

“YOUR FATHER, THE DEVIL”

INSANITY IN HEAVEN

WHO HOLDS THE RECORD FOR SIN?



THE FIRST SIN IN THE UNIVERSE?

EVIL IS GOOD!

“HE OPENED NOT THE HOUSE OF HIS PRISONERS,” ISAIAH 14:17

THE GREATEST LIE EVER TOLD

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Divine Viewpoint

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SATANOLOGY

Whether holy or unholy, the spirit beings are all designated as angels. Revelation 12:7, "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon: and the dragon fought and his angels." The unholy angels are usually referred to as DIAMONES, or DIAMONIA, being properly translated "demons." There is but one DIABALOS, or devil. As there is one archangel among angels that are holy, so there is one archangel among the angels that are unholy.

The chief of the fallen angels appears under at least 40 appellations. Of these some are descriptive titles and some are proper names. When he is styled "the accuser of our brethren" Revelation 12:10, a descriptive title appears.

There is much revealed, also, in the proper names. These are "serpent," OPHIS, which implies his guile; "Lucifer, son of the morning," which is his title in heaven before his fall, Isaiah 14:12; "Devil," DIABOLOS, which means accuser, or slanderer, is Greek in origin; APPOLLYON, which means destroyer; "Satan," SATANAS, which means resistor, and is Hebrew in origin; "dragon," DRAKON, which implies his power; "the prince of this world," "the prince of the power of the air," "the god of this world."

Four of these personal titles appear in one verse, Revelation 12:9, "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."

The designation "Belial" may be applied to the chief of the unholy angels only by implication, though the apostle assigns to this name a personal and definite character when he inquires, "What concord hath Christ with Belial?" 2 Corinthians 6:15. That term is a general reference to Satan, much like PONEROS, "the evil one."

Matthew 6:13, "But lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." John 17:15, "I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil." 2 Thessalonians 3:3, "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil." 1 John 5:19, "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

It is evident that from Matthew 12:24, of verse 27, that the Jews did not want to refer to this great being by the name "Beelzebub," of 2 Kings 1:2, 3, 6, 16, which implies that he is "prince of the demons."

As DIABOLOS he stands alone, the infernal agent who is in command of all demons, DIAMONIA. This mighty angel appears in the Bible with prominent importance, and power second only to the Godhead three. He is often mentioned in the text of the Scriptures as all of the angels together. He is drawn into human history from its first page to its last and is always presented as a most vital factor in the ongoings of men, of angels, and of the universe itself.

Satan, in the influence of demons on human affairs, assumed grotesque forms during the Middle Ages. These mistaken interpretations of diabolical possessions have led good men to commit deeds of horror. But does the abuse of the facts of Scripture prove that there is no truth in their representations, respecting the power of the devil over bad men and over nature? Is it superstition to hold that Satan is that "evil one," who is the "prince of this world," because some theologians and scholars have in other ages misunderstood and misapplied some of our Lord's miracles? If this principle of reasoning were applied to real superstitions, would not the monstrous errors of polytheism prove that there is no God? Would not the Oracles of Delphi prove that Isaiah cannot be a genuine prophet? Or the fetish worship of Africa

prove that no worship is worthy of man? Or the "totem pole" of our American Indians prove that there is no Divine providence?

As fully as any person in the Bible, every element of personality is predicated of Satan. By the contriving method which would deprive Satan of personality, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and the Holy Spirit, could thus also be deprived, and by such torturing of the Bible, that Book then becomes one adapted only to mislead those who read it. The world strangely retains the Biblical terminology relative to Satan, though every vestige of that terminology is emptied of its true meaning. Without reference to revelation, the world has imagined a grotesque being, fitted with strange trappings, who has been made the central character in fiction and theatrical performances and then, being convinced that no such being as they portray exists, they have consigned the whole body of revealed Truth to the limbo of myths of a bygone age.

Unfortunately, the real being set forth in the Bible is not dismissed by such puerile and wicked disregard of God's solemn Truth. There is no want of evidence for the personality either of Satan or the demons. The record of their doings, like their destiny, forms the darkest pages of the Word of God. The Lake of Fire is prepared, not for men, but "for the Devil and his angels." Matthew 25:41. Characters of fiction and metaphors are not judged by the death of Christ, nor are they consigned to the Lake of Fire.

The fall of this mighty angel was not a compromise between good and evil. He became the embodiment of evil and wholly void of good. The essential wickedness of this being could not be estimated by the finite mind. His wickedness, however, is constructive and in line with vast undertakings and ideals which are evil because of their opposition to God.

Further consideration of the consummate sin of this being will be seen as this study advances. It need only be added here that **Satan is a living personification of deception.** Most revealing are the words of Christ

addressed to the Jews, **"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.

He is designated as a "father." He has a lust pattern. He was a murderer, abode not in the Truth, speaks lies, for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

Thus also a three-fold testimony is given in the Revelation. In 12:9 it is declared that **SATAN IS THE DECEIVER OF THE WHOLE WORLD.** In 20:2-5 it is predicted that he will be cast into the abyss and shut up and sealed, to the end that he shall **"DECEIVE THE NATIONS NO MORE till the thousand years should be fulfilled."**

Similarly, when released, he is said, **"To go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the Earth,"** Revelation 20:7, 8. Thus, also in the Tribulation, the Man of Sin will cause the people to **"believe the lie,"** which lie is instigated by the devil and received by the people because of "strong delusion."

With all this before the mind, **it is not difficult to account for the present deceptions which are so general, that modern teachers disbelieve in the personality of Satan, that the unregenerate give no consideration to his reality, and that Christians everywhere are misinformed about his devices.** Few indeed would knowingly march under Satan's banner. Yet, it will be seen that there are but few who do not to some degree give allegiance to him.

Since the whole Truth regarding the angels is strangely unread to human minds, it is perhaps somewhat to be expected that there will be little actuality in the thinking of many people concerning Satan and the demons. However restricted the natural mind may be in this direction, there is no excuse for an

open denial of revelation, which revelation is both clear and extensive.

He who would be found faithful and useful as a worthy opponent of the Scriptures and a guide to human souls, should comprehend, next to knowing the Triune God and the positive values of His redeeming GRACE, the Truth relative to the enemy of God, who “as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8. The Christian’s conflicts and trials are wholly accounted for within the three realities: the world, the flesh, and the devil.

But this mighty angel is “the god of this world.” The evil nature which dominates the flesh was born of Satan’s lie in the Garden of Eden. **He is himself a living contender against the believer, not alone in the sphere of flesh and blood, but in the realms of spiritual life and activity.** If the text of Scripture is observed, it will be found that this greatest of foes is held before the Christian’s contemplation next only to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Should the knowledge of this foe be wanting, as it must be so far as the usual theological studies are concerned, the results can be no less than tragic, reaching into eternity. If this subject is given the corresponding attention in a course of study which it sustains in the Bible, many pages must be assigned to it with no apology for so doing.

Above all, let it not be deemed superstition when attention is given to such extended and explicit revelation and when this portion of Scripture is taken in its natural and literal meaning. Utterly unscriptural and fanatical notions are easily engendered relative to evil spirits among those less instructed in the Word of God, but so much the more is it important that care shall be exercised to conform to that which has been revealed.

The heathen have even been tortured by their unfounded imaginations about the presence and influence of evil spirits, and gratitude becomes the Christian in view of the clear revelation on which God has given. Belief in the malign influence of

evil spirits antedates the Bible and extends to regions into which the Bible has never penetrated. Plutarch states, “It was a very ancient opinion that there are certain wicked and malignant demons, who envy good men, and endeavor to hinder them in the pursuit of virtue, lest they should be partakers at least of greater happiness than they enjoy.”

The devil worship of Africa, Burma, Ceylon, Persia, and Chaldea is a development which is evidently a perversion of the earlier Divine revelation at the beginning of the race. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia states, “There are, no doubt, serious difficulties in the way of accepting the doctrine of a personal, superhuman, evil power such as Satan is described to be. It is doubtful, however, whether these difficulties may not be due, at least in part, to a misunderstanding of the doctrine of certain of its implications. In addition, it must be acknowledged, that whatever difficulties there may be in the teaching, they are exaggerated and, at the same time, not fairly met by the vague and irrational skepticism which denies without investigation. There are difficulties involved in any view of the world. To say the least, some problems are met by the view of a superhuman, evil world power.” Volume IV, page 2695.

By many it is believed that the Earth was, in its first order, like other planets, the abode of spirit beings, that Satan was in authority over this realm, and that the chaos which is indicated in Genesis 1:2 was the direct result of Satan’s sin. Little may be known of these matters and again the **silence of God should be respected.**

Three general objections have been raised against the Biblical doctrine of Satan:

1. It is asserted that it has its origin in mythology. This conception cannot be sustained. The Bible does not systematize this division of doctrine more than any other. All that is set forth is with that saneness and restraint which characterizes the Divine world-conception as a whole.

2. The second objection is that the doctrine of Satan conforms to the dualism of Zoroastrianism. To this it may be replied that the whole doctrine of evil, apart from the eternal Divine anticipation of it, had its beginning, and will as definitely come to its end. All evil will not only exist by Divine permission, but is under Divine restraint.

3. It is yet said that the doctrine of Satan destroys the unity of God, but the creation by God of other wills than His own, since, in the end, they are accountable to Him, in no way

militates against the unity of God. In the end, as from the beginning, "GOD IS ALL IN ALL."

The main divisions of satanology are:

1. Satan's career.
2. Satan's evil character.
3. The satanic cosmos.
4. Satan's motives.
5. Satan's methods.

THE CAREER OF SATAN

At the opening of this study of satanology it is fitting to pause in thanksgiving to God for the Bible He has prepared, preserved, and presented to His people, which Book discloses Truth with infinite accuracy relative to the dwellers in spirit realms and points out the nature of these beings with specific reference to the relation they sustain to humanity. The Word of God dwells at great length on the Truth concerning one mighty angel. Extended revelation is given about his creation, his original estate, his fall, the development and manifestation of his authority, his various judgments and his final consignment to the Lake of Fire.

The revealed career of Satan is a long story reaching back into the dateless past and on into eternity to come, and is full of important interesting details.

1. SATAN'S CREATION, ORIGINAL ESTATE, AND FALL.

These three features of the history of this great angel are so interrelated that they can hardly be treated separately. The central passage bearing specifically on these aspects of Satan's career is Ezekiel 28:11-19. A considerable portion of this immediate context is to be taken up verse by verse, but in preparation for that undertaking, it may be observed that revelation concerning Satan begins with the dateless period between creation of the heavens and the Earth in that perfect form in which they first appeared found in Genesis 1:1, and the desolating judgments which ended that period, when the Earth became waste and empty.

"And the Earth became without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep." "Behold the Lord maketh the Earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof." "I beheld the Earth, and lo, it was without form, and void, and the heavens, and they had no light, ... and lo, I beheld

the mountains, and lo they trembled and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld and lo there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld and lo the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord and by His fierce anger."

This extended passage from Ezekiel, which will be seen, is a delineation of the mightiest of the angels. Most significant indeed is the fact that more is said of this one angel than any other and more than is said of all other angels together, of the Earth's primal glory, and of the initial angelic sin.

It is reasonable to expect that the Bible will provide information on history so vital and determining as this, and it does. The immediate surrounding context of Ezekiel's prophecy presents a record of Divine judgments upon Israel's enemies, and according to 1 Chronicles 21:1, Satan belongs to that group.

1 Chronicles 21:1, "And Satan stood up against Israel, and proved David to number Israel." The portion which presents Truth regarding Satan is somewhat concealing since it is couched in oriental imagery. This is as a legitimate means of Divine expression as any form of literature, but it yields its message to those only who pursue its deeper meaning with worthy attention.

In the right understanding of this so vital disclosure concerning Satan, it is of no little importance to note that the preceding verses of this chapter, Ezekiel 28:1-10, though addressed to "the prince of Tyrus," are as clearly a word to the Man of Sin, Satan's final embodiment and masterpiece, as in that which follows a word to Satan himself. There is a notable significance in the manner in which these two addresses are related and placed in sequence. The Man of Sin is identified through the Word of God by his blasphemous assumption to be God. This, indeed, is

the substance of the resemblance between Antiochus Epiphanes and the Man of Sin.

Daniel 8:9 with 7:8, “And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.” “I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”

Note also, on the Man of Sin, Matthew 24:15, “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the Holy Place, (whoso readeth, let him understand).” 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that Man of Sin be revealed, the Son of Perdition: Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” Revelation 13:6, “And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His Name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.” Ezekiel 28:1-10.

Ezekiel 20:1-10 asserts this characteristic with peculiar emphasis. As a prince is inferior and subject to a king, thus it is that the Man of Sin is subject to Satan.

Preceding this address to a “prince” and a “King” in Tyrus, allusion is made to four nations, Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistia. The message to these are compressed into 17 verses, while the message to the one city, Tyrus, occupies 83 verses. This proportion is arresting, suggesting as it does, the symbolic importance of this one city. Tyre was the merchant city of the world, as was Babylon the Great. By this emphasis is **intimated the promotion of the world’s idea of success.** As in the world today, to leave everything here and take nothing into the next world is deemed “success,” but to leave nothing here and take all into the next world is “failure.”

Tyre is the symbol of a mammon-loving world.

This address to the “King of Tyrus” identified the person in view by one of the 40 titles by which he is designated in the Bible. As David’s greater Son is distinguished in the Messianic Psalms from David by the supernatural features set forth, in like manner the **person saluted in this Scripture as “King of Tyrus” is discovered to be the highest of the angels.** It could not be a mortal. Some of the important features of this Scripture are here studied.

Ezekiel 28:11, 12, “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.” Surpassing importance will be assigned to this Scripture when it is recognized that this is the Word of the Lord to the “King of Tyrus,” and not the word of the prophet. A lamentation, which means intense anguish accompanied with beating of the breast, is a more impressive term when it describes the Lord’s sorrow poured out over the erring, and is it not ever so? Does the Lord ever fail to lament over His erring creatures?

If it were conceded that there might be a secondary application of this lament to some King in Tyrus, such a conjecture would be of little value or meaning in view of the supernatural features which are immediately introduced for “THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD, THOU SEALEST UP THE SUM, FULL OF WISDOM, AND PERFECT IN BEAUTY.”

Such an expression is superlative even according to Divine standards. **The intimation is that all Divine creative power along the two lines of “wisdom” and “beauty” are represented in this being.** Such terminology has no place in the mouth of the Lord concerning a fallen man who, at best, is but a heathen king. The expression, however, is according to Truth when seen to be a message to the greatest of angels in his unfallen state.

Ezekiel 28:13, “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.” It makes little difference whether this is a reference to a primal Eden or the Eden of Genesis 3. Satan has been in both, but no one will assert that any King of Tyrus was so favored. **The bedecking with jewels suggests his great importance and the luster of his appearance.** Thus in splendor was he exhibited in the Garden of Eden, for his name, NAHASH, translated “serpent” means “the shining one.”

The apostle states that he is even now transformed into an “angel of light,” 2 Corinthians 11:14. These precious stones are displayed but three times as recorded in the Bible:

1. In the high priest’s breastplate, and were a manifestation of Divine GRACE.
2. In the New Jerusalem, which reflects the glory of God.
3. As the covering of this great angel, which signalizes the highest in creation.

No distinction could be imposed on any creature more exalting than is imposed by these covering stones. Similarly, this imagery presents this angel as created to have been a diadem of praise to his Creator. “Tabrets and pipes” were prepared in him. He did not need an instrument of praise to glorify his Creator. **He was a diadem of praise.**

But by far the most revealing declaration in this verse is the affirmation that he is a “created being.” This essential truth is announced again in verse 15 where it is said he was “perfect” in all his ways from the day in which he was created. The power and wisdom of this being are so vast that not a few have supposed him to be as eternal as God

Himself. **Being a creature, he must, regardless of his estate, be subject, in the end, to his Creator, and account to Him. And this Satan will do.**

Ezekiel 28:14, “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.” That being belongs to the order of the cherubim is arresting.

As we know, this group of angels were related to the throne of God as protectors and defenders of His holiness. The proofs of this contention are found the first appearance of them at the gate of the Garden of Eden, after man has been expelled and as protectors lest man return to pollute the holy presence of God. They appear again as protectors, though in golden images, over the ark of the covenant where God was pleased to dwell. The curtain of the tabernacle, which separated between the Divine presence and the unholy people, was embroidered with figures of cherubim. Exodus 26:1, “Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.”

Ezekiel refers to these beings under this title 19 times and the Truth concerning them is to be derived from these passages. He presents them as having four appearances: the face of a lion, the face of an ox, the face of a man, and the face of an eagle. Ezekiel 1:3-28, 10:1-22. This symbolism relates them at once to the living creatures of John’s vision, Revelation 4:6, 5:14, etc.

Now the Lord expresses and addresses a special word at this point to this angel. “I have set thee so.” This is followed by the revealing words, “Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God.” This specific service as cherub, or protector, was over the very throne of God, since the phrase, “the mountain of God” is, in its Old Testament usage, the seat of God’s authority.

