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest.

“Yes, God will give you much so that you can give away much, and when we take your gifts to those who need them they will break out into thanksgiving and praise to God for your help. So, two good things happen as a result of your gifts—those in need are helped, and they overflow with thanks to God. Those you help will be glad not only because of your generous gifts to themselves and to others, but they will praise God for this proof that your deeds are as good as your doctrine. And they will pray for you with deep fervor and feeling because of the wonderful grace of God shown through you.

“Thank God for his Son—his Gift too wonderful for words” (II Cor. 9:6-15). Think about these words; ponder them.

Giving is the keynote of the truly righteous life. It is the one word which best sums up the attitude of a true Christian and true minister or servant of God. *Getting* or *taking* or *grasping* for the self is the one word which best sums up the attitude of the devil, Satan himself, who greedily tried to take, grasp, seize, get for himself the power of God and control over the Universe. He tried to “take over.” He lusted after God’s Throne. He wanted to *get* power, prestige, additional control, wealth, and glory, to himself, and his evil heart led him down a very destructive path, leading to havoc, chaos, suffering, woe, anguish, torment, cruelty, and even murder, and finally, *death*.

The penalty of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). The ultimate penalty of lawlessness, and the attitude of “get,” is *utter destruction!*

God will not compromise with this principle. It is too important! He will not bend a scintilla of an inch! There are only two ways of life: The way of get, and the way of give. The way of selfishness, and the way of selflessness. Jesus Christ came to *GIVE* His life a ransom for many! He came to *GIVE* us salvation, and eternal life in His Kingdom!

Satan’s life has been devoted to the principle of “GET.” He wanted to “get” God’s power. He wanted to exalt himself, and “get” control over the Universe, and all the other angels. He wanted to “get” all the wealth of the

Universe. His whole being became consumed with the fires of selfishness, self-centered behavior, ego, inflated self-importance, vanity, and the lust and covetousness of "get." It became his fundamental principle of behavior. He began to color every act, to view every activity, from the standpoint of how would it benefit *him*, what could *he* get out of it!

This is the way of the devil—the way of *evil*—and it is wrong! Did you ever stop to think, the word "devil" is just the word "evil" with a "d" in front of it?

Does the attitude of "GIVE" characterize your life? Or the attitude of "GET"?

Jesus summed it up this way:

"Listen, all of you. Love your *enemies*. Do *good* to those who *hate* you. Pray for the happiness of those who *curse* you; implore God's blessings on those who *hurt* you.

"If someone slaps you on one cheek, let him slap the other too! If someone demands your coat, give him your shirt besides. Give what you have to anyone who asks you for it; and when things are taken away from you, don't worry about getting them back. Treat others as you want them to treat you."

The Greatest GIVER of All

In contrast to Christ's "Golden Rule," Satan's false golden rule (imitation gold, like "fool's gold") is "Stick others before they stick you," or "Get at others before they do you in." It is the complete opposite philosophy, but it is the practical philosophy of the present evil world and the prevalent rule of international relations. It is the reason why nations go to war with other nations. It is a godless principle based on lust, greed, and overbearing pride and love of self.

Jesus continued:

"Try to show as much compassion as your Father does. *Never criticize or condemn*—or it will all come back on you. *Go easy on others*; then they will do the same for you. *For if you give, you will get!* Your gift will return to you *in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you*" (Luke 6:27-38).

God is the greatest giver of all. None of us can possibly out-give Him. Even if we give all we have, we cannot begin to give as much as God gives us, and has given to us, in and through His Son Jesus Christ!

Let us all learn the art of true giving. Let us throw off the shackles of sin, and the attitude of "get," and begin to become mature, full grown adults in the attitude and practice of GIVING!

The Power of Love

One of God's chief attributes, and one of the chief attributes of God's Holy Spirit, is, first of all, "Love." John tells us "God is love" (I John 4:8). Notice:

"Dear friends, let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know him better. But if a person isn't loving and kind, it shows that he doesn't know God—for God is love" (I John 4:7-8).

John added:

"Dear friends, since God loved us as much as that, we surely ought to love each other too" (v. 11). "God is love, and anyone who lives in love is living with God and God is living in him. And as we live with Christ, our love grows more perfect and complete; so we will not be ashamed and embarrassed at the day of judgment, but can face him with confidence and joy, because he loves us and we love him too" (vs. 16-17).