Exodus 4:27, "And the Lord said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him." Psalm 2:6, 3:4, 43:3, 68:15, "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion." "I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy hill." "O send out Thy light and Thy Truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy holy hill, and to Thy tabernacles." "The hill of God is as the hill of Bashan; an high hill as the hill of Bashan." Isaiah 2:2, 11:9, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

From these disclosures it may be concluded that **His great angel was created above all angels and to be a defender of the throne of God.** If it be suggested that God, being the Almighty, would not need such defense, it may be said that it is **not a question about what God needs, but rather a revelation about what God has chosen to arrange.** He doubtless did not need the cherubim at the gate of Eden, yet He placed them there.

The remaining phrase, "Thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire" is somewhat obscure. It might refer to a primal glory of the Earth. The stone of fire may be the manifestation of the consuming fire which the Lord is. In such a case, this declaration would suggest that the first estate of this angel was one in which **he walked in unbroken relation to the Divine holiness.**

Returning for the moment to the identification of this being, it will be acknowledged that **no King of Tyrus answers to this exalted description.** No such fallen man was ever a diadem of praise, nor was he directly created of God, nor did he belong to the cherubim, nor had he been placed on the

holy mountain of God, nor walked amidst the stones of fire, nor was he perfect in all his ways from creation. Ezekiel 28:15, "THOU WAS PERFECT IN THY WAYS FROM THE DAY THAT THOU WAS CREATED, TILL INIQUITY WAS FOUND IN THEE."

The description now changes and the fact of the first sin of this angel is disclosed. **Iniquity was found in him. The intimation is that a secret sin was uncovered.** The omniscience of God cannot be deceived, nor does it fail to know all things. If our secret sins are in the light of His countenance (Psalm 90:8) it would be equally true of secret sins of angels. "Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance."

Ezekiel 28:16, "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."

The word "merchandise" is full of suggestion. The same thought occurs respecting the Man of Sin as expressed by the word "traffic" in verse 5. The thought here suggests that which is expressed is far removed from the barter and trade in merchandise by human beings. The meaning of the term is "to go about," literally, which is a matter of slander. It may indicate **going about among the angels which was necessary to secure their allegiance to his program of rebellion against God.**

The direct accusation, "Thou hast sinned," and the casting out, are important features in the career of Satan and these will be considered in more detail presently.

Ezekiel 28:17, "THINE HEART WAS LIFTED UP BECAUSE OF THY BEAUTY, THOU HAST CORRUPTED THE WISDOM BY REASON OF THY BRIGHTNESS: I WILL

CAST THEE TO THE GROUND, I WILL LAY THEE BEFORE KINGS, THAT THEY MAY BEHOLD THEE." The sin of Satan is here intimated, which sin is described more fully in other portions of Scripture. **The self-centered nature of all sin is evident in this instance.** It is, however, a long step from "the stones of fire," with all the exalted honor and glory that such language expresses, to the Lake of Fire, to which Satan's career is tending.

Ezekiel 28:18, 19, "THOU HAST DEFILED THY SANCTUARIES BY THE MULTITUDE OF THINE INIQUITIES. BY THE INIQUITY OF THY TRAFFIC: THEREFORE WILL I BRING FORTH A 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. 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."

It is obvious that these verses point out the immediate, future, and final judgment of God upon this mighty angel, all of which is more completely described in other parts of the Bible.

In this one context God records the origin, estate, character, and sin of the greatest of angels. The importance of this revelation as it bears upon the doctrine of the angels and on the doctrine of man generally cannot be overestimated. God did not create Satan as such. **He created an angel who was perfect in all his ways, and that angel sinned by opposing the will of God.** By this act he became Satan the resister, and all else that all his titles imply.

The ancient question raised by the skeptics of the past with respect to who made the devil has been answered in this passage just

considered. There it is seen that **God created a holy angel possessing the power of choice between good and evil, and he chose to do evil.** Through the degenerating power of sin, Satan, as did Adam, became an entirely different being from that which God created. **When God creates a being to fill a purpose, that being must be a perfect fulfillment of that Divine ideal.**

It is, therefore, well, when seeking to discover the measurements of this great angel to identify the purpose for which Satan was created and evaluate the qualities which were in his view of that purpose. **By his sin he lost his original holiness and heavenly standing, but he retains his wisdom, and he has turned his surpassing abilities into ways of evil and his understanding has been prostituted to the level of lies, deceptions, snares, and wiles.** The extent of these evil undertakings, their exalted character, his motives and methods, constitute a portion of this vast theme which will yet be pursued.

Summing up this passage in Ezekiel we see:

- A. By its setting and language it can apply to no child of fallen man. That is impossible.
- B. It must therefore necessarily refer to a spirit or an angel.
- C. This angel or spirit, whoever it was, was personally the topstone of that primal creation.
- D. His office was to protect the throne of God, to forbid the approach of evil, or any unrighteousness.
- E. Iniquity was found in him and that iniquity was self-exaltation.
- F. Sentence of expulsion from his place is pronounced, although not actually, or at least fully, executed.

SATAN'S SIN

Now with the same clarity and extended detail the precise sin of Satan is delineated in the Bible, and in one central passage, namely, Isaiah 14:12-17. It is true, from the beginning, Satan has not ceased sinning, but interest is focused specifically upon his initial sin, which sin, **SO FAR AS GOD HAS BEEN PLEASED TO REVEAL, WAS THE FIRST SIN TO BE COMMITTED IN THE UNIVERSE.** The first sinner was an angel. Satan. A partial exposition of this momentous passage, the first sin to be committed, not only bears much on our understanding of the one who commits it, **but is the nature, the norm, or pattern of all sin, demonstrating, as it does, the element in sin which makes it what it is.**

Romans 7:13, "Exceeding sinful." By reference to a fall from heaven, this passage, Isaiah 14:12-17, raises the weighty question whether Satan is now with respect to his abode veritably cast out of heaven, or still dwelling in the sphere into which he was placed when created. A popular notion, which obtains quite apart from revelation, assumes that Satan is swelling in the lower regions, if not in Hell itself. In this connection, it is essential to consider again the Truth that there are three heavens in view of the Bible:

A. That of the **atmosphere** in which "the birds of the heaven" move, and in which the "Prince of the power of the air" has authority and is active.

B. The **stellar spaces** which, as before indicated, are the abode of angelic beings.

C. The **third heaven**, which is the abode of the Triune God, the location of which cannot be determined.

The question at issue is whether Satan, and with him the fallen angels, are cast out of their original habitation. Certain passages shed light on this problem. Of Jesus Christ it is written, "He said unto them, I beheld Satan

as lightning fall from heaven," Luke 10:18. Whether this was history or prophecy must be determined by the verdict of other Scriptures.

Revelation 12:7-9 relates a casting out of Satan, from heaven to the earth, and as there described, is evidently future. The passage states, "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his 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."

The prophet Ezekiel foresees a casting out of Satan. He writes of Satan, "Thou hast sinned, therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God," Ezekiel 28:16-19. This word does not disclose the time which that promise will be fulfilled, beyond the fact that it is in these verses associated with the final judgments that are to come upon Satan.

Certain passages assume that Satan is now in that heaven to which he had title by creation. In Job 1:6 and 2:1 it is asserted that Satan was then present in heaven. It is written, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them," Job 1:6. Apparently there was nothing unusual in Satan's presence in that place, or on that occasion. He is called upon to report on his activities, and he does so. In that report he incidentally discloses the truth which he has sufficient freedom and latitude to go "to and fro in the earth," as well as appear in the very presence of God on high. Christ gave to Peter this warning, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired," literally demanded by asking, "to have you, that he may

sift you as wheat,” Luke 22:31. The implication is that Satan appeared personally before God with this request.

Again the apostle enjoins, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, and against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:1-12.

To the same end this passage declares that the evil powers are yet in heavenly spheres. The evidence which this body of Scripture represents, and apparently there is no counter testimony, is that Satan is yet in his original abode, and will be until, according to Revelation 12:7-9, he will be, as a part of the Tribulation experience, cast out into the Earth. It is important, as well, if the two great passages, Ezekiel 28:11-19 and Isaiah 14:12-17, which contribute most to the making known of Satan’s early history, are to be interpreted according to the Truth, to distinguish between the different viewpoints of these human authors of Scripture.

Ezekiel, in his prophetic vision, stood at the end of this history and saw “in retrospect” what he records. The Truth that Isaiah thus looked backwards from the end time accounts for the opening sentence of his prophecy, which assumes that this mighty angel will have then fallen from heaven. Much that is found in this prediction is yet unfulfilled in its complete measure. The colossal undertakings of this angel, as Isaiah saw them, are not yet concluded.

Yet again, extreme contrasts are employed by these two prophets in the titles they apply to this angel. When entering upon his description of the high and holy estate of this angel as first created, Ezekiel addresses him speaking for the Lord by the earthly title, “King of Tyrus,” while Isaiah, setting forth the degradation of this being, addresses him by his heavenly title, “Lucifer, son of the morning.” **It would seem that these titles are thus purposely employed to the end that**

these two estates, that which is of the highest of all creative power, and that which is the lowest debasement of an angel, may be brought into startling juxtaposition.

The title “Lucifer, son of the morning,” is the glorious heavenly designation of this great angel before his moral fall. “Lucifer” means “bright, or shining one.” And it is almost identical with the Hebrew word, NAHASH, meaning serpent, which means the “shining one.”

Now our Lord Jesus Christ bears the titles, “Bright and morning Star” and “the Son of righteousness.” The titles “Lucifer, son of the morning,” and “Bright and shining star,” are much the same. Jesus Christ is called the “Last Adam,” as a successor to the First Adam who fell. It is not possible that, in some unrevealed manner, He, Christ, is “the Bright and morning Star” as a successor to the fallen “Lucifer, son of the morning.”

This is but one of many parallels and contrasts between Christ and Satan, between Christ and Adam, and between Satan and Adam.

The prophecy of Isaiah is as follows: “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. Yet thou shalt be brought down to Hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the Earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?” Isaiah 14:12-17.

Thus the prophet announces the fall of this angel, the occasion of the fall, and something of his stupendous power. Of the latter,

it is said that he was the one who “didst weaken the nations,” “that made the Earth to tremble,” “that did shake kingdoms,” “that made the world as a wilderness,” “and destroyed the cities thereof,” “and opened not the house of his prisoners.” Most of this vast program is yet unaccomplished, and the authority and power which it connotes belongs to a later discussion.

Again it is emphasized that Satan’s sin was intended to be a secret. This is the meaning of the words, “Thou hast said in thine heart.” Likewise, it is stated in this passage that Lucifer’s sin consisted in five lawful “I will’s” against the “will of God.”

Feeble indeed is the power of human imagination to picture the crisis in this universe at the moment when the first repudiation of God took place in heaven. **These five “I wills” of Satan are evidently various aspects of one sin.** Writing of the acceptable officer of the Church and referring to his character, the apostle states that he might not be a novice, “LEST BEING LIFTED UP WITH PRIDE, HE FALL INTO CONDEMNATION, CRIME, OF THE DEVIL,” 1 Timothy 3:6.

Christ stated that Satan “abode not in the Truth, that he was dominated with an unholy desire, and that he was a murderer from the beginning.” John 8:44. All these disclosures are, no doubt, but various ways of describing one sin, **that of seeking to rise above the sphere in which he was created, and above the purpose and service assigned to him.** This, it will be observed, is the essential character of human sin, as it is of the angels.

1. **“I WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN.”**

In this, the first aspect of Satan’s sin, he apparently proposed to take up his abode in the third, or highest heaven where God and the redeemed abide. 2 Corinthians 12:1-4. The abode of the angels is evidently on a lower plane, for, when returning to the highest heaven after His resurrection, Christ is said to have been seated “far above all prin-

cipalities and powers and might and dominion,” Ephesians 1:20, 21. But Satan, whose abode is that of the angels, even though his duties give him access to both Earth and the higher spheres, Job 1:6, Ezekiel 28:14, **in unholy self-promotion determined that his abode should be higher than that sphere to which he had been appointed by his Creator.** “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.” “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.”

The redeeming GRACE of God will not be satisfied until some among **men, who by original position are lower than the angels,** Psalm 8:4-6, Hebrews 2:6-8, **are lifted to eternal citizenship in the highest sphere.** “What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the Son of man, that Thou visitest Him? For Thou hast made Him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned Him with glory and honour. Thou madest Him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under His feet.” “But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? or the Son of man, that Thou visitest Him? Thou madest Him a little lower than the angels; Thou crownedst Him with glory and honour, and didst set Him over the works of Thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under His feet. For in that He put all in subjection under Him, He left nothing that is not put under Him. But now we see not yet all things put under Him.”

John 14:3, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 17:21-24, “That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are One: I in them, and Thou in

Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me. Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world."

Colossians 3:3, 4, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." Hebrews 2:10, "For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Hebrews 10:19, 20, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh."

But Satan has no right either by position or redemption to claim that sphere as the place of his abode. His self-seeking intention as disclosed in this declaration is an outrage against the Creator's plan and purpose.

2. "I WILL EXALT MY THRONE ABOVE THE STARS OF GOD."

By this statement is revealed that Satan, though appointed to the guardianship of the throne of God, aspired to the possession of a throne of his own and to rule over "the stars of God," which are the angelic beings rather than the stellar system, which are in view here as in Job 38:7, Jude 13, Revelation 12:3, 4, 22:16. "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." "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: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born." "I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star."

Evidently very much of Satan's unholy **ambition to possess a throne has been permitted**, for it is revealed that he is now a recognized, though judged, **king with throne and authority both in the heavenly realm...** Matthew 12:26, "And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself: how shall then his kingdom stand?" Ephesians 2:2, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of wrath, even as others."

Colossians 2:13-15, "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross. And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

...And in the earthly sphere, Luke 4:5, 6, "And the devil, taking Him up into a high mountain, shewed unto Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto Him, All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it." 2 Corinthians 4:4, "In whom the god of this world hath 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."

Revelation 2:13, "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast My Name, and hast not denied My faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth."

In this last verse “seat” is an inadequate translation for “throne.” The sinful character of Satan’s purpose to secure a throne is apparent.

3. “I WILL SIT ALSO UPON THE MOUNT OF THE CONGREGATION, IN THE SIDES OF THE NORTH.”

As has been stated, “the mount” is a phrase which evidently refers to the seat of Divine government in the Earth. Isaiah 2:1-4, “The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

The reference to “congregation” is clearly of Israel. Thus this specific assumption seems to aim at a share at least, note the word “also” in the earthly Messianic rule. That rule is to be from Jerusalem, the city of the Great King. The Messiah, we are told in Psalm 48:2, “will reign from Mount Zion, “on the sides of the north.”” It is also disclosed that in the cross, which was set up on the north side of Jerusalem, Christ judged and spoiled principalities and powers.

Colossians 2:15, “And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” It is possible that when thus judged, Satan’s unholy designs upon the Messianic rule were thwarted forever.

4. “I WILL ASCEND ABOVE THE HEIGHTS OF THE CLOUDS.”

The meaning of this assumption will probably be discovered in the use of the word “clouds.” Of the upwards of 150 references in the Bible to clouds, fully 100 are **related to the Divine presence and glory.** The Lord appeared in a cloud. Exodus 16:10, “And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.” The cloud was termed “the cloud of Jehovah” in Exodus 40:38, “For the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.”

When the Lord was present, the cloud filled the house, 1 Kings 8:10, “And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the Holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord.” “The Lord rideth upon a swift cloud,” Isaiah 19:1, “The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at His presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.”

Psalm 104:3, “Who layeth the beams of His chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds His chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind.” Christ is to come, as He went, upon the clouds of heaven. Matthew 24:30, “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the Earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Acts 1:9, “And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up: and a cloud received Him out of their sight.” Revelation 1:7, “Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the Earth shall wail because of Him. Even so. Amen.”

So the ransomed appear, Israel, Isaiah 60:8, and the Church, 1 Thessalonians 4:17. “Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?” “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall be ever be with the Lord.”

Satan’s man of sin will exalt himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” And by this assumption, Satan is evidently seeking to secure for himself some of the glory which belongs to God alone.

5. “I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH.”

This is the fifth and last of Satan’s “I will’s” against the will of God. **This may be considered as a key to the understanding and tracing of his motives and methods.**

In spite of an almost universal impression that Satan’s ideal for himself is to be “unlike” God, he is there revealed as being actuated with the purpose to be “like” God. However, this ambition is not to be like Jehovah, the self-existing One, while no created being could ever be, **but to be like the “Most High,” which title signifies the “possessor of heaven and Earth,”** Genesis 14:19, 22, “And He blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, Possessor of heaven and Earth.” “And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the Most High God, the Possessor of heaven and Earth.”

THE ESSENTIAL EVIL CHARACTER OF SIN HERE, AS EVERYWHERE, IS AN UNWILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE CREATURE TO ABIDE IN THE PRECISE POSITION IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN PLACED BY THE CREATOR.

In pursuing this life-purpose as imitator of God, and counterfeiter of God’s undertakings, Satan apparently with sincerity, recom-

mended to Adam and Eve that they too “be as gods.” The original word here translated “gods” is ELOHIM, and the plural form of ELOHIM evidently accounts for the plural translation “gods.” What Satan said was, “Ye shall be as ELOHIM.”

In response to that suggestion, which only reflected Satan’s own supreme ambition to be like the Most High, Adam entered upon the same course of unholy repudiation of the Divine purpose. So universal has this form of sin become, that man thinks he has accomplished much when, if ever, he, through Divine GRACE, reaches the place where his will is surrendered to God, the place indeed, from which men should never have departed.

In the strange, inexplicable permission of God, Satan’s ideal man, the man of sin, will declare himself to be God, sitting in the temple of God, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

But this appears to be the climax of man’s unholy assumption and constitutes the sign of the end of the age. Matthew 24:15, “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the Holy place...”

Satan’s sin may thus be summarized as a purpose to secure:

1. **The highest heavenly position.**
2. **Regal rights both in heaven and on Earth.**
3. **Messianic recognition.**
4. **Glory which belongs to God alone.**
5. **A likeness to the Most High, “the Possessor of heaven and Earth.”**

He wants to rule the whole universe and have sovereignty over all of it. There can be no adequate estimation of the immediate effect of Satan’s initial sin, first upon himself, and then upon that vast host of spirit beings who, in allegiance to Satan, “kept not

their first estate,” or the final effect of that sin upon the entire human race, whose federal head adopted the same satanic repudiation of God. “In Adam all die.”

SATAN ACCORDING TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

Satan is presented in the Old Testament under various characterizations, but he appears only four times in the Old Testament under the Hebrew appellation “Satan.” In 1 Chronicles 21:1 a record is made of the Truth that Satan moved David to number Israel, contrary to the will of God. This act on Satan’s part well illustrates his purpose and character.

Both Psalm 109:6 and Zechariah 3:1, 2 disclose the same satanic design. “Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand.” “And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?”

In the former of these two passages, Satan’s presence is involved as a judgment on the enemies of the Lord. While in the second, Satan is seen standing in an attitude of readiness to resist the Divine purpose in behalf of Joshua, the high priest. **It is the Lord who directly rebukes Satan,** which Truth has its parallel in Jude 9, where it is said that Michael calls on the Lord to rebuke Satan for his opposition.

The remaining Old Testament reference to Satan is the illuminating account of the Lord’s controversy with Satan over Job. As this Scripture makes claim to an extended consideration under the next division of satanology, no further attention will be given it at this point beyond the recognition that **Sa-**

tan, here, as always, appears as the opposer of God.

The whole revelation of Satan’s rebellious world-power is not found in the Old Testament, but is reserved for the New Testament. Such a disclosure doubtless withheld as being too demanding upon those of the Old Testament to whom a fuller revelation of Truth had not come. There is a progression of doctrine concerning things evil as there is concerning things good, and these two developments could not lose their interrelation and balance.

In the Old Testament the Lord is Himself presented as permitting that which occurs, which is always the basic fact. Exodus 10:20, “But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go.” 1 Samuel 16:14, “But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.” Isaiah 45:7, “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.” Amos 3:6, “Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?”

The Divine permission here, as ever, in no way relieves those who sin of the responsibility for their sin. The very first title which this great angel is introduced in the Bible is not fully clarified with respect to its meaning until as late as Revelation 12:9, cf 2 Corinthians 11:3. “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 with him.” “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent bequiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

SATAN ACCORDING TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

At the opening of the New Testament the student is confronted with the extreme activity of Satan and the demons. It would seem that all possible opposition resident in the fallen angels was marshalled for the encounter. As certainly as the eternal purpose of God in redemption was about to be actualized, the more violent contrariety is set up by the powers of darkness. Such utmost effort on Satan's part is according to revealed Truth, but also is according to reason.

There is but one situation to compare with this, namely, the period that will immediately precede the Second Advent of Christ when, as announced in Revelation 16:13, 14, "the spirits of devils," demons, "working miracles, go forth unto the kings of the Earth and the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." This situation is more clearly portrayed in the second Psalm, as also in Revelation 19:17-21. "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the Earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army. 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. And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of His mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."

The true character of that coming conflict is divulged when it is thus observed that these warring kings will be demon-possessed. **Satan's activity as described in the New Testament may be given a two-fold classification, that which arises through his authority as a king over evil spirits, and that which arises through his world dominion.** In reply to those who accused Christ of casting out Satan by the power of Satan, Christ said that a house that is divided against itself cannot stand, and asked the question, "If Satan cast out Satan, how shall his kingdom stand?"

This passage is mentioned only to bring forward the Truth that **Satan has a kingdom of evil spirits.** This statement by Christ is more than an implication. It is a direct assertion and its reality must be heeded. **So, also, Satan is said to be "the god of this world,"** 2 Corinthians 4:4, **and in authority over this world to the extent that he gives its kingdoms to whomsoever he will,** Luke 4:6. It is probable that every activity of Satan will be found to be related to one or the other of these spheres of authority.

At the threshold of Christ's ministry on Earth, Satan met Him in the wilderness. There is mystery concealed in this encounter which, it is probable, extends to realms of angelic reality. It also penetrates into the hypostatic union of the two natures of Jesus Christ. The temptation is apparently within the sphere of Christ's humanity and suggests the exercise of the human features: body, soul and spirit, in their adjustment to the presence and exactings of His Deity. Into the sphere of relationship the human mind cannot enter, yet the clear statement which the Bible sets forth should be accepted.

Without doubt these supernatural issues are within the range of Satan's understandings, and afford a wide field for conflict which human experience cannot parallel. The features of the situation are faithfully presented. Christ being filled with the Spirit, He is led of the Spirit into the wilderness and there undergoes a testing which constituted 40 days and nights.

As a climax to this testing, Satan presents a three-fold suggestion: **The first involved the breaking down of that separation which Christ faithfully preserved between His Deity and His humanity.** If the common demands of food and drink were supernaturally supplied by His Deity, He would not be in all points tested as are His followers in this world. **The second test involved a short cut, apart from sacrifice, to the possession of the kingdoms of this world.** These are covenanted to the Son by the Father and the securing of them with respect to title formed a part of His triumph in the cross. Psalm 2:8, 9, “Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the Earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron: Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

To some degree Satan has personal interests to serve, for there is a wide difference between exchanging the kingdoms of this world for the worship of the Son of God as compared with going to a doom which deprives him of everything but the Lake of Fire.

In the third instance, **there is offered to Christ the securing of a recognition from the people apart from the path of suffering and shame.**

In all three testings, Christ met Satan’s proposals with the Word of God and demonstrated the fact that the action which Satan suggests is not the will of God delineated in the Word of God.

The first Adam was overcome by Satan. The last Adam drove Satan from the field. As Son of God with His Deity in view, the outcome could not be otherwise, as a man with His humanity in view, the victory is measureless and forms a pattern for all humanity of believers in all ages.

What may be suggested about Satan’s later attacks upon Christ by the words, “And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from Him for a season,” Luke 4:13. Other temptations were made, which may have characterized much of the life and work of Christ in all the days before the cross, and that is certain.

SATAN WAS JUDGED AT THE CROSS

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her Seed. It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.”

When tracing Satan's career, the cross as a judgment of Satan and all his hosts of spirits is the next event in order. Again the theme reaches out into the larger realms where the life and service of angels are situated. **Issues are involved which lie outside the earthly sphere.** For this reason the subject should be approached with caution. That which is to be revealed is to be received as God's revelation and from this, certain general conclusions may be drawn.

In His death Christ dealt with sin as a principle, or as a whole, and **while it is the joyous privilege of a human being to know that his personal sin is met to the satisfaction of God in the death of Christ, it is evident that the thing achieved by Christ is as boundless as the universe and as timeless as eternity.** The Colossian epistle contains two notable passages which enunciate the limitless character of Christ's work upon the cross.

In Colossians 1:15-18 is the assignment of Christ to the Creatorship of all things and the pre-eminence above all His creation. “Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of every creature: For by Him 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. And He is the Head of the body, the Church: who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.”

The epistle goes on to state in verses 19-22, “For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell: And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself: by Him, I say, whether they be things in Earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you whole and unblameable and unproveable in His sight.”

The scope of this reconciliation which the cross provides is as limitless as that realm which includes both heaven and Earth. The term “reconciliation” is not the equivalent of “restoration” or “salvation.” Its precise meaning is to “change thoroughly” and its achievement is seen in the fact that **the Divine estimation of all things has been changed completely by the cross.**

When it is said in 2 Corinthians 5:19 that God has reconciled the world unto Himself, it is not by so much declared that all men are saved, or that all will be saved. And with a similar statement and a similar meaning, the reconciliation of “all things” as asserted in Colossians 1:20 does not intimate that all things in heaven and on Earth are now perfected in the sight of God, or that they necessarily ever will be. **The reconciliation which is now wrought by the cross has provided a ground for the redemption of those before chosen of God and a ground for the judgment of those who reject His provisions for them.** The Scriptures do not even hint that fallen men who continue in their unbelief, or that fallen angels will be rescued from their doom.

Matthew 25:41, “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.” Revelation 20:12-15, “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. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell 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."

It is probable that what is thus involved cannot be reduced to the level of human understanding but the truth that **Christ's death extends a benefit to things in heaven and to things on Earth** is made clear. Satan and his hosts are judged. The fallen beings and their evil deeds have come up for Divine judgement, and **are now judged**, though the execution of that judgment is yet future. Though the heel of the Judge of all things was bruised, it is also as certain that the head of the "serpent" has been bruised. **It is impossible that one shall be bruised without the bruising of the other.**

The second passage in Colossians is exceedingly explicit, though all that it announces may not be understood by dwellers in this sphere. It reads, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.: And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." Colossians 2:14, 15.

Here, as before, **the value of the cross is seen to extend into two realms: that which is human, verse 14, and that which is angelic, verse 15.** That which extends to human realms is not now being considered, but within the realms of that which is angelic, stupendous accomplishments are indicated by the disclosure that Christ in His death "spoiled" principalities and powers and made a shew of them openly, and "triumphed over them."

The human mind might picture all this as being brought to pass in a final aside, but here it is taught that its achievement through the cross of Christ is a present reality. Since the theme is as vast as the sphere and destiny of angels, it is the part of wisdom that the student shall approach its consideration with due humility.

The truth that Satan was judged in the cross of Christ is confirmed by two recorded statements by Christ. "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." John 12:31. "Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." John 16:11. **These were made immediately before the crucifixion and relate Satan's judgment to Christ's anticipation of His death.** To these statements may be added Hebrews 2:14, which declares, "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."

Thus by explicit teaching, the Bible reiterates the truth that Satan and his hosts came to judgment, even being spoiled, unveiled, triumphed over, judged, and cast out by Christ in His death. Such, indeed, is the historical fact, though it yet remains to discover something of the issues of that judgment with its immediate and future results.

Of the immediate results, it may be repeated that a distinction must be drawn between a judgment gained, which is in the nature of a legal sentence and not yet exercised, and the final administering of the penalty. The evidence is conclusive that the sentence is not yet executed since throughout this age following the cross, **Satan is, by Divine authority, given the designations,** "The prince of the power of the air," Ephesians 2:2, and "the god of this world," 2 Corinthians 4:4. **He evidently is permitted to continue as a usurper until the time of his execution.**

An illustration of Satan's present relation to this world may be taken from the history of Saul and David. It is natural that David, the first to occupy the Davidic throne, should be a type of Christ predicted to be the last and most glorious occupant of that throne.

Luke 1:31-33, "And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His Name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever: and of His kingdom there shall be no end." As there was a period between the anointing of David and the final banishment of Saul, in which Saul reigned as a usurper, though under Divine sentence, and David was the God-appointed king, in like manner there is now a similar period in which Satan rules as usurper, though under sentence, and the actual occupation of Christ's throne is still future.

In this period Satan, the rejected monarch, still rules, hunting to the death all those who have allied themselves with Christ, the God-anointed king. In this so important period of Satan's career, and the peculiar character of it as typified in Saul. You remember that God permitted Israel to choose their first king, and they chose Saul, as to whom we are told, "from his shoulders, and upward he was higher than any of the people." Why are we told this? Have we exhausted its significance when we picture to ourselves the towering height of that human king? I am sure not, but rather, would be the Spirit of God, provide a perfect figure or type of him, who, exactly in the same way, towered over "his fellows." In other words, was, as the other Scriptures we have studied show, the most exalted of all created spiritual intelligences.

But Saul disobeys, or, to use language that shall suggest the parallel I desire to keep before us, "iniquity was found in him," Ezekiel 28:15. And he was set aside from his kingly office. The kingdom was rent from him. 1

Samuel 15:27, 28, "And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. And Samuel said unto him, The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, that is better than thou."

And then God anointed another king of His own choice, a "shepherd king," David. Now no one questions David being a type of the beloved Son of God. **Why should not Saul afford us also a type of his opponent?** He surely does. But, and this is the point that must be carefully noted and weighed, "**Saul retains the throne of Israel, and is still recognized as the king, long after he is Divinely rejected.**" The sentence is pronounced but the judgment is not at once executed. While David, the true king, is "hunted like a partridge upon the mountains, or finds his refuge in the cave of Adullam."

God does not at once intervene by power and take the dignities of the kingdom from Saul, although he has lost all his "title" to them and put them in David's hands. **The power is Saul's and the title is David's.** The later is king "de jure." The former is "de facto." You can now see the marvelous and clear analogy.

Satan too, whilst he may have forfeited all "title" to the throne of the Earth, we shall consider this more carefully directly, will cleave as did Saul, to its power and dignity claims, as did Saul, and all the power of its government, whilst the true, David, to whom all belongs in title, is, as it were, in the caves of Adullam, where a few "discontented ones," those who are not satisfied with the conditions of things, have found their way to him, and own him, even in the day of his rejection, as rightful lord of all.

Therefore, whilst Satan is the prince of this world at the present time, we are led by the analogy of the inspired history, as by every clear Scripture, to regard him as its "usurping prince," a prince of power, but not in title. Yet whilst now an usurper, as Saul was, still since he was, also as Saul, Divinely

anointed as king, the dignity of the anointing still lingers on him, so that Michael recognized that dignity, not speaking evil, but reverently, even as David spoke of Saul ever as "the Lord's anointed," and saying, "the Lord rebuke thee."

Now in Colossians 2:15 it will be remembered that **the specific crime which caused Satan's fall, the fall of the angelic hosts, and the fall of man, was through being prompted by pride.** 1 Timothy 3:6, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." Ezekiel 28:16, 17, "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." Leading on to career of iniquity is that **this mighty angel assumed to oppose the plan and purpose of God for himself and other creatures. He introduced a philosophy of life, a mode of procedure, which is directly opposed to the revealed will of God. It is a lie in the sense that it contradicts that which is infinitely true.** What form of judgment a holy God must impose upon such as immeasurable offense is not for men to determine. The judgment properly has in view the crime itself. Such, indeed, is the reason for an unending confinement in the lake of fire.

Satan declared, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." "I will be like the Most High." This is evident, and is the essential feature of Satan's program. In line with that purpose, **he wrested the scepter from Adam and has held sway over the vast majority of human family throughout all its generations.** They being separated from God, as described in Ephesians 2:12, possessed no way to God until the sacrifice of Calvary was made. It is true that to the small company of people, Israel, as to the

patriarchs, was extended the cure of sin by blood sacrifice, but the great mass of humanity remained without God in the world.

It would seem therefore, that the basis of Satan's dominion over humanity was largely the fact that they were not eligible to any higher relationship. **On this basis, had God approached any fallen human beings, Satan would have pleaded God's own holiness as the reason why God should not so act. Satan is committed to his infernal philosophy and to the defense of those who have embraced it.** At least he will not surrender them apart from the most drastic resistance within his power. **As long as man's unholiness was not yet taken to the cross, the conflict was largely in Satan's favor.** In Isaiah 17:17 it is written of Satan, "He opened not the house of his prisoners." The statement is illuminating. However, when referring to what Christ would do by His sacrifice, the same prophet goes on to say that Christ would come to "proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound," Isaiah 61:1, cf Luke 4:16-21.

The incarceration to which these Scriptures refer is more serious and extensive than anything that obtains in human governments. No suggestion will be found here that those justly in prison for crime are to be released from that judgment. The bondage came with the repudiation of God on the part of the responsible head of the race. **These prisoners are not only bondslaves to sin, but are in bondage to the Evil One.** He it is who energizes all the sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 2:2, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." Satan has bound in physical distress a "daughter of Abraham." Luke 13:16, "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"

By him had been exercised the “power of death.” Hebrews 2:14, 15, “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; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

The apostle witnesses frequently to the activities of Satan. 1 Corinthians 5:5, 7:5, “To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.” “De-fraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.” 2 Corinthians 12:7, “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I

should be exalted above measure.” 1 Thesalonians 2:18, “Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.”.

The incomparable invitations **“come,”** **“whosoever will,”** **“him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out,”** are possible only through the redemption which Christ has wrought. The door is open wide. The Gospel is to be preached to every creature.

Thus it is seen that Christ’s judgment of Satan, which was wrought through the cross, had primarily to do with Satan’s original crime, and with the God-repudiating philosophy which that crime represents.

The principle of evil was judged. The cross-judgment reaches out to a lost world for whom Christ died and becomes the basis of the Gospel of salvation.

A HOLY WAR IN HEAVEN

THE EXECUTION OF SATAN'S JUDGMENT

The execution of those judgments which were secured against Satan by Christ through the cross is anticipated in the Word of God in three stages or successive events. These are to be considered quite apart from three judgments already passed, namely:

A. The moral degradation and corresponding loss of standing which was due to that fall.

B. The sentence pronounced against him in the Garden of Eden.

C. The judgment of the cross.

THE FUTURE THREE-FOLD EXECUTION OF JUDGMENT UPON SATAN IS NOW STATED.