Furthermore:

"We need have no fear of someone who loves us perfectly; his perfect love for us eliminates all dread of what he might do to us. If we are afraid, it is for fear of what he might do to us, and shows that we are not fully convinced that he really loves us. So you see, our love for him comes as a result of his loving us first.

"If anyone says 'I love God,' but keeps on *hating* his brother, he is a liar; for if he doesn't love his brother who is right there in front of him, how can he love God whom he has

never seen? And God himself has said that one must love not only God, but his brother too" (vs. 18-21).

Love, outgoing concern for others, is the first fruit of the Spirit of God—the most important one (Gal. 5:22).

When we learn to really believe God, and to trust Him no matter what, then we can say with Paul: "We can rejoice, too, when we *run into problems and trials* for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops *strength of character* in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady. Then, when that happens, we are able to *hold our heads high no matter what* happens and know that all is well, for we know how dearly God loves us, and we feel this warm *love everywhere within us because God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love*" (Rom. 5:3-5).

God's love is poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit given unto us. It is like mighty *rivers* of living waters, coursing and flowing and surging through us, in the channels defined by love. It is like the mighty cataract of Niagara Falls, with the plunging torrents of water creating the most awesome display, with foam, and mist, and spray, and shimmering rainbows in the glowing waterfall.

"On the last day, the climax of the holidays, Jesus shouted to the crowds, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and *drink*. For the Scriptures declare that *RIVERS OF LIVING WATER shall flow from the inmost being* of anyone who believes in me.' (He was speaking of the *Holy Spirit*, who would be given to everyone believing in him; but the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet returned to his glory in heaven" (John 7:37-39).

These, indeed, and in truth, are the fruits of those who have God's Holy Spirit abiding within them! True ministers of God have these holy, wonderful fruits. True Christians also have them. But the world doesn't have them. And Satan's ministers, no matter how sweet and sanctimonious they may appear on the outside, don't have these true fruits of God's Spirit either.

Remember, Jesus said, "You can detect them by the way they act" (Matt. 7:16), "by the kind of fruit produced" (v. 20).

What Is Love?

Millions of people are mixed up and totally confused about just what love is. They confuse it with a sticky sentimentality, or a romantic notion in the heart. What is real love, the love of God, that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit?

Does the Bible actually give a *definition* of love? The *World Book Dictionary* defines "love" as "fond or tender feeling; warm liking; affection; attachment," as its first and primary definition. But Biblical love is far more than that.

The apostle John said: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3). Or, "Loving God means doing what he tells us to do, and really, that isn't hard at all" (*Living Bible*).

If we love God, we will obey Him. We will keep His commandments. That proves we love Him. Thus divine love is summed up in keeping the commandments of God and doing those things pleasing in His sight.

This love is divided up into two great commandments—first, that we love God, and second, that we love our neighbor. We read in Matthew's gospel: "One of them, a lawyer, spoke up: 'Sir, which is the most important command in the laws of Moses?' "

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself. All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets stem from these two laws and are fulfilled if you obey them. Keep only these and you will find that you are obeying all the others" (Matt. 22:35-40).

These two great commandments are further subdivided into the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20). The first four of the Ten Commandments tell us how to show love toward God; the second six of them show us how to love our fellow man, our "neighbor." If we love God, we will worship Him alone; we will not make hand-crafted idols to worship; we will not take His divine name and attributes in profanity, or

in "vain"; and we will honor and rest on the day He set apart as holy, the Sabbath day. Furthermore, if we love our neighbor, we will honor our parents, first of all; then we will not murder anyone; we will not rape or commit adultery with another man's wife (or woman's husband); we will not steal from our neighbor what belongs to him; we will not lie, or falsely accuse our neighbor; and we will not covet or greedily, lustfully desire what belongs to him. Do you see how this law is truly a "law of love"? It should be self-evident that if we break any of these cardinal rules, we are not showing love to God or our neighbor!

When we think in terms of loving God and our neighbor, then, we should think in terms of the Ten Commandments, and how well we are obeying them, as well as in terms of what positive good we are doing for our neighbor, how we are helping him, and benefiting him.

This love of God is further defined in the famous "love chapter" of the Bible—I Corinthians 13. Paul speaks very plainly in this chapter about the qualities of true love:

"If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them, and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about *everything*, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love. If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever.

"Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.

“All the special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever” (I Cor. 13:1-8). Paul concludes this moving chapter, this tremendous discourse on the merits of true love: “There are three things that remain—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love” (v. 13).