1. SATAN CAST OUT OF HEAVEN:

The casting of Satan out of heaven and the confining of him with his angels to the restricted sphere of the Earth is described in Revelation 12:7-12. The passage reads, "AND THERE WAS WAR IN HEAVEN: MICHAEL AND HIS 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. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heav-

ens, and ye that dwell in them. 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."

Beyond the disclosure of the central truth that Satan and his angels will be cast out of heaven, this passage unfolds much vital revelation. **The means that will be employed to cast Satan and his angels down is none other than the authority and power of holy angels under the leadership of Michael.** ANGELS FIGHTING ANGELS... NOT A HOLY WAR, BUT A HOLY ANGELIC WAR IN HEAVEN.

These fallen angels being overcome, are as exiles from their native spheres, confined to the Earth. A song of rejoicing ascends in heaven because of the relief which the absence of these fallen angels secures. All this is most suggestive. Likewise a woe is addressed to the Earth in view of the calamity which their presence imposes upon the dwellers of Earth. **Notice men will still dwell on the Earth in the middle of the Tribulation.**

It is in connection with this exile that Satan's great wrath is stirred, and it is then, apparently, that he becomes aware that the cause which has engaged him from the first has been lost forever. The presence of Satan and his hosts restricted to the Earth and in measureless wrath could hardly be cause for joy on Earth, nor peace on Earth. On the contrary, this situation is one of the most essential contributing factors in that Great Tribulation, which is predicted for those very days.

Matthew 24:21, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever

shall be.” Daniel 12:1, “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of Thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time Thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”

That this tribulation falls heaviest upon the nation Israel is asserted here. Revelation 12:13-17, “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the Earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the Earth helped the woman, and the Earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” And as in all Scriptures.

The casting out of the satanic host from heaven means much, also, to the “brethren,” whom Satan has not ceased to accuse before God night and day. And it is a most vital truth which is added in the words, “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.”

The question may be raised at this point about what it is that constitutes Satan's opposition to God's ways with men. **No little resentment may exist against the truth that redemption has not been extended to fallen angels as it is extended to fallen men.** It would seem that Satan still exercises some of his original responsibility, as the defender and promoter of righteousness on which the throne of God must ever rest.

SATAN'S MINISTERS POSE AS “MINISTERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,” 2 Corin-

thians 11:15. But, reference is made in the text to “personal” or “self-righteousness,” or self-promoted righteousness. **The redemptive plan purposes to constitute sinners righteous before God through the merit of Christ which is released and provided for the lost in Christ's death. The constituting of sinners to be righteous through the saving work of Christ is easily believed to be a point of satanic opposition against God.** There is nothing else about the Gospel which Satan would resist, or concerning which he would “blind the minds” of those who are lost. 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4, “But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath 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.”

The one who specializes in self-promoted righteousness has always been the least able to comprehend and the greatest objector to the doctrine of imputed righteousness. Certainly it is not to be counted as strange if Satan himself is, like those among men who are energized by him, opposed to that which is the abiding fruit of redeeming GRACE. **The accusations which Satan has hurled against the brethren have no doubt been concerning actual sin and unrighteousness on their part.** It is inconceivable that he would charge them with that which is wholly untrue. Such a course would fall by its own strength. **It is rather that Satan is as offended by the arrangement whereby saints are preserved in spite of their unworthiness as he is by the imputing of righteousness to meritless sinners in the first place.** The Scriptures offer an illustration of this unassailable position of those who are redeemed.

God said to Balak through the unwilling prophet Balaam, “I have not beheld iniquity in Jacob,” or “perverseness in Israel.” There was evil in this people, but, when attacked by the foe of Divine GRACE, **the Lord delighted to declare that He did not “see” or “behold” that on which the enemy based his accusations. God does not assert that**

these wicked things do not exist. He states that He, having covered them with redemption, does not see or behold what the enemy points out. However when dealing with these whom He has redeemed, the Lord is tireless in His effort to separate them from all their evil ways.

Of this great Truth the Psalmist writes, "If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand?" Psalm 130:3. That He does not mark iniquity is possible only through redemption and is never a matter of mere graciousness. The wrathful attitude of Balak is a reflection of the attitude of Satan who energized him. In like manner, the evil which was condemned in Cain is not immortality, but rather the satanic ideal of self-worthiness as a basis of Divine acceptance. The blood sacrifice of Abel, looking on to the fruits of redemption, provided a perfect relationship to God to which no fallen being could ever attain by works of personal righteousness.

The saints are to be rewarded before the judgment seat of Christ in heaven. At that time no mention is to be made of sins already washed away by the blood of the Lamb. Such silence with respect to cancelled sin could not be in heaven until the Accuser is cast out. **Great joy will be the portion of those who thus enter into the full realization of Divine forgiveness and acceptance.**

2. SATAN'S JUDGMENT AT THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST:

As a part of that which transpires at the glorious return of Christ, which coming terminates the Great Tribulation, Matthew 24:30, and ends the reign of the Man of Sin, 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10, Satan is bound by a great chain and cast into the abyss.

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the Earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom

the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the Truth, that they might be saved."

This event is described by these words: "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit 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," Revelation 20:1-3.

In this passage, as in that previously cited, there is much revealed beyond the fact that Satan is bound and cast into the abyss and sealed. It is asserted that Satan is the deceiver of the whole world, and assurance is given that the Earth will be free from these deceptions for a period said to be "a thousand years." His wrathful presence in the Earth during a preceding period has contributed much to the agony of the Great Tribulation, called Jacob's Trouble. **Thus, also, his restraints from all activity contributes much to the peace and righteousness on the Earth for the thousand years.** The human mind could not comprehend all that is involved in these disclosures. Further on in this context it is revealed that, at the end of a thousand years, Satan will be loosed for "a little season."

It is written, "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 when they went up on the breadth of the Earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the be-

loved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them,” Revelation 20:7-9.

The nations are said to be deceived again and that deception plunges them once more, and for the last time, into war. “Wars and rumors of war until I come,” says the Lord.

It is predicted that war shall cease during the Kingdom Age of Peace. Isaiah 2:1-4, “The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nations, neither shall they learn war any more.” And that it is immediately resorted to upon the release of Satan from the abyss.

This two-fold truth that there is no war on Earth when Satan’s power and deception are withdrawn and that it is immediately revived as soon as these deceptions are again cast over the Earth, demonstrates clearly the cause of all war in the Earth. It is the last war, for God Himself intervenes with supernatural judgments and destruction.

A corresponding Old Testament prediction adds much to the disclosure that Satan will be in the abyss. It is said in Isaiah 24:21-23, “And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the Earth upon the Earth. And they shall be gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in

the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before His ancients gloriously.”

If, as seems justified, the “high ones that are on high, and the kings of the Earth that are then upon Earth,” is a reference to fallen angels, along with their chief, who are also placed in the abyss, where else could they be at such a time? **It is generally true that in the Scriptures a king and his kingdom are closely related and whatever befalls one, befalls the other.** Cf Daniel 2:37-38, “Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And where-soever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath He given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.”

On this principle of interpretation, it may be assumed that **these fallen angels accompany Satan on to the end of his career.** It will be observed that some of these are already in chains awaiting the final judgment which shall come upon all evil spirits.

Jude 6, “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.” 2 Peter 2:4, “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment...”

And it is of great satisfaction that, as witnesses at least, **the saints will be associated with Christ in His judgment.** 1 Corinthians 6:3, “Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?”

3. SATAN’S FINAL JUDGMENT.

Three falls to a finish. The Scripture will itself best describe the last step in the execution of Satan’s judgment. “And the devil that deceiveth them was cast into the lake of fire

and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever,” Revelation 20:10. “Hell is prepared for Satan and his angels,” Matthew 25:41.

In the middle of the Tribulation Satan will be cast out on the Earth, and then he will be imprisoned at the Second Advent of Christ.

Then after the Millennium he will be released and then finally thrown into the lake of fire for ever and ever. **So much for the pride, the number one sin in the universe, and so much for religion and self-righteousness and all the sacrifices apart from the sacrifice of Christ.**

THE CHARACTER OF SATAN

In approaching this difficult and intricate subject, a certain iniquity is in order, namely, what latitude is accorded angels in the exercise of their powers in the direction of evil? The implications of Scripture and the deductions of reason contend, in answer to this question, that **much that is possible as sin with men is impossible with angels and is foreign to them.** There is no evidence that angels are tempted in the realms of those sins which find expression through the human body; immoral relations, gluttony, and the perversion of normal bodily functions. It is equally certain that there is no occasion for avarice, parsimoniousness, or thievery among the angels since, so far as it is known, they are not burdened with possessions of any description whatever.

In truth, it is easier to discover the sins which are predicted of the angels than to list those which they, for obvious reasons, do not practice. **Angelic sin is along the lines of two closely related evils, "ambitious pride" and "untruth," as they may be manifested within the range of the angel existence.** Within the scope of these two sins, the evil character of Satan must be computed.

The sinfulness of Satan's sin is not to be discovered by comparing it with wickedness in human spheres, but rather by a due comparison of it with the holiness of God, and in the light of that which God has required of the angels.

As God is the embodiment of good, so Satan, in his restricted sphere, is the embodiment of evil. God, being infinite, is infinitely good. Satan, being finite, is evil to the extent of his resources and means. Since he is the highest of all creation, Satan is the one of all creatures to **assume the position of "anti-God."** It is recognized that Satan will yet introduce and exalt the anti-Christ, but it is clear, from the beginning he

has arrogated to himself the function of anti-God.

This assumption is the supreme conception which actuates his ambitious pride. To a like degree he is "anti-Truth," but in realms and ways which challenge the closest attention of every student of Bible doctrine. To the same extent to which this great angel surpasses human understanding, his evil nature undertakings reach beyond human comprehension. However, it is anticipated that the Spirit-taught believers shall pursue these vast themes with some discernment and to a large degree of profit.

Popular impressions of the character of Satan are erroneous. Doubtless, if called to face the truth of the precise nature of Satan's sin, the man of the world would find little fault in him. **It could not be otherwise since the worldling has himself adopted as his prototype the very evil ideals of Satan. The world could not be expected to sit thus in judgment upon itself,** and this is especially true in view of the fact that Satan has blinded the minds of those who believe not that which is of God. **The evil character of Satan will be found embraced in the two-fold wickedness... ambitious pride, and untruth, which is charged against him.**

TWO-FOLD WICKEDNESS

1. Ambitious Pride.

Through the entire career of Satan there is but an unbroken manifestation of his pride. There are three passages of Scripture which directly indict Satan with respect to this specific sin.

1 Timothy 3:6, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." This notable passage urges the unwisdom of appointing a young and inexperienced convert to the office of bishop or elder in the church. Such an office

should not be "A NOVICE LEST BEING LIFTED UP WITH PRIDE HE FALL INTO THE CONDEMNATION," JUDGMENT, "OF THE DEVIL." This is not a judgment to be imposed by the devil, **but the judgment God imposes on the devil for the same sin of pride.**

The next verse asserts that there is a "reproach of the devil." Cf Jude 9, "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." 2 Peter 2:11, "Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord." It also speaks of "a snare of the devil," cf 2 Timothy 2:26, "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

But the text in question warns against the experience of Satan's judgment which follows the enacting of Satan's sin, ambitious pride. Citation of this passage at this point is for the purpose of enforcing the Truth that Satan's notable sin was pride.

The effect upon the novice would be, as it was upon Satan, a beclouding of the mind with respect to real values. The verb translated "lifted up" means to "make a smoke," and by it blinded, 1 Timothy 6:4, "He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings." 2 Timothy 3:4, "Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

It is of interest to observe that the intimation is that Satan himself experienced a besetting of the mind which to some extent made his sinful course a possibility.

Ezekiel 28:17. Reference must be made to this passage again because of its clear revelation relative to Satan's sinful, self-promoting pride. To quote, "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."

He who had been created for the highest position and service, before described, has become conscious and proud of his wisdom and beauty. It will be seen from verse 12 that the wisdom is "full" and the beauty is "perfect." The meaning of such terms, describing as they do the mind of the Lord in His appreciation of this angel, cannot be traced by man. Doubtless there were these qualities in this angel which made pride a natural consequence. **With that befogging of mind which pride engenders, it is possible to be misguided as to undertake the very opposite line of action from that which infinite wisdom has dictated.**

Isaiah 14:12-14, "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." Though quoted and expounded before, this illuminating passage is cited again.

Pride is here seen to prompt this great angel to unholy ambition. With a beclouded mind, he easily repudiates the Creator and displays dissatisfaction with the estate into which he was Divinely placed. He proposes by ambition and self-promotion to advance his estate to the highest heaven and into the likeness of the Most High.

Thus it is set forth by Divine authority that Satan's career of evil began with pride and that, through its power to confuse the mind, it has led him on into all the ways of evil which are recorded of him. The important fruit of Satan's pride is the fact that "He abode not in the Truth."

2. The second wickedness...Untruth.

An extended list of indictments against Satan is to be presented shortly and it would seem impossible that all that is charged against this evil angel could originate from the one sin of untruth which was engendered by pride.

Christ's own words in reference to Satan's first procedure in the way of sin is both revealing and final. He said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lust 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. And this may be added, "He that committeth sin 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." 1 John 3:8.

The charge that these Jews, to whom Christ spoke, were of their father the devil is a serious one, and has provoked perplexity and controversy. There being a spiritual birth in which the one who believes in Christ is the recipient of the Divine nature, that which is foreign to normal human life, **thus there is such a thing as a reception of Satanic ideals to the end that the life which receives them is, to a marked degree, the child of the one who originates the manner of life which is embraced.**

The designation three times employed by the apostle, "children of disobedience," in Ephesians 2:2, 5:6, Colossians 3:6, and Peter's phrase, "cursed children," in 2 Peter 2:14, of "obedient children" of 1 Peter 1:14, are all most significant, the context of which passages invites the student's most careful exegesis to the end that the exact import of these appellations may be apprehended.

The characterizing disobedience to which reference is made is federal, as is the characterizing obedience of Romans 5:19, the disobedience of Adam and the obedience of Christ. **By natural birth all are subject to Divine wrath which is due to the disobedience of the federal head of the race and**

by which the race fell. Yet children, with respect to their personal childlikeness and innocence, portray citizenship in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:1-4, "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Who-soever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Since federal and not personal disobedience is in view, the implications of the title are as applicable to one unregenerate person as to another and without regard to personal subservience. **So, also, it is right to conclude that all unregenerate persons are alike in need of the provisions of Divine GRACE.**

All of this substantiates the truth that there is a solemn reality in Christ's words, "Ye are of your father the devil," and it is on the ground of this affiliation and the unavoidable expression of its inner qualities that he goes on to say, "and the lusts of your father, your will is to do."

With unquestionable authority Christ relates the parentage which sin generates, not at all to Adam, who is only a link in the chain, Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned," but to the originator of evil, Satan. "Children of Adam" is a mild designation compared with "children of the devil." **Christ asserts the reality of the latter.**

The statement that "Satan was a murderer from the beginning" seems to be the result of Satan's influence upon other creatures. Whether there is any sense in which this charge might apply to Satan's injury to other angels or not, it is easily traceable that he seduced men into sin which subjected them to death.

It is reasonable to assume, and not without Scripture warrant, that the one who caused man to sin also caused the lesser angels to sin. The origin of sin is not distributed among various individuals. It is invariably assigned to the one who must, therefore, have degraded angels as he has degraded men. The satanic principle manifested in Cain moved Cain to slay Abel, who, in turn, manifested departure from God is impossible.

God is either everything or nothing in these relationships. All untruth as seen in misguided lives partakes of and grows out of Satan's lie in disowning the Truth which God is.

Satan is a "liar and the father of it." Romans 1:25, "WHO CHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD INTO A LIE, AND WORSHIPPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE MORE THAN THE CREATOR, who is blessed forever more." Ephesians 4:25, "WHEREFORE PUTTING AWAY LYING, SPEAK EVERY MAN TRUTH with his neighbour: for we are members one of another." 2 Thessalonians 2:11, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE THE LIE."

It is not without specific meaning that Christ goes on in this context to say that He Himself tells the Truth, that none might convince Him of sin, and that those who are of God hear God's Words. Similarly, since Christ came forth from God, it is impossible that one should be of God and at the same time reject the One whom God has sent into the world.

How very much is declared when Christ said, "I am... the Truth..." He was not only God, the Truth, manifest in the flesh, but as the perfect man, He abode in the Truth in the sense that He did always and only those things which were well pleasing to His Father. **In the most drastic testing which Satan could impose upon Him, He did not sin by departing from the precise purpose of His Father for Him.**

The Satanic lie was imported into the Garden of Eden and was there adopted by the first parents of the race. Satan said to them, "Be as ELOHIM," in Genesis 3:5. The untruth did not, in this instance, consist in the mere fact that they would not really be as ELOHIM, though Satan said they would. **It consisted in rejecting God and His purpose for them.**

The philosophy represented by these words is diabolical in all its parts. Its hellish character is not mitigated by the fact that it is well nigh universal, or by the Truth that those who are under its curse are unaware that there is any other and better philosophy extant.

The apostle records of those who embrace the devilish philosophy, "Because when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish mind was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools... Who changed the Truth of God into THE LIE, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient: Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, deceit, malignity, whispers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful," Romans 1:21-31.

The lamentable sins which follow the repudiation of God are but the innumerable lies which are the legitimate offspring of the first lie. THE WHOLE PRESENT WORLD SYSTEM IS A PRODUCT AND MANIFESTATION OF THE LIE. The spectacle of a world in open rebellion against Jehovah and His Messiah is pictured in Psalm 2:1-2 which reads, "Why do the heathen," nations, "rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the Earth set them-

selves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His Anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

It is evident that this Scripture is to be fulfilled at the end of time, when the lie is in its fullest manifestation. The course of evil moves on to its determined end, and slight indeed has been the adjustment of theology to the Scriptures when theology so generally anticipates a converted world before the King returns. **The lie is not predicted to become the Truth by any process whatsoever.** It develops its own evil course and is terminated at the zenith of its wickedness by the One into whose hands all judgment has been committed and in the program of His Second Advent. No more determining passage of the Bible may be contemplated relative to the final manifestation of the lie than 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, in which all the forces of lawlessness are seen to concentrate in the "Lawless One." **Assurance is advanced also that all will be judged of God on the sole ground that they believe "the lie."** The passage being central and final on this theme is quoted in full and according to an accurate translation.

Below are 11 Principles of "the lie" vs. "the Truth":

1. "But we entreat you, brethren, in regard of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together in Him."

2. "In order that ye should not be lightly shaken from your mind nor troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, not by epistle as from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is present."

3. "Let no man deceive you in any manner, for that day shall not come, unless there have come the apostasy first and there have been revealed the Man of Sin, the son of perdition."

4. "He that withstands and EXALTS HIMSELF ABOVE EVERY ONE THAT IS CALLED GOD or an object of adoration, so

that HE SITS IN THE TEMPLE OF GOD, SHOWING HIMSELF THAT HE IS GOD."

5. "And now ye know that which hinders, in order that he may be revealed in his own time."

6. "For MYSTERY ALREADY IS WORKING OF LAWLESSNESS, only until he that now HINDERS BE REMOVED."

7. "And then shall be REVEALED THE LAWLESS ONE, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy by the breath of His mouth, and annihilate by the appearance of His coming."

8. "Whose coming is according to the WORKING OF SATAN in all power and signs and wonders of FALSEHOOD."

9. "And in all deceit of unrighteousness, for those who are perishing, because THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO THEIR BEING SAVED."

10. "And on this account God is sending to them THE WORKING OF ERROR, in order THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE THE FALSEHOOD."

11. "That all might be judged who did not BELIEVE THE TRUTH, but found pleasure IN INIQUITY."

A temptation at once arises to enter fully into this context. However, three forces must be identified in the interest of even a tentative contemplation of all that is here disclosed: 1). The force of the man of sin. 2). The force of the Restrainer. 3). The force of the Destroyer.

THREE FORCES:

1). The force of the man of sin.

With unequivocal language the apostle predicts that before the day of the Lord, not the day of Christ, as in the Authorized Version, can come the Man of Sin must appear.

The title is specific and doubtless the Man of Sin is anti-Christ with respect to doctrine and practice. In fact, he appears as the supreme satanic counterfeit of Christ. He is Satan's last and most mis-

leading deception after whom the world is destined to follow.

Revelation 13:4-8, “And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies: and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His Name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the Earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

In spite of the added titles given here to this person, “son of perdition,” and “lawless one,” with all that they imply, the church of Rome has professed to see this person realized in Martin Luther and all that follow him, and not a few of the protestants return the doubtful compliment by professing to see this one fulfilled in the Pope, and the system he represents. In respect to the latter belief, which has had wide favor, it may be said that although much stress may be laid on the assumption of the Pope to be the vicar of Christ and that he sits in a place of ecclesiastical power, he could not under any worthy interpretation of the text be made to correspond to the one who “withstands and exalts himself above every one that is called God.” **In like manner, if the papacy is the Man of Sin, then all has been fulfilled 15 centuries ago, even the destruction of this one by the return of Christ.**

Though a superman because of satanic power, the Man of Sin nevertheless is a “man” and **his predicted appearance and appearing and career are still as yet unfulfilled.** Any departure from this conclusion must involve doubts with regard to the inspiration of the text itself. After 1900 years, this

prophecy still stands unfulfilled. The apostle could not change his terminology were he to write today of this expectation.

The Man of Sin has not appeared, nor has the day of the Lord begun. The mystery of lawlessness is yet working as it was in Paul’s day. Whatever may be conjured up to resemble anti-Christ, it must be required again that the present issue pertains to a person styled, the Man of Sin, the son of perdition, and the lawless one.

The last designation, “the lawless one,” relates him directly to the satanic lie, and the consummator of all that he holds in store. Disagreement has been recorded with respect to the identification of the temple in which this lawless one is to be seated. Early writers contended that it is a church of some description. Later writers are more agreed that it is a restored Jewish temple. It may be no more than a temporary tabernacle which will be serving for the Jewish worship of Jehovah, which will be in progress at that time.

Daniel 9:27, “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” Revelation 13:6, “And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His Name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.” This is the Tribulational temple.

2). The force of the Restrainer.

Having identified the anticipated Man of Sin, the apostle precedes to assert that **the satanic consummation will not be allowed its realization until the time God has determined.** Doubtless, Satan would hasten this consummation, but it awaits God’s appointed time. “The Restrainer be taken out of the way.” **The anti-God philosophy is working and none could be able or worthy to restrain evil on so vast a scale other than a Person in the Godhead.** And since

the Holy Spirit is the resident active power of God in the world during this Age, it is reasonable to conclude that He thus restrains. Of no other force could it be said that it will be at a given time removed in order that the climax of all evil maybe realized in the appearing and power of the man of sin.

In His resident presence as One who tabernacles in the Church, and not as merely an omnipresent One, the Holy Spirit will be remove from the world at the time the Church is translated to heaven. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. **What the corruption of the world really is will be demonstrated in those few terrible years following the removal of restraint, in which the lawless one prospers.**

3). The force of the Destroyer.

The returning Christ destroys the lawless one. Just as a fire, when it is approaching, merely causes the lesser insects to shrivel up, and consumes them, so shall Christ, with His Word alone and His appearing consume the Man of Sin. It is enough that the Lord is come forth with anti-Christ, and all belonging to him which have perished. The coming on the scene of the Man of Sin is said to be "according to the working," energizing, "of Satan and in all power and signs and wonders of falsehood, and in all deceit of unrighteousness for those who are perishing," **HAVING REJECTED THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, THE OPPOSITION TO SATAN'S FALSEHOOD.**

God is Himself sending a working of error in order that they should believe "the lie," to the end that all may be judged who rejected the Truth and found pleas-

ure in that which is opposed to Truth. Romans 1:18-31.

What is latent evil in these Christ rejectors is brought out into a place of obvious recognition, that there may be none to question the righteousness of God and His judgment which comes upon them. **His judgment is said to be due directly to the fact that they "believed the lie."** The original lie, which repudiates the God of all Truth, and rejects His gracious purposes. This lie becomes the "I will" of the creature against the will of the Creator, to whom all obedience, deference, and submission belong.

These two possible courses of action, agreement or disagreement with God, are presented by John. When writing on the general theme of the cure of the Christian's sins, he said in these words, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, WE LIE, AND DO NOT THE TRUTH," 1 John 1:6.

The Truth is something to be done, and to fail to do the Truth is to perform, or commit a lie by action. **In its mad adjustment to Satan's philosophy of life and purpose apart from God, the whole world is enacting "the lie," and their judgment must be that which falls on Satan and all who repudiate God.** Christ said, "My Word is Truth," And "the Truth shall set you free," from Satan, and living a lie.

As an unbeliever you live a lie, and as a believer you may or may not live a lie. It is according to whether or not you are a doer of the Word.

SATAN SINS

SATAN THE SINNER

In this universe there are "heights and depths," which might hinder the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 8:39, "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In relation to wisdom and knowledge concerning God, there are "depths." Romans 11:36, "For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen." 1 Corinthians 2:10, "But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

In the love of God there are both "height and depths," Ephesians 3:18, "May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height."

The term "depths" is most suggestive and is used, with but one exception, to represent the realities which are hidden in God, the exception being found in Revelation 2:24, where there is reference to "the deep things of Satan." Satanic doctrine is in view as in 1 Timothy 4:1 where "doctrines of demons" are mentioned. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."

Naturally, Satan's doctrine does not run in the way of redemption through Christ's death or the exalted position secured by believing in the resurrected Christ. Satan's doctrine exalts self and directs in the way of Cain.

Cain was a works man, but the fruit was of his own hands. Cain was the first man who rejected the Truth and believed a lie, and became religious. Cain was a child of Satan, and a liar like his father (Satan), and the lusts of his father he did... murder. Satan

is a liar and a murderer and Cain killed his brother Abel, a keeper of the flock, because he, Cain, was a "tiller of the soil." He killed him with a sacrificial knife that Abel used to proclaim salvation by a blood sacrifice.

So, Satan's doctrine exalts self and directs in the way of Cain, or self-promoted righteousness. It is a way of life wholly independent of God whatever elements of Truth it may borrow or incorporate. Satan's original God-rejecting sin has spawned into the dimensions which embrace the fallen angels and the whole family of humans in its hundreds of generations. For the fallen angels there is no hope, but for fallen humanity, a Gospel of Divine GRACE, made possible through the blood of Christ, is provided. By the GRACE of God the saved one is returned to right relations with God.

Satan holds the unenviable title of chief of all sinners. He is the original sinner. Paul said he was the chiefest among humans because he imitated his father at that time, Satan. Satan was the original sinner. He has wrought the most injury. He has practiced sin longer than any other. He is the oldest sinner alive today. **He has sinned against the greatest light. Only God can compute the extent and hideous character of Satan's sinfulness.** Yet this very sin is of such a nature **that the so-called self-made man of the world would extol it. It is the thing which the unregenerate claim to be their personal right, when they live on in the independence of God.** A partial record of the indictments which God brings against Satan is here appended:

1. He repudiated God in the beginning. Isaiah 14:12-14, "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."

2. He drew a third part of the stars of heaven after him. Revelation 12:4, "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the Earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."

3. He sinned from the beginning. 1 John 3:8, "He that committeth sin 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."

4. He is a liar from the beginning. John 8:44, "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."

5. In the Garden of Eden he belittled God and advised the first parents to repudiate God. Genesis 3:1-6, "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the

fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."

6. He insinuated to the Lord that Job loved and served Him only as he was hired to do so. Job 1:9, "Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?"

No greater insult could be addressed to the Lord than that He is not actually really to be loved on the ground of His own worthiness, but, being rich, He is able to hire men like Job to pretend that they love Him. Like God has to buy his love, or has to pay you to love Him.

7. When permitted to act his own part, Satan brought five terrible calamities on Job. Job 1:13-2:7.

8. He stood up against Israel. 1 Chronicles 21:1 ff. Psalm 109:6, "Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand." Zechariah 3:1, 2, "And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"

9. He weakens the nations. Isaiah 14:12, "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!"

10. He made the Earth to tremble. Isaiah 14:16, "They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the Earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?"

11. He did shake kingdoms. Isaiah 14:16.

12. He makes the world a wilderness. Isaiah 14:17, "That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof: that opened not the house of his prisoners."

13. He destroys the cities thereof. Isaiah 14:17.

14. He opened not the house of his prisoners. Isaiah 14:17.

15. He causes war on Earth with all its horrors, or when bound, war ceases, and when loosed, war is resumed. Revelation 20:2, 7, 8, “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.” “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.”

16. He tempted the Son of God 40 days and then left Him but for a season. He proposed to Christ that He forsake His mission, that He distrust His Father's goodness, and the He worship the Devil. Luke 4:1-13.

17. He bound a daughter of Abraham 18 years. Luke 13:16, “And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?” cf Acts 10:38, “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil: for God was with Him.”

18. He entered Judas and prompted him to betray the Son of God. John 13:2, “And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him.”

19. He blinds the minds of those who are lost. 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4, “But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is in the image of God, should shine unto them.”

20. He takes away the Word out of the hearts of the unsaved, lest they should believe and be saved. Luke 8:12,

“Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”

21. He deals with saints with wiles and snares. Ephesians 6:11, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” 2 Timothy 2:26, “And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

22. He has exercised and abused the power of death. Hebrews 2:14, “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.” cf Revelation 1:18, “I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold I am alive for evermore. Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

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

24. He is opposed to God, is the persecutor of the saints, and the “father of lies.” Through his emissaries he dethrones reason, tortures human beings, and moves them to superstition and idolatry.

The law of dependency is universal because God alone is the fountain of all being and of all good. Every creature, however high in the scale of existence is dependent on God. Not only for its being, but for its goodness, and therefore its goodness or holiness can be perpetuated only by union with Him.

Sin severs the soul from God, and severed from Him, the soul is deprived of His favour, and of His strength to uphold it in virtue and goodness, and deprived of His favour and sustaining power, it is thrown upon itself, and becomes actuated

by its own selfish instinct. And as selfishness becomes intensified, there is no sin, however deep in guilt and malignity, that may not grow out of it.

Such has been the direct effect of all the apostasy of angels. The selfishness which engendered the first sin has, during the lapse of ages, produced and developed every malignant principle which now so darkly stains their condition. **Hatred of good produces hatred of all good, of all good in itself, and of all beings that are good, and of envy of their happiness. From hatred and envy springs the desire to corrupt whatever is good, and destroy whatever is happy.** This desire seeks its end by stratagem, deceit, and all available means within reach.

The archfiend is called **Satan**, which means **adversary**. The old serpent, because of his guile, is a liar and a liar from the beginning, “the father of lies.” And “when he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own.” He is called **Appollyon**, which means **destroyer**, because he delights in destroying the souls of men and “goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Not only is he a destroyer, but a “murderer,” a murderer of both bodies and souls. All of his arts of seduction have murder as their ultimate object. All the sin and misery of our world for thousands of years, and all the sin and misery of future history, and all the misery of hell, is not only the result of his agency and influence, but results in which he and his minions find their gratification.

The power of Satan and his fallen angels is limited. They are but finite creatures who can do nothing outside the permissive will of God. Satan could do nothing against Job, and this was his complaint, until Divinely permitted to do so. **Satan and his angels are in possession of great knowledge, but they are not omniscient.**

They have vast power, when permitted to employ it, but **they are not omnipotent. They cover the world by their delegated responsibility, but they are not omnipresent. They can suggest evil, but cannot coerce the will of another creature.** They may spread snares and devices to ruin the children of God, but they cannot compel any other being to comply with their designs.

They have power over nature, when permitted to use it, but they can “create nothing,” nor can they employ God’s creation other than as He declares.

They never defeated God. In truth, God uses Satan as an instrument to chasten and correct the erring believer. Luke 22:31, 32, “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” 1 Corinthians 5:5, “To deliver such an one unto Satan fro the destruction of the flesh, that the Spirit maybe saved in the day of the Lord.” 1 Timothy 1:20, “O whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

The knowledge of these limitations cannot but be a comfort to those Christians who take seriously their conflict with the powers of darkness.

COSMOS DIABOLICUS

This portion of our study is vast in its comprehension. **It is totally unrecognized and unidentified.** It is like UFO, but is Unidentified Fallen Objects. To the extent to which seems to have no parallel in the Bible, this great body of Truth is represented in one word, which word is COSMOS.

It is found in the New Testament 187 times and is translated in every instance but one by our English word "world." The English word "world" is also a translation of two other Greek terms: AION, in its various forms and having a time meaning 41 times, and OIK-OUMEIA, meaning the inhabited district 14 times. Of these two additional words, the latter has no bearing upon the present consideration, but the former, when referring to the present age, carries with it the important disclosure that this age is "evil" in character.

It was the reprehensible sin of Demas, 2 Timothy 4:10, "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica," not only that he forsook the apostle, but that he loved the age that now is. His love was not going out to a period of time as such, but to the evil which characterizes that time.

Galatians 1:4, "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." Romans 12:2, "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." 2 Corinthians 4:4, "In whom the god of this world hath 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." Ephesians 2:2, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." Ephesians 6:12, "For we

wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

In his second epistle, the apostle Peter mentions three phases of the world, or Earth:

A. The world before the flood, or that "world that then was." 2 Peter 3:5, 6.

B. "The heavens and the earth, which are now." 2 Peter 3:7.

C. "The new heavens and a new Earth that are yet to come." 2 Peter 3:13.

The COSMOS of the New Testament concerns only the world that now is. Lexicographers agree that **COSMOS means order, regularity, disposition, and arrangement**, and that, as Exodus 33:4-6 and Isaiah 49:18, etc. are translated by the Septuagint, the meaning is extended to imply **ornamentation**. The idea of order and arrangement inheres in the Hebrews text of Genesis 1:1. God having created a "perfect order or COSMOS," which became a "chaos," the opposite to COSMOS.

Isaiah 45:18, "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, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else." Jeremiah 4:23, "I beheld the Earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light." Investigation will prove that the Septuagint, though employing COSMOS as a translation of the idea of ornamentation, and once in the New Testament, in 1 Peter 3:3, **never uses COSMOS to translate the thought of "world."** The translation of "world" by COSMOS is peculiar to the New Testament and presents a wholly new revelation in the progress of doctrine.

The etymological development is from that which represents "order," in the arrangement of things to the contemplation of humanity in its relation to those things, and, following the fall, as separate from, and foreign to, God, being under authority which is anti-God. AN ATTENTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE 186 USES OF "COSMOS," WHERE IT IS TRANSLATED "WORLD," WILL REVEAL THAT IN EVERY INSTANCE WHERE MORAL VALUES ARE INVOLVED, THE SPHERE OF SATANIC INFLUENCE AND AUTHORITY IS INDICATED.