Think about these things once again. Put your name in place of the word “love” wherever it appears. Are *you* “very patient and kind?” Are you “never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud?” Are you “never haughty or selfish or rude”? Be honest now! Do you ever “demand” your own way, or your “rights,” or what you think is coming to you? Are you “not irritable or touchy”? Do you “hold grudges”? Do you “*hardly even notice it*” when others do you wrong? Or do you scream bloody murder and demand revenge or “justice”? Are you “never glad about injustice”? Do you “rejoice whenever truth wins out”? Are you *loyal* to other people *no matter what the cost*?—even if it should cost you . . . your job? your friends? your life itself?

Do you always believe in people, expect the best of your associates, and will you truly, honestly “always stand your ground in defending him”?

This truly is the way of love. How far short of the mark do you fall?

Jesus had true love for us, and He says we are to follow Him, and walk in His steps. Are we doing it?

The Two Trees

There are really only two ways of life, each one of them symbolized by one of the two trees in the Garden of Eden. One was the tree “of the knowledge of good and evil.” It might also be called “the Tree of Death.” It symbolized the way of *get*—the way of greed, competition, strife, vanity, pride, jealousy, envy, arrogance, and every evil lust of the flesh and mind. It symbolized the way of Satan the devil. And the world around us has been following that way, and partaking of the fruit of that tree, even since that ancient time! No wonder the world around us is in the grip of a mad passion,

and in the final death throes and agonies of self-destruction and incipient doom.

But the other tree—what a marvelous tree it is! It symbolizes the way of “life.” It is called the “Tree of Life.” It leads to everything that is good, wonderful, marvelous, happy, peaceful, joyous, pleasant, enriching, delicious, and good! It symbolizes the “way of God”—the way of obedience to His Ten Commandments, which show us how to love God and how to love our neighbor.

It could be called “the Tree of Love.” For God is love. It is also “the tree of humility,” as opposed to pride. It is the “Tree of *Give*” versus the other “tree of *get*.” It is the tree of giving, loving, sharing, concern for others, helpfulness, serving, abasing self and honoring others, seeking the welfare of others, *and not self*. It is also the “tree of *self-sacrifice*.” It is truly the tree of humility and happiness, because true happiness comes through humility. True happiness is wanting to give rather than get. It does not compare itself with others and become jealous, envious or rude. It loves to see others prosper, succeed, and get ahead. It is not vain, ambitious, or competitive. Not at all!

This tree is also “the Tree of Faith.” It symbolizes the way of faith. It is the tree of spiritual Power. In reality, this tree symbolizes not only God’s way of Life, and obedience to His Laws, but it is also a symbol of *God’s Holy Spirit* which produces the *fruits* of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, kindness, faith, meekness and self control, in our lives.

This is the tree which we should be eating of every day!

God’s way and the devil’s way are the direct antithesis of each other. God is a God of outgoing love and concern, who wants to give us every true blessing and good gift (James 1:17). The devil’s way is the way of selfishness, strife, envy, jealousy, hatred, lust, stealing, taking from others, scheming, plotting, intrigue, running the other person down, exalting the self, vanity, pride, egotism, and murder. As children of God, let us reject every vestige of the devil’s way, and let us embrace the fruits of the indwelling Spirit of God in our lives: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience], gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness,

temperance [self *control*, or moderation], against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Do these things, and your path will be "as the shining light, that *shineth more and more unto the perfect day*" (Proverbs 4:18).

Let us heed these words, and meditate profoundly upon them. Let us all draw near to God through the study of His Word and earnest, fervent prayer.

The apostle Peter writes:

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

"And above all things have *FERVENT CHARITY [LOVE] among yourselves*: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins" (I Pet. 4:7-8). Or, as the *Living Bible* puts it: "The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore be earnest, thoughtful men of prayer. Most important of all, continue to show *deep love* for each other, for love makes up for many of your faults. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay for the night."

"And beside this," Peter adds, "giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue *knowledge*; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity [Greek, *agape*, meaning the true, deep, sincere "love of God," God's own love shed abroad in our hearts, Romans 5:5]" (II Pet. 1:5-7).

Peter continues:

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . Wherefore the rather, brethren, *give diligence* to make your calling and election *sure*: for if ye do these things, *ye shall never fall*: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you **ABUNDANTLY** into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 1:8-11).