The New Testament conception of "the world" is that it is opposed to God as worldliness is opposed to spirituality. Though he may have a vague notion that so-called worldliness is contrary to God, the inattentive Bible student apparently thinks of the world as mentioned in the Scriptures, as merely a place of abode, a planet whereon both good and evil are equally at home. The Truth that the great portion of instances where COSMOS is used in the New Testament invests that which the term represents with an anti-God character, cannot but be a surprise to many. **They, as are all the world, being under the delusion of Satan's deception, are unaware of the revelation which the word COSMOS conveys.**

The darkness of the COSMOS is implied when Christ said, "I am come a light into the COSMOS, world," John 12:46. Thus likewise is promised of the Spirit that He would, "Reprove the COSMOS, world," John 16:8. To the believer it is said, "In the COSMOS, world, ye will have tribulation," John 16:33. And again, "They are not of the COSMOS, world, even as I am not of the COSMOS, world," John 17:14. Thus equally defined is the Word of Christ. "The world, COSMOS, hath not known Thee," the Father, John 17:25. Similarly, "My kingdom is not of this COSMOS, world," John 18:36.

Certain other short passages are most expressive. "Sin entered into the COSMOS," Romans 5:12. "That all the COSMOS may become guilty," Romans 3:19. "The COS-

MOS by wisdom knew not God," 1 Corinthians 1:21. "The fornicators of this COSMOS," 1 Corinthians 5:10. "Without God in the COSMOS," Ephesians 2:12. "Keep himself unspotted from the COSMOS," 2 Peter 1:4. "Escaped the pollution of the COSMOS," 2 Peter 2:20. "Be not conformed to this COSMOS, world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind," Romans 12:2.

The COSMOS is a vast order or system that Satan has promoted, which conforms to his ideals, systems, and methods. It is civilization now functioning apart from God, a civilization in which none of its promoters really expect God to share, who assign to God no consideration in respect to their projects, nor do they ascribe any causativity to Him. THIS SYSTEM EMBRACES ITS GODLESS, GOVERNMENTS, CONFLICTS, ARMAMENTS, JEALOUSIES, ITS EDUCATION, CULTURE, RELIGIONS OF MORALITY, AND PRIDE. It is the sphere in which man lives. It is what he sees, what he employs. To the uncounted multitude it is all they ever know so long as they live on this Earth. It is properly styled "the satanic system," which phrase is in many instances a justified interpretation of the so-meaningful word "COSMOS." It is literally COSMOS DIABOLICUS.

A vital revelation is presented by the words "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because God sent His only begotten Son into the COSMOS, that we might live through Him," 1 John 4:9. It is further revealed that this great mission on the part of the Son is due to the Truth that "God so loved the COSMOS, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life," John 3:16.

In this passage, as almost no other, a restricted use of the term COSMOS is presented. Not restricted, as limited redemption demands, to the elect of this age, but restricted to humanity itself apart from its evil institutions, practices, and relationships. **God**

loved the lost people who make up the COSMOS and this love was great enough to move Him to give His only begotten Son, in providing a way of salvation through Him so complete, that by believing on the Son as Saviour, the lost of this COSMOS might not perish, but have everlasting life.

It is also true that the spiritual Christian will experience this Divine compassion for a lost COSMOS in so far as, **by the Spirit, the love of God is shed abroad in his heart.** Pulling brands out of the fire, pulling brands out of the COSMOS heading for fire.

Over this revelation concerning a worthy Divine love for the COSMOS is the instruction given to Christians relative to their love of the COSMOS. It is written, “LOVE NOT THE COSMOS, NEITHER THE THINGS THAT ARE IN THE COSMOS. IF ANY MAN LOVE THE COSMOS, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM. FOR ALL THAT IS IN THE COSMOS, THE LUST OF THE FLESH, AND THE LUST OF THE EYES, AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE, IS NOT OF THE FATHER, BUT IS OF THE COSMOS.” 1 John 2:15, 16.

A disagreement is apparent. God loves the COSMOS, yet if the believer loves the COSMOS, the love of the Father is not reproduced in him. Naturally, the solution of the problem is found in the precise meaning of the word “COSMOS” as thus employed. **While, as has been stated, God’s love is for humanity apart from its evil institutions, the believer is warned not to love the institutions which are wholly evil in God’s estimation and are not therefore loved by Him. This evil COSMOS is the very thing from which the Christian has been saved.** No restriction is imposed in 1 John 2:15, 16. That would preclude the child of God from loving nature, or that which has not come under the satanic authority. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of

the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

James writes most clearly when he says, “YE ADULTERERS AND ADULTERESSES, KNOW YE NOT THAT THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE COSMOS IS ENMITY WITH GOD? WHOSOEVER THEREFORE WILL BE A FRIEND OF THE COSMOS, IS THE ENEMY OF GOD,” James 4:4.

Satan has created nothing. The order and system of God’s material creation are involved in the COSMOS only as Satan has been permitted to assume authority and is misdirecting it.

The COSMOS manifestations are almost wholly those which arise from misguided, Satan-governed, humanity in their blind subscription to principles of life and action which are outworkings of the “original lie.” Creation itself is affected by the fall.

Romans 8:18-23, “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

But it retains the character which God gave it and is never the property of another. In this same connection, it is noteworthy that the present age, as referred to in Matthew 13:11, is the kingdom in its “mystery” form. **Any rule of God at any time is “kingdom” in its character.** He is now ruling only to the extent that those things which are termed

“mysteries” and which constitute the peculiar features of His own purpose in this age are being realized.

It is significant that of the 187 uses of COSMOS in the New Testament, Christ employed the term more than all others together. The word occurs 68 times in John’s Gospel, and 23 times in John’s first epistle. Christ used the word “COSMOS” 41 times in His Upper Room Discourse, and 19 times in His priestly prayer as recorded in John 17.

IT IS AS THOUGH THE REALITY OF THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTER OF THE COSMOS IS MADE EMPHATIC IN RELATION TO THE EXALTED POINT FROM WHICH IT IS VIEWED AND BY THE HOLY CHARACTER OF THE ONE, CHRIST, WHO VIEWS IT.

CHRIST’S VIEW OF COSMOS DIABOLICUS

If you can see the Upper Room Discourse corresponding to the Holy Place in the temple, and the priestly prayer to the Holy of Holies, it is not only noticeable that the Holy One is conscious of the real meaning of the word “COSMOS,” but as the revelation of Truth is intensified, the disclosures concerning the opposition, the opposing satanic system, are multiplied. To Christians who are taught of God and who, to some extent, have the mind of Christ, **the “COSMOS DIABOLICUS” should appear in its essential, evil character to be the outworking of that lie which moves in independence of God and is opposed to the purposes and plan of God.** The whole Truth regarding the nature and extent of this satanic COSMOS, or system, is found in the Scriptures wherein this system is mentioned.

THIS REVELATION IS SUBJECT TO CERTAIN DIVISIONS.

1. Satan’s authority over the COSMOS.

Startling and almost incredible statements are made in the New Testament

relative to Satan’s rights, and control over the COSMOS. Satan has his civil rights??? This disclosure is foreign to the popular mind. Even the believer who is amenable to the Scriptures finds himself confronted with statements which seem impossible, were they not written down by the hand of God. It may be assumed that Satan will do all in his **power to avoid a worthy understanding of these stupendous truths on the part of any human being.**

Certain major passages should be examined with due attention. Luke 4:5-7. This passage, taken from the record of the three-fold temptation of Christ by Satan, reads like this: “And the devil, taking Him up into an high mountain, shewed unto Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto Him, All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be Thine.” DIABOLOS said, the accuser, slanderer.

The method Satan employed in bringing the panorama of the earthly kingdoms in a moment of time before Christ is most arresting. At once the entire procedure advances beyond the realms of humanity’s experiences and resources, and functions in another sphere. Seeing all the kingdoms of the world from one mountain and in a moment of time connotes things supernatural. There is room for thought, also, in the assertion that Satan took the Lord anywhere and for any reason.

THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK HERE WHICH THE MIND OF MAN CANNOT COMPREHEND. Yet the amazing feature of this revelation is the declaration by Satan, which declaration Christ did not brand as an untruth, **that the kingdoms of this COSMOS, cf Matthew 4:8, for the specific use of COSMOS, are delivered unto Satan and to whomsoever he wills he gives them. They are his to give.** “Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them.” It is pre-

dicted that at some future time the world-rule will be conferred by Satan on the "Man of Sin," which fact tends, to strengthen Satan's claim to the disposition of these kingdoms.

It has been common for many to claim when dealing with this Scripture to say that Satan presented to Christ no more than the territory of Palestine, but at that time Palestine was a very minor portion of the government of Rome, and could not itself answer to the kingdoms of this world. Likewise, it has been assumed that this offer on Satan's part is but one of Satan's falsehoods, **but had it been an untruth, there would have been no temptation in the offer to Christ, the One from whom no deception could ever be hidden. Nor, had it been an untruth, would the answer of the Son of God been confined to Satan's shocking request that worship be given by the Son of God to a creature of His own hand.** The Creator bowing down to the creature.

It should not be forgotten in this connection that all authorities and powers in spirit realms were created by the very One to whom Satan was speaking. Colossians 1:16, "For by Him 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."

Whether it be consonant with human reason or not, the plain word of inspired Truth lends full support to the idea that earthly governments are in the hands of Satan. History records many instances where it is not difficult to believe that Satan was guiding the action and the destiny of certain governments. It is more of a problem how to accept this satanic claim in connection with governments which are commendable in the eyes of men, **but Satan's methods are not one of eliminating all that is good. It is evidently true that all human governments, however they appear to men, are run in independence of God.** Independence Day, independent of God.

Satan's assertion in this passage is two-fold: **A.** The dominion of the whole COSMOS is delivered unto him, which must mean that Divine permission is given to this end, and, **B.** Satan gives the kingdoms to whomsoever he wills.

Doubtless, this last assertion is true from Satan's own point of view, but it is as certain, also, **that every such bestowment is within the sovereign purpose of God.** It still remains true, "There is no power but of God, the powers that be are ordained of God," Romans 13:1. **As elsewhere, God is seen to be sovereign over all, and yet the creature is permitted to go on in willful and evil ways and to become guilty thereby.**

The next passages are John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11. The revelation that Satan is an authority over the COSMOS does not rest alone upon his own claim. **Christ referred to Satan as the "prince of the COSMOS."** The record reads, "Now this is the judgment of this COSMOS, NOW SHALL THE PRINCE OF THIS COSMOS BE CAST OUT," John 12:31. "Hereafter I will not talk much with you, FOR THE PRINCE OF THIS COSMOS COMETH, and hath nothing in Me," John 14:30. "Of judgment, because the PRINCE OF THIS COSMOS IS JUDGED," John 16:11.

Again, by the authority which belongs to all Scripture, the apostle writes of Satan, "As the prince of the power of the air," Ephesians 2:2. And, "as the god of this age," literally, 2 Corinthians 4:4. To the same end, the apostle, when writing of the Corinthian conflict against evil powers, Ephesians 6:12, states that this warfare is against, not "as the rulers of the darkness of this world," as in the Authorized Version, which statement would confine them only to such darkness as exists, but literally, "age-rulers of darkness," **implying that this age is all darkness in itself and has over it specific evil rulers.**

Thus faithfully the inspired Word of God directs all its testimony to the one Truth that the COSMOS is ruled by evil powers. Bearing the same message, the as-

cended Lord spoke to the church in Pergamos. "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat," literally throne, "is," Revelation 2:13. While the extent of Satan's authority is not defined in this passage, it does state that **Satan occupies an earthly throne.**

Lastly, when magnifying the Supreme, superior power of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer, as in contrast to Satan's power, the apostle John declares, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the COSMOS," 1 John 4:4. The specific phrase "in the COSMOS" identifies the sphere of the exercise of Satan's power. Much added light as to the relationship between Satan and the COSMOS is also gained from the following passage:

1 John 5:19, "And we know that we are of God, and the whole COSMOS lieth in wickedness," The word here mentioned "world," is COSMOS, the entire COSMOS. The two members of this sentence comprehend the whole human family. "We are of God," is a recognition of the Truth that **Christians are in the COSMOS, but not a part of that which pertains to it.** The point in view, however, is discovered in the second avowal, namely, "THE WHOLE COSMOS." "THE WHOLE COSMOS LIETH IN THE WICKED ONE." The translation, PONEROS, for "wickedness," as in the Authorized Version, is unsatisfactory. The translation of this word is used in 1 John 2:13, 14, 5:18, and demands the same in 5:19. The same correction is demanded in John 17:15. The identity is clear, being none other than DIABOLOS, to whom direct reference is made in 1 John 3:8, 10.

That the "ENTIRE COSMOS LIETH IN THE WICKED ONE" is both located in and under the power of the Evil One, the PONEROS One. The "Wicked One" is, as it were, the inclusive abiding place and representative of all his, as, in the expression "in the Lord," in Christ, in Christ Jesus. We are in the True One. We are in Christ. **The un-**

believer is in the Wicked One. God is our Father in Christ. And Satan is their father in religion. He is their god and their father. The whole COSMOS lieth in the Wicked One, remains where it was, and in the power of, the Wicked One.

Now, had not Christ become a propitiation for the sins of the whole COSMOS, were He not the Saviour of the whole world, none could ever come out of the COSMOS and believe on Him. But, as it is, they do not believe on Him, come out and be separated from the COSMOS, so that our propitiation here remains strictly true. **The COSMOS is the negation of faith in Christ, and as such lies in the Wicked One, His adversary.**

This Wicked One holds the entire world, so far as the new life has not transformed it, in his power. It is not said here, that the world is of the Wicked One. **The men of the world are in "him that is false,"** but the "in" is not used in its bare simplicity, but "lieth in" is a phrase nowhere else occurring, and to be interpreted according to the tenor of the epistle. **The "whole world" is not, however, the men of the world only, but its entire constitution, its entire economy, its lusts and principles and motives, and course and end.** All this is "not of God," but lies in the power and bondage of this Wicked One. Thus the apostle adds as an old truth, never so fearfully expressed as here. The conclusion in this passage, as in all others bearing on the relationship indicated, **is that the whole COSMOS, from which some have been saved, is located in, and under the power of DIABOLOS.**

Next we look at Isaiah 14:1, 2, 16, 17 and Job 1:13-19, 2:7. Turning to the six-fold indictment against Satan recorded in Isaiah and the five-fold record chronicled in Job, concerning Satan's influence upon, and ascendancy over, mundane things, **it will be seen that the Divinely permitted exercise of his power results in accomplishments too vast for the human mind to grasp.**

These 11 stupendous achievements of Satan are to be considered apart from those more remote manifestations of Satan's power recorded in Revelation 12:4, 15, and of the exercise of his power through the Man of Sin in 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. And through the two beasts or Revelation 13:1-17.

It is written in Isaiah 14 that Satan, under the title of "Lucifer," son of the morning, and with reference to a yet future time, his mighty deeds will have been accomplished.

1. DID WEAKEN THE NATIONS. In the Word of God, the nations as such, are seen to be opposed to God. Psalm 2:1-3, and especially as in contradistinction to the one elect nation, Israel. These nations form the essential factor in the COSMOS. What they might have been, had they not embraced the satanic ideals, none can estimate but God alone. Whatever their brute strength may be as self-measured, they are before God "as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance," to be blown away. "ALL NATIONS BEFORE HIM ARE AS NOTHING, AND THEY ARE COUNTED TO HIM AS LESS THAN NOTHING, AND VANITY," Isaiah 40:15,17, i.e., the United Nations.

Thus also it is written in Isaiah 14:16, 17,

2. That Satan, at the end of his evil career, will have made "the Earth to tremble."

3. He will have shaken kingdoms.

4. He will have made the world a wilderness.

5. He will have destroyed the cities thereof.

6. He will have hindered the benefits of humanity to the extent that he has "not opened the house of his prisoners."

Imagination fails to follow these undertakings and can add nothing to what is here set forth. **The sum total of all the evil Satan will have wrought is beyond estimation.** With the same disclosure in view, it is written that, when having secured the permission of the Lord concerning Job, **Satan displayed a five-fold power over creation in the exercise of his evil purposes.**

7. He caused the raiding Sabceans to destroy Job's oxen and asses. And to kill Job's servants with the sword.

8. He caused fire to descend from heaven and to burn up the sheep and the servants who tended them.

9. He caused the Chaldeans to rob Job of his camels and to kill the servants.

10. He caused the death of Job's children by a wind from the wilderness which crushed the house in which they were assembled.

11. And he smote Job with the most grievous bodily suffering he could impose. To this he doubtless would have added death for Job, had not the Lord restrained him. That he was told by the Lord not to destroy Job, is evidence that he both could have done so, and would have done so had this restraint been lifted. At this point, the entire field of revelation with respect to Satan's power over physical welfare of human beings is naturally introduced, which theme cannot be pursued here entirely.

COSMOS DIABOLICUS IS EVIL

This is a hard saying, though it is true, it calls for elucidation. **SATAN DOES INCORPORATE INTO HIS VAST SYSTEM CERTAIN THINGS WHICH ARE GOOD IN THEMSELVES.** Many humanitarian ideals, morals, and aspects of culture are consonant with spiritual realities, though resident in the COSMOS.

The root evil in the COSMOS is that in it there is an all comprehensive order or system which is methodized on a basis of complete independence of God. It is a manifestation of all that Satan can produce as a complete exhibition of that which enters into the original lie. It is the consummating display of that which the creature, both angelic and human, can produce, having embarked on an autonomous career.

THE COSMOS IS NOT A BATTLEGROUND WHEREON GOD IS CONTENDING WITH SATAN FOR SUPREMACY. IT IS A THING WHICH GOD HAS PERMITTED AND THAT THE LIE MAY HAVE ITS FULLEST UNVEILING. It is reasonable to suppose that the COSMOS represents the supreme effort of the supreme creature, and that as it began with the repudiation of God, it has maintained its intended segregation from the will and purpose and plan of God.

THAT THINGS GOOD IN THEMSELVES ARE INCLUDED IN THIS GREAT SYSTEM IS DOUBTLESS THE OCCASION FOR MANY DECEPTIONS. The fundamental truth is that "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin," Romans 14:23, cf Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

"Without faith it is impossible to please God," is not believed or recognized in the COSMOS. "The lie" must run its course that it may be judged, not as a mere hypothesis or incipient venture, but,

in the complete and final exhibition of its anti-God character.

It began with the repudiation of God by an angel and man and maintains that distinctive trait until anti-Christ appears and is destroyed. THE HUMANITARIAN ENTERPRISES, THE CULTURE, THE LAWS, AND RELIGIOUS FORMS OF THE COSMOS CONSTITUTE NO EVIDENCE THAT GOD IS RECOGNIZED IN HIS TRUE POSITION AND/ OR HONORED. **This is a Christ rejecting COSMOS.** Its princes "crucified the Lord of glory," 1 Corinthians 2:8, **and apart from the restraining power of God, they would crucify Him again and destroy His witnesses.** They evince no penitence for their climactic racial crime. The Saviour, as such, is still disowned and rejected.

Social ideals are borrowed from His teachings. **His purity and His GRACE are held up as a pattern of life, but salvation through His blood is spurned. The independent, self-centered, self-satisfied, autonomous, COSMOS asks for no redemption since it recognizes no need.** It is the embodiment of the philosophy of which gain is the archetype.

What God sees on the human side of the COSMOS is described in Romans 3:9-18. Here the Divine charge against fallen man is infinitely accurate and decisive. "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." "They are all gone out of the way, they are altogether become unprofitable: there is none that doeth good, no, not one," Romans 3:10-12.

Certainly God is not deceived as to Satan's purposes. Did He not uncover those secrets at the beginning? Isaiah 14:13, "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.” Ezekiel 28:15, “Thou wast perfect in all thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

A COSMOS which crucifies its Redeemer and Creator hates those who are redeemed as it hates the Saviour. John 15:18, 19, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” An example would be Cain. The COSMOS which loves darkness rather than light, will hardly delude or outwit the Almighty. **It is to be judged and destroyed completely. No attempt will be made to salvage anything out of it when its day of demolition arrives.**

The following passages are sufficient testimony to the evil character of the COSMOS: “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the COSMOS,” 2 Peter 1:4. “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the COSMOS, through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning,” 2 Peter 2:20. “Pure religion and undefiled before

God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the COSMOS,”

James 1:27. “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the COSMOS is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the COSMOS is the enemy of God,” James 4:4. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the COSMOS,” 1 John 5:4. “Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this COSMOS cometh, and hath nothing in Me,” John 14:30. “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of anti-Christ, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the COSMOS,” 1 John 4:3.

In like manner, the believer is said to be delivered from the present evil age, Galatians 1:4, “Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” And “delivered” from the power of darkness, Colossians 1:13, “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.” And is not to be conformed to in this age, Romans 12:2, “And be not conformed to this COSMOS; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

SATAN'S UNDERTAKING IS COSMOS DIABOLICUS

He who began with the purpose "to be like the Most High" has never abandoned that ideal. That in some respects Satan attempts the works of God becomes but one more feature of his great deception. The works of the satanic order are clearly outlined in several descriptive passages, which also present that which is highest in ideal and deepest in motive in the Satan-energized mass of humanity.

One passage only graciously contains the entire revelation. "For all that is in the COSMOS, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the COSMOS," 1 John 2:16.

The satisfactions of these same cravings was the temptation placed before Eve in the Garden. "AND WHEN THE WOMAN SAW THAT THE TREE WAS GOOD FOR FOOD, and that it WAS PLEASANT TO THE EYES,

and A TREE TO BE DESIRED TO MAKE ONE WISE, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat," Genesis 3:6.

Now, all "wars and fightings," James 4:1, among men are only a natural result of the evil qualities of this great federation.

Jesus Christ said to Pontius Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this COSMOS: if My kingdom were of this COSMOS, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from here," John 18:36. **It is a noticeable fact, that the governments of the world depend upon physical power and a display of armament to maintain their position and authority, and the superior law of love is not adapted to, or understood by, the elements that make up the COSMOS.**

THE THINGS OF THE COSMOS

All earthly property is of the satanic order, which property the believer may use, but must not abuse. "But whosoever hath this world's good, COSMOS, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" 1 John 3:17. "And the cares of this world, age, literally, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the Word, and it becometh unfruitful," Mark 4:19. "But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; And

they that use this COSMOS, as not abusing it," 1 Corinthians 7:29-31.

James writes, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world (COSMOS) rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?" James 2:5.

Here a needed change in translation reveals much. James did not say, "The poor of this COSMOS," but rather, "The poor as regards the COSMOS," all and whatever constitutes the COSMOS, or that which it has to offer. **Now, this poverty is most honorable and should be the estate of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

THOUGH DETAINED HERE, WE ARE NOT OF THE COSMOS

Twice in His priestly prayer, Christ asserts of His redeemed ones, "They are not of the COSMOS, even as I am not of the COSMOS," John 17:14, 16. Thus He declares again, "If the COSMOS hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of the COSMOS, the COSMOS would love his own, but because ye are not of the COSMOS, but I have chosen you out of the COSMOS, therefore the COSMOS hateth you," John 15:18, 19.

Now Christians are sent into the COSMOS, John 17:18, as those who have no relation to it other than to be His witness to it. "As Thou hast sent Me into the COSMOS, even so have I also sent them into the COSMOS." **We are ambassadors,** 2 Corinthians 5:20, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." **We are strangers and pilgrims,** 1 Peter 2:11, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." **And we are citizens of heaven,** Philippians 3:20, "For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." These descriptions of believers are all with respect to the COSMOS system. Thus it is that God sees the Christian in relation to the COSMOS.

Though Job belonged to a remote age, his experience presents a **vivid illustration of the Lord's care over His own in respect to the attacks of Satan.** In this narrative, Job is represented not as one who needs to be punished for evil. That conception constituted the error of Job's three friends, which error the Lord so severely condemned at the end of Job's trial. But as one who three

times is declared to be, by the Lord, perfect and upright. Job 1:1, "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." Job 1:8, "And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the Earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" Job 2:3, "And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the Earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst Me against him, to destroy him without cause?"

Satan's complaint regarding Job is twofold: **A.** Job is so completely protected that Satan cannot reach him. **B.** Job does not really love the Lord, a salary is paid Job by the Lord. **Satan asserts that the Lord has hired Job to pretend that he loves the Lord.** Putting this challenge to an experimental test, the Lord releases Job to the power of Satan. Until that time, as pointed out by Satan, Job is safe in the Lord's hands. The transfer from the Lord's hand to Satan's hand is not without drastic limitations, which he can in no wise overstep.

To Job was given the privilege and honor of proving that the Lord is worthy of all adoration, apart from His benefits. The lie of Satan was completely exposed, to the glory of the Lord, and the latter end of Job was greater than the beginning. He had twice as much at the end than what he started with.

How many times has it been said, "You are only in the ministry for the money?"

THE IMPOTENCY OF THE COSMOS

The impotency and limitations of the world-order are most evident. Its leader, though mighty, is inferior to Jesus Christ. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome, because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the COSMOS," 1 John 4:4.

Its knowledge and understanding are limited. "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that should be called the children of God, and such we are. For this cause the COSMOS knoweth us not, because it knew Him not," 1 John 3:1. "Now the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: and he cannot know them, because they are spiritually judged. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, and he himself is judged of no man," 1 Corinthians 2:14, 15. "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God," Romans 3:11. "And if our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled in them that perish: In whom the god of this world, literally "age," hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn upon them," 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4. "They are of the world, COSMOS, therefore speak they as of the COSMOS, and the COSMOS heareth them," 1 John 4:5.

THE END OF THE COSMOS

This specific subject pertains to eschatology and will come in the future. The fact that the COSMOS comes to a complete termination and destruction is the testimony of both Testaments.

Psalms 2. In the prediction which the Psalm presents, the nations are seen in their last and diabolical rejection of the Lord, the Messiah, cf Revelation 16:13, 14, "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of

the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto kings of the Earth and of the whole world, to gather them to battle of that great day of God Almighty."

Yet, in spite of their combined resistance, the Lord places His King upon David's throne in Jerusalem, for such is the "Holy Hill of Zion." **The Son takes the government from the Father's hand and dashes the nations in pieces like a potter's vessel and with a rod of iron. Kings and rulers are admonished to secure right relations with Christ before His awful judgments begin.**

Daniel, Chapters 2 and 7. In these prophecies concerning the course and end of the Gentile nations, God reveals the truth that **they will be crushed and blown away** as "the chaff of the summer threshingfloors," and the King of Kings will then reign over all the Earth.

Matthew 25:31-46. The nations, wholly **unable to resist the sovereign power of the King** are seen to assemble before Him, at which time He determines their destiny, one part to enter His earthly kingdom and the other consigned to the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10. **The distinctive message of this passage is the utter destruction of all that enters into the COSMOS.**

Revelation Chapters 14-22. The right understanding of this extensive Scripture is imperative. Nothing here recorded could have been fulfilled in past history. The description enters more into detail as it sets forth, not a new theme, but that previously introduced in the Word of God. **False religious pretense and apostasy from the Truth of God along with the COSMOS it-**

self must come into final judgment, before the King takes His throne to reign in righteousness over the whole Earth.

Revelation 18:24 alone serves to identify this final destruction as the judgment of God on the whole COSMOS and all it has ever wrought. Most assuredly, then, **that which God now tolerates for wise purposes is doomed to complete destruction.** This is directly asserted. “For the fashion of this COSMOS is passing away,” 1 Corinthians 7:31. “And the COSMOS passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever,” 1 John 2:17. “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,” 2 Peter 3:10.

“And the devil that deceiveth them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” “And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the Earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them,” Revelation 20:10, 11.

Good bye sweet prince...

SATAN'S MOTIVES

WHAT IS INSANTIY? — RELIGION

RELIGION IS ANGELIC INSANITY!!

What ever may have been the motive which has actuated Satan from the beginning of his career, there is a more fundamental problem which lies back of all the evil in the universe. **It is the motive that has actuated God in permitting evil to be present at all.** That He could have hindered it needs no defense, being, as He is, the Absolute One, Creator and Promoter of all that the universe comprises.

Various suggestions have been advanced as solutions to this problem. Doubtless there is truth in all of them, and when all are assembled and accepted, it is even more probable that the aggregation is no more than a fraction of all that actuates God. One of the obvious motives of God which has been advanced has immediate application to the subject in hand, namely, that, as seen in the various dispensations and in instances of personal relation to God, **He evidently, and as a general rule of procedure, puts the propositions which the creature proposes to an experimental test.**

This the Lord did in the case of Satan's assertion that Job, under sufficient stress, would repudiate the Lord. This claim could have been denied, for the Lord knew it to be untrue of Job. **However, Satan was given authority to put the untruth to an experimental test. This method cost much indeed, but none will doubt that the victory gained was abundantly worth the price that was paid.** It is possible that Job serves as a type or representation of the larger issues now being brought to consummation in the entire COSMOS. This subject is exten-

sive and offers much light to the one who will follow it through the entire Bible.

Granting the truthfulness of the claim that God does put the creatures' assumptions to an experimental test, **it becomes clear that Satan's determination, which constituted his initial sin, to build a vast structure of independent relationships around himself as the center and wholly autonomous with respect to the Creator, to whom all allegiance and obedience rightfully belong, was permitted of God to be tested experimentally to its bitter end.** As for the wisdom of such a stupendous procedure on the part of God, no creature could ever be placed in a position where he could possess a sufficient number of related facts, or attain to a perspective, on the basis of which he could sit in judgment.

The observable actualities point in but one direction. Satan did propose such a course, God could have hindered him, but He rather allowed Satan to take the course **he desired to follow, and to allow that course to become, in the end, the ground of its own universal condemnation.** When Satan and his theory come up for final judgment and execution, **"Every mouth will be stopped"** and all will be guilty, not a one in the light of **God's ideals, but as those who are absolutely guilty in the light of the colossal failure of the whole enterprise.**

The lie will be conceded to be a lie. How could willful, deluded, free moral agents be brought to such a recognition apart from a demonstration which left no room for as much as one voice to be heard which might claim that the lie would have been proved to

be the truth and had it been allowed to demonstrate its own philosophy? **Even strong delusion must be imposed upon men, it is said, to the end that they will carry the lie to its final consummation.** 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the Truth, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the Truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Not only will every mouth be stopped, but the whole COSMOS will become guilty before God. Romans 3:19, “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the COSMOS may become guilty before God.” A guilty COSMOS, proved to be such to the extent that every mouth is stopped, even that of Satan himself, is a stupendous achievement. What such a conclusion may contribute to the felicity of the universe in eternity to come, none would attempt to declare.

The lie incorporates all forms of fallen creatures and their rebellion against God, and the complete disillusionment of all fallen creatures and their judgment cannot but be an achievement which will contribute much to the peace and blessedness of the future ages.

Of Christ it is said, “He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet.” Even death, the penalty of the first human sin, will be destroyed, and to the end that God “may be all in all,” 1 Corinthians 15:24-28. **In one instance, at least, the end will justify the means,** and no creature of time may wisely offer a judgment on the “means” when he is, of necessity, wholly incapable of comprehending the “end.”

The presence of sin and suffering in the world too often looks upon as though here were strange intrusions into God's perfect order, and God is often challenged for these

intrusions. **It is a depressing and revolting belief that the destiny of the universe is at the mercy of a Being who, with the resources of omnipotence at His disposal, decides to make the universe no better than this.**

Over and over again this is the revelation, **that all that is in the COSMOS is of satanic origin, and that God intrudes only as Restrainer until the day of His judgment arrives, to take out of the COSMOS DIABOLICUS those whom His sovereign GRACE redeems.** THE PRESENCE OF SIN AND SUFFERING IS NOT GOD'S FAILURE. **They are the inevitable default and bankruptcy of the lie.** Though its ramifications seem to reach out to infinity, there is but one lie. God either rules over His universe, or He does not. The lie declares that He does not. **The TRUTH declares that He does.** Such a prodigious issue could not be treated with indifference. Its judgments are sure.

In tracing through this one reason for the presence of sin and suffering in the COSMOS, it is recognized that other reasons exist, which present even greater evidential value with respect to the righteousness of God in permitting sin to intrude. These are due to be attended under hamartiology.

Both the motive and the method of Satan is reflected precisely in the attitude and action of the Man of Sin, whom Satan will inspire, and through whom Satan expresses His own designs. In 2 Thessalonians 2:4 it is stated of the Man of Sin that he “opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped.”

SATAN'S PURPOSE IS TO THWART THE DIVINE UNDERTAKING, ESPECIALLY THE DIVINE PURPOSE TO SAVE THE LOST, AND TO EXALT HIMSELF ABOVE GOD. It is implied that in His ambition Satan would attempt to seize upon the authority which belongs to God alone and that he would seek to be worshipped as God is, and should be, worshipped.

The central passage bearing on Satan's motive is Isaiah 14:12-14. As has been observed, the five "I wills" of Satan, though each has a specific objective, all converge in the last of the five, namely, "I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH."

The other four assert Satan's intention to exalt himself in various ways, but only to the one end that he may be like the Most High. As before demonstrated, **there is but one way in which any creature, angel or man, may attempt to be like God, and that is to seek to be independent as God is independent. To do this, all Divinely intended dependence of the creature on the Creator must be repudiated, and the one who thus acts must be committed to a career which self has devised and which self must maintain in complete separation from God until that course of action is ended. In all such enterprise, self-exaltation is paramount, and opposition to God is pursued only that the way may be clear for self to be glorified.**

Scripture distinctly states that it was self-esteem, or pride, which incited this greatest of all angels to launch out upon an independent course of action. Ezekiel 28:17, "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." 1 Timothy 3:6, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil."

It would seem to be indicated that he does not have faith in his enterprise until that yet future time when he is cast out of heaven. Of Satan at that time it is written, "Woe to the inhabitants of the Earth and of the sea, for the devil is come down to you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:12.