Again, permit me to summarize this from the *Living Bible*. Peter writes: "Do you want more and more of God's kindness and peace? Then learn to know him better and better. For as you know him better, he will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly good life:

he even shares his own glory and his own goodness with us! And by that same mighty power he has given us all the other rich and wonderful blessings he promised; for instance, the promise to save us from the lust and rottenness all around us, and to give us his own character.

But to obtain these gifts, you need more than faith; you must also work hard to be good, and even that is not enough. For then you must learn to know God better and discover what he wants you to do. Next, learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly, gladly letting God have his way with you. This will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply. The more you go on in this way, the more you will grow strong spiritually and become fruitful and useful to our Lord Jesus Christ. But anyone who fails to go after these additions to faith is blind indeed, or at least very shortsighted, and has forgotten that God delivered him from the old life of sin so that now he can live a strong, good life for the Lord.

“So, dear brothers, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen, and then you will never stumble or fall away.”

Amen and amen.

So be it, Almighty God!

Jesus Christ says:

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:12-13, 20).

May the grace and abundant mercy of God be with you all.
Amen.

Additional Recommended Reading

Other Books by William F. Dankenbring

Overcoming Satan

Armageddon! How Much Longer?

The Last Days of Planet Earth: a Survival Guide to the End of the World

Beyond Star Wars

The First Genesis: The Saga of Creation Vs. Evolution

The Keys To Radiant Health

The Creation Book for Children

Other Books Published by Triumph

Health Secrets from the Bible, Ronald R. Wlodyga

Millennial Agriculture: The New Eden, Paul W. Syltje

The Ultimate Source of All Supernatural Phenomena,
Ronald R. Wlodyga

Faith and Doctrines of the Early Church, G. M. Bowers

Letters to Virgins, Gwen Pamerter Aseltine

Bible Heritage Cookbook: A Gourmet Guide to Cooking with the Bible, Robert L. Robb

Stories for Young People, Alys M. Henderson

These books may be ordered from Triumph Publishing Company, P.O. Box 292, Altadena, California 91001. If you wish, you may also write to Triumph Publishing for a *free* catalog of all their other books, Bible helps, record albums, and other vital products. It is *absolutely* free of charge!

Appendix I

The Spirit Essence

Spirit itself is something which by its very nature is indestructible and cannot be destroyed, unless God somehow changes its very nature into that which is combustible matter. Speaking of the wicked, the apostle Paul writes, "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and *fiery* indignation, which shall *devour* the *adversaries*" (Heb.10:26-27).

Paul explains, "For our God is a consuming fire" (Heb.12:29).

The adversaries will be *devoured* in the fiery flames of Gehenna fire. They will be consumed. Their bodies, their lives, will be totally destroyed. Satan himself, of course, is the greatest "Adversary" of all (I Peter 5:8).

Jesus Himself explained, "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which *after he hath killed* hath *power to cast into hell* (Greek, *Gehenna*); yea, I say unto you, Fear him" (Luke 12:4-5).

Matthew's account makes this even plainer. We read: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to DESTROY both soul and body in hell (*Gehenna*)" (Matt.10:28).

Here we find that the flames of Gehenna fire will destroy both body and soul. What does this mean? The Greek word for "body" used here is *soma* and literally refers to the body. The Greek word for "soul" is *psuche* and means literally "breath," and refers to the "life," heart, mind and soul. It is different in meaning from the word *pneuma*, which literally means "a current of air," i.e., "breath" or "breeze," and figuratively refers to "a spirit," "vital principle, mental disposition" and is used in connection with an angel, God, Christ's spirit, the Holy Spirit. It also is sometimes translated "life" or "mind." The word "destroy" is *apollumi* and means "to destroy fully," "die," "perish."

Thus God will destroy fully in Gehenna fire the "vital force," the life itself, all the feelings, desires, affections and sentient being of the wicked. He will destroy all the heart, mind, soul, strength and being of the wicked. There will be nothing left of them!

Whereas the being and totality of the wicked will be destroyed, and perish, however, the *spirit* will return to God who gave it. Job wrote, "There is a spirit in man" (Job 32:8). This spirit is "spirit essence," and does not think, feel, emote, or have any consciousness whatsoever. It is the spiritual component in the man's mind which imparts to him the ability to think, reason, and be aware of himself as a separate, individual agent or person. It is that part of man which can unite with the Spirit of God as a begettal. But when a man dies, and goes to the grave, all his thoughts, actions, and feelings perish—and the spirit returns to God who gave it in the first place. "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten" (Ecc1.9:5). "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge,

nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Eccl. 9:). "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the *spirit* shall return unto God who gave it" (Eccl.12:7).

When Jesus Christ, who was very God, died on the cross, He said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my *spirit*: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost" (Luke 23:46). The word translated "spirit" here is *pneuma*, and refers to the spirit essence. So when Jesus died, the spirit returned to God who gave it.

This unique spirit essence, which itself does not die, does not of itself have any consciousness or sentient being—no awareness, no thinking, no thoughts, no memory, no feeling or emotions—it is simply spirit essence. It can be compared to a programmable computer tape or video tape—a blank tape. Upon that tape one can record the most brilliant symphony orchestra, or utter trash and garbage. Also, if one is displeased with the recording on a particular tape, that recording can be *erased* completely, and then the tape can be used again to record something else!

Even so, the spirit essence is like that tape. Since it is composed of "spirit" it remains forever. But it can be recorded upon with the imprint of different recordings; and if necessary, those recordings can be *erased* and obliterated forever. Even so, when God finally destroys the Devil and his angels, they will be virtually *erased*—obliterated—their personality, character, and unique individualness shall be for all practical purposes destroyed till nothing is left of them *except* the spirit essence itself which will return to God who gave it!

Again, let us review the classical biological definition of "life." Insofar as physical life forms are concerned, living things 1) reproduce; 2) grow; 3) metabolize; 4) move; 5) are responsive to stimuli; 6) adapt to conditions around them. But when they are finally punished, these spirit beings will *not* reproduce, that is for certain; they will *not* grow, but shrink to total insignificance; they will *not* metabolize, that is, turn food into energy—for they will be completely "idle", without any energy whatsoever; they will not "move" of their own power or volition, although they may be "moved"

by outside forces, because they themselves will have not energy or power left to *do* anything; they will not be responsive to the environment, because their environment will be the total blackness of darkness forever; and they will be totally incapable of adaptation to such an environment.

Thus, it seems clear that for all practical purposes they will cease to exist—they will be as good as dead, even though their spirit essence will continue to exist in a totally isolated, solitary, empty, vacuous, powerless condition.

Isn't that an awesome Fate?

Isn't that a horrible Destiny?

But we need not feel sorry for the Devil or his demons. They had their chance to obey God. They had every opportunity to learn their lessons, and to serve God and be with Him forever. They chose, of their own volition, the path they subsequently took. They elected to rebel against God and to attempt to overthrow His divine government of the Universe. They rebelled.

They will only get their own just deserts. They will receive the punishment fitting for their crimes. They will get the reward they so richly deserve. God Himself will punish them with everlasting punishment!

How great is our God! How perfect are His ways! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! How inscrutable are His purposes! How awesome is His creation, and His incredible Plan for mankind! How just and righteous and fair are His judgments!

Who is this great God whom we serve? "And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty" (Exodus 34:5-7).

When a physical star "dies," or is destroyed, as in a supernova, does it cease to exist? Not exactly. As a star, yes, it

ceases to exist—that is, it is no longer a brightly shining star. All that is left of it is a cloud of dust and gas hovering and drifting in space. But it is no longer a brightly shining star.

Even so, when God punishes Satan the devil, he will no longer be a brightly shining “star of the dawn.” He will no longer hold any spiritual rank or office. He will no longer be the “god of this world” or the “prince of the power of the air.” He will be stripped of all his glory, his fame, his honor, his power, stripped of his office, and reduced to nothing—to total insignificance. Since he is a spirit being, his spirit will continue to exist—but for all practical purposes he will have been totally destroyed and doomed! What will be left of his former estate and glory will in comparison be like the cloud of dust and gases left from the remains of an exploding supernova star, compared to the formerly brightly shining star itself in glory.

To put it in modern scientific terminology, Satan will be rendered totally “inoperative.” He will no longer function or operate at all. He will be like a machine which runs by electricity—such as a computer—which is totally severed from the source of electricity. In other words, he will be “unplugged.” Again, by analogy, he is like a malfunctioning computer which went berserk, or awry, ages ago. God has allowed him to function to serve His plan. But the time is coming when he will be totally deprived of all energy and power. That is, like ‘Hal the computer’ in the science fantasy movie *Space Odyssey 2001 A.D.*, he will eventually meet his demise. He will be totally cut off from God, the Source of all energy, power, life, light and brightness. He will be “unplugged.”