The enormous project which was born in Satan's mind and inspired by his self-exalting pride was, of necessity, confined to heavenly spheres until the creation of man. In those previous ages, it may be be-

lieved, Satan "trafficked," cf Ezekiel 28:18, "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, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the Earth in the sight of all them that behold thee." He apparently "trafficked" among the lesser angels to secure their allegiance to his philosophy of freedom from, and independence of, the Creator. Upon the creation of man, there was opened to Satan the possibility of a vast demonstration in this new realm of his power to design and execute. **The present COSMOS is that which Satan proposed and which God is permitting him to execute to its tragic end.**

THERE ARE FOUR MILESTONES WHICH MARK SATAN'S COURSE IN WILLFULNESS:

A. He said, "I will be like the Most High." Of this, the origin of all wickedness, nothing further need be added here.

B. He said to Adam and Eve, "be as gods." Genesis 3:5, ELOHIM. How many angels had heard and heeded this suggestion none on Earth may know. His advice was received and acted upon by the progenitors of the human race. By their own choice they incurred the penalty which the gracious warning of God has placed before them. He had said, "IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF, THOU SHALT SURELY DIE." This was literally, "DYING THOU SHALT DIE." **NO WORD OF GOD CAN EVER FAIL.**

Thus, every form of death came upon these sinful creatures. Death in any form was an unknown intruder into this universe. **It was not a Divine penalty upon the sinful angels, but it fell upon man. A grievous**

aspect of this penalty is spiritual death, which means separation of the human soul and spirit from God.

This estate of the first parents has become the inheritance of all their children in all their generations. **They belong to the COSMOS DIABOLICUS. Until they are redeemed by infinite GRACE, they share not only the works of the COSMOS, but its satanic spirit of independence of God.** Should one of this degenerate race desire to be in right relation to God, the first step is not merely to evince a willingness to be obedient to God in a general way. But it is required of Him that he "obey" the Gospel of Divine salvation.

Acts 5:32, "And we are His witnesses of these things, and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them THAT OBEY HIM." Romans 2:8, "But unto them that are contentious, AND DO NOT OBEY THE TRUTH, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath." Hebrews 5:9, "And being made perfect, He became the Author of eternal salvation UNTO ALL THEM THAT OBEY HIM."

Back of this requirement is the essential truth that a right relation to God is more than a repentance followed by a Divine forgiveness. **Satisfaction to outraged holiness must be secured. This Christ has provided in His death, but it is not provided elsewhere and thus it is that Christ is the way and the only way to God from the hand of the Evil One.**

The Divinely provided cure is perfect beyond measure, for upon believing on Christ, there is peace with God, forgiveness, regeneration with its imparted gift of eternal life, imputed righteousness, and justification. There is also the sure Word of promise that the saved ones will soon experience complete conformity to God the Son in glory.

The satanic lie, "Ye shall be as gods, ELOHIM," is **proved to be a hideous deception, while the offers of Divine GRACE**

present the assurance of final and lasting oneness with God and complete correspondence to all that God is and all that He desires.

The lie becomes the antipodes of the Truth to the last degree of reckoning. The lie ends in eternal ruin for those who pursue it. **The Truth ends in eternal felicity and rightness with God for the one who rests his all in Christ.** It is a marvel of infinite GRACE that even one soul is translated "out of the power of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of His love," Colossians 1:13. **How tragic, indeed, is the present life and destiny of any human being who, though born into the lost estate, refuses Divine GRACE and willfully continues to cast in his lot with the anti-God COSMOS. COSMOS DIABOLICUS.** And goes on to share the doom of the enemy of God in the lake of fire.

But the plan of becoming as ELOHIM by merely assuming independence of God originated with Satan, and its proposal to Adam marks the course of Satan's unchanging purpose.

C. When meeting the Last Adam in the wilderness, Satan did not say, as he did to the first Adam, "YE SHALL BE LIKE ELOHIM," FOR SATAN KNOWS WITH NO UNCERTAINTY, THAT JESUS CHRIST IS GOD (ELOHIM). However, his master passion to be himself "like the Most High" was expressed in the words to Christ, "worship me." The wicked and presumptuous character of that request cannot be duplicated in the history of the universe, nor will it ever be duplicated in future ages. It is probably that at no place does the lie come into such manifestation of its false and wicked character as here, where it addresses itself directly to the One who is the Truth. **It was audacious beyond measure for Satan to solicit the cooperation of angels and man, but who will estimate the wickedness of the one who suggests that God the Creator became a suppliant at the feet of a creature of His own hand?**

Pride had evidently befogged the mind of this being to the point of **angelic insanity**, yet not an insanity which bespeaks irresponsibility. Out of and above all the experiences of the **three-fold temptation in the wilderness, the one truth is disclosed, namely that Satan purposes to be “like the Most High.”**

D. It is far from accidental that the last manifestation of Satan's lie is the Man of Sin, the lawless one, who is said to oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, and who is ever distinguished by the blasphemous assumption that he is God. In the first or earliest record of him, he is described by these words, “Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord God; Because thine heart was lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God.” “Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. Wilt thou yet say before Him that slayeth thee, I am God? But thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of Him that slayeth thee,” Ezekiel 28:2, 6-9.

Twice this incarnation of Satan is referred to in Daniel 7:8, 9:27. In the former passage he is characterized as the one who with a “mouth speaketh great things,” and in the latter passage he is said to be the one who causes the sacrifice and oblation to cease. “I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.” “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the

week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

Now this is precisely the testimony of the apostle, who states of this one that he “sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God,” 2 Thessalonians 2:4. **Evidently the worship of the Lord is terminated by this Man of Sin in order that he himself may be worshipped.**

Of this same person John writes, “And I saw one of his heads, as it were, wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast saying, “Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His Name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the Earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world,” Revelation 13:3-8.

It is therefore expected that the blasphemous claim to be God and the demand that he be worshipped as God shall constitute the last chapter in the drama of iniquity, and it is that, according to the apostle's account recorded in 2 Thessalonians 2.

It is equally reasonable that Christ should indicate to the Jews that the appearance of this one “in the Holy Place” constitutes the sign of the end of their age and signal to the Jews to flee for their safety, Matthew 24:15-22.

It is no greater mystery that God allows Satan to pursue his lie to its full consummation with his Man of Sin, the federator of nations, blaspheming to the extent that he claims to be God and requires, on the penalty of death, the worship of himself, which worship belongs to God alone, than that He allows the lie to have its beginning at all.

In pursuing deeper aspects of all that may enter into Satan's motive, it is suggested that, as has been presented, **he is moved, first by pride, which is the impelling cause of his unholy ambition. Second, Satan may be offended that a plan of salvation has been put into action by which his victims will be rescued and lifted to heights of glory to which no angel will ever attain.**

Plutarch said this, "It was a very ancient opinion, that there are certain wicked and malignant demons, who envy good men, and endeavor to hinder them to the pursuit of virtue, lest they should be partakers at least of greater happiness than they enjoy." **That there is no redemption for himself or any other fallen angels cannot but create jealousy and offense, and engender hatred on Satan's part toward God and His saints.**

And thirdly, Satan apparently cannot recognize any other basis of relationship on the part of the creature to God than that of personal merit, which basis was that upon which all creatures stood at the beginning. The issue of personal merit, formed the very ground of Satan's authority in his defense of the throne of God.

The whole operation of Divine GRACE became an intrusion into, if not an encroachment upon, that principle upon which Satan was originally appointed to act. **That otherwise doomed creatures may, by faith in a crucified and risen Saviour, be constituted righteous to the degree of the perfect righteousness of God, which Christ is, must be most disconcerting and obnoxious to Satan.**

His ideal is ever reflected in his ministers who are said to be "ministers of righteous-

ness," personal. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

It is concerning the Gospel of GRACE by which lost men may be saved, that Satan has cast a veil over the minds of all unregenerate human beings "Lest the light of the glorious Gospel should shine unto them," 2 Corinthians 4:4. Every observing soul winner is sooner or later impressed with the more than **natural inability of the unsaved to comprehend the offer of salvation apart from human merit and by faith alone.** When thinking about and writing about the veil that Satan cast over the minds of men, blinds the mind lest they believe the glorious Gospel in Christ, you must realize that **Satan weaves the course of this age, with all its religious forms, ceremonies, external decencies, respectabilities and conventionalities as to from a thick veil, that entirely hides** "the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus," which consists in righteous mercy to those who are lost. The veil is not formed by evil living, depravity, or any form of what passes as evil among men, but cold formality, heartless decency, proud self-complacency, highly esteemed external respectability. And we must add, church membership, all without Christ.

It is the most fatal of all delusions, the thickest of all veils, and the most common. It is the path because it is religious, respectable, descent, seems right unto a man but the end thereof is death, for there is no Christ, no Lamb of God, no blood of atonement in it. It yet remains to be seen more full that, in the opposition to God, Satan enters into things religious. "Ye are of your father the devil." He was a liar from the beginning. **RELIGION IS HIS LIE.**

SATAN'S METHOD

SATAN'S INDEPENDENCE DAY AND COSMOS CHRISTIANS

We must remember as we have stated before, **that Satan's dominant purpose is not, as the popular impression supposes, one of attempting to be "unlike God."** Satan has explicitly asserted himself, as recorded in Isaiah 14:14, **that his transcendent objective is to be "like the Most High."** In discussing Satan's design we have traced through history and prophecy and have come to the conclusion of this record that there can be no reasonable question but that, from the earliest intention to its last manifestation, when the Man of Sin, the son of perdition, asserts that he is God, Satan is impelled by but one intention. How essential is Satan's estimation the worship of the Man of Sin will be, may be seen from the revelation that the **Man of Sin will demand the worship of the people of the Earth on the penalty of death.** Revelation 13:15, "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

The unregenerate masses of humanity are said to be deceived by Satan. Their delusion is both tragic and pitiable. **They are imposed upon by Satan's subterfuge, treachery, and fraud. There is no abiding substance in any objective upon which they set their hopes.** With discriminating recognition the Scriptures declare that Satan's deceptions affect merely the human element in the COSMOS, and not the entire system of things which the COSMOS embraces. Thus the word COSMOS is not employed in connection with these deceptions.

The term OIKODOMIA, translated "world," means the inhabitants of the Earth, or the designation, the nations, is used. It is written of the inhabited Earth in Revelation

12:9. "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world," literally "inhabited Earth." He was cast out into the Earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Likewise in Revelation 13:14 the deceptions are said to reach "them that dwell on the Earth." Then also in Revelation 20: 3, 8, 10 Satan's deceptions are said to reach to all nations, including all people of the Earth, excepting such individuals as are saved.

To the same end it is written again of Satan's power as exercised by the Man of Sin, that it will be "with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them," all of them, "that perish," 2 Thessalonians 2:10. **In this dark picture there is no hope within themselves, for a fallen, Christ-rejecting race.** Speaking of the future of fallen men, it is written, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived," 2 Timothy 3:13.

In the light of all this disclosure, THE DREAMS OF RELIGIOUS GUIDES who predict a transformed, regenerated COSMOS as a result of human effort in Christian service are seen to be without foundation. Satan's deceptions continue until he is bound and consigned to the abyss.

But who will bind Satan and place him in that prison? In the interest of Divine righteousness, the dissolution of the COSMOS and the disillusion of the lie must reach the ends predicted when all will be destroyed in the zenith of its wickedness. It is only then that the King shall reign and prosper. It is then, and only then, that righteousness and peace shall cover the Earth as waters cover the face of the deep.

What form of deception has seized good men that they should fail to see the

uncomplicated teaching of the Bible with respect to the course and end of evil?

The stupendous realities represented in the COSMOS DIABOLICUS are not said to be transformable. When God declares, as He does, that the COSMOS DIABOLICUS is to continue with increasing deception and to continue to the embodiment of the lie until it is crushed by the infinite power of the returning King, **there is little ground for any attempts to save it or to transform it.** Indeed, Christians are exhorted to be instant in season and out of season, in the saving of the "individuals," but that is far removed as an objective from the attempted rescue of that which God has doomed to destruction and that which by its very nature is anti-God.

Next to the lie itself, the greatest delusion Satan imposes, reaching to all unsaved and to a large portion of Christians, is **the supposition that only such things as society considers evil could originate with the devil, if, indeed, there be any devil to originate anything. It is not the reason of man, but the revelation of God, which points out that governments, morals, education, art, commercialism, vast enterprises and organizations, and much of religious activity are included in this COSMOS DIABOLICUS.** That is, the system which Satan has constructed includes all the **GOOD** which he can incorporate into it and be consistent in the thing he aims to accomplish.

A SERIOUS QUESTION ARISES WHETHER THE PRESENCE OF GROSS EVIL IN THE WORLD IS DUE TO SATAN'S INTENTION TO HAVE IT SO, OR WHETHER IT INDICATES SATAN'S INABILITY TO EXECUTE ALL HE HAS DESIGNED.

The probability is great that Satan's ambition has led him to undertake more than any creature could ever administer. Revelation declares that the "whole COSMOS system" must be annihilated; not its evil alone, but all that is in it, both good and bad. God will incorporate nothing of Satan's failures into that kingdom which

He will set up in the Earth. The COSMOS DIABOLICUS must be broken in pieces and become like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors which the wind carries away, and all this before "the smiting Stone," Christ, in His return to Earth, will set up a kingdom which shall fill the whole Earth.

Daniel 2:34, 35, "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole Earth."

The New Testament predicts the same consummation, saying, "All the world (COSMOS) passeth away, and the lust (desire), or purpose, thereof," 1 John 2:17. **The one and only thing that will survive this great cataclysm, this text goes on to say, "He that doeth the will of God abideth forever."** The lie is expanded to the point where its manifestation embraces all that is in the COSMOS, and is built on the one original idea which characterizes it all, namely INDEPENDENCE OF GOD.

To do the will of God is to do the Truth. To act apart from God is to do the lie. This is the Spirit of Truth vs. the spirit of error. **The Truth, which is the will of God, and those who do the Truth, abide forever.** There should be no surprise at this termination of the entire fabric of Satan's weaving, **yet those of the COSMOS are influenced not at all by God's Word, NOR ARE "COSMOS-CHRISTIANS"** much impressed with the solemn Truth God has spoken.

Such is the far reaching effect of the satanic deception. Satan's original independence of God which permeates the whole order, his deceptions about himself, about his purpose, and about the extent of his enter-

prise, constitute the primary aspect of Satan's "method in the COSMOS."

Since in pursuing his determination to exalt himself above God, Satan must oppose the Divine undertakings. **His opposition naturally will be exerted where God is acting at a given time. Since God has no present program which He is following along a line of reformation, education, or civilization, and any such record that such undertakings are in God's present purpose will be sought in vain, there is therefore no conflict or satanic resistance in those spheres.**

THERE IS NO RESTRAINT ON RELIGION, ONLY ON THE GOSPEL. The present relation of God to the COSMOS, beyond His sovereign permission and restraint of it, **is to save out of it a people for His heavenly glory.** On the other hand, **Satan's two-fold objective is to exalt Himself and to oppose God. That is the key by which much may be known, that otherwise would be unknown.**

It is still further disclosed that the enmity of Satan is not only toward the Person of God from whom he has everything to fear, but also toward every child of God. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on this fact. Satan has no controversy or warfare with his own unregenerate people, but there is abundant Scripture to prove that **he makes unceasing effort to mar the life and service of the Christian.**

The motive for this effort is all sufficient. They have partaken "of the Divine nature," 2 Peter 1:4, and **afford, therefore, a possible opportunity for Satan to thrust his fiery darts at the Divine Person who indwells them.** Thus, the believer becomes a medium of connection between the Divine Person and the satanic order, for it is also true that God literally loves the unsaved through the believer. Romans 5:5, "And hope maketh not ashamed: because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us."

On the other hand, the prince of the satanic system is seeking an opportunity for a **thrust through the believer at the Person of God.**

Several important passages on the latter point may here be noted. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world." John 16:33. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12. "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you." 1 John 3:13. "Casting all your care upon Him: for He careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." 1 Peter 5:7-9. "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles," literally, artifices, "of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:10-12.

The teachings of these passages clearly indicate the satanic enmity toward the believer, and the believer's utter helplessness apart from the Divine sufficiency. They also reveal a degree of enmity which **would result in the believer's life being crushed out, were it not for the evident answer to the prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ.** "I pray not that Thou shouldest take them from the COSMOS, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the Evil One." John 17:15. Literally, "guard them from the Evil One."

Certainly there is abundant reason for the believer to expect the fiercest opposition from Satan and Satan's host in all his life and service, and **faith alone in the Word of God applied insures victory over the COSMOS.** "Faith that overcometh the COSMOS."

The believer is also the object of the satanic attack because of the fact that unto the child of God is committed the great mystery of reconciliation, that by his testimony both in life and word, and by his prayers, the Truths of redemption may be given to the world. If Satan can cripple the believer's service, he accomplishes much in resisting the present purpose of the Lord.

No other explanation is adequate for the dark pages of Church history, the appalling failure of the Church in world-wide evangelism, her present sectarian, division and selfish indifference, or her final estate as pictured in Revelation 3:15-19. "I KNOW THY WORKS, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, AND INCREASED WITH GOODS, AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING, AND KNOWEST NOT THAT THOU ART WRETCHED, AND MISERABLE, AND POOR, AND BLIND, AND NAKED: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

This blighting satanic opposition maybe detected in every effort for the salvation of the lost. It may be seen in the fact that no personal appeal is ever made to the vast majority even in this favored land, more over, when an appeal is made, it is easily **distracted or diverted into the discussion of unimportant themes.**

The faithful pastor or evangelist is most sorely assailed, **every device of Satan being used to distort the one all important message of GRACE into something which is not vital.** The evangelist's call for decisions is often cumbered with that which is misleading or is a positive misstatement of the terms of salvation. Thus the appeal is lost and the whole effort fails.

Again, the **opposing power of Satan may be seen in the matter of Christian giving.** Millions are given without solicitation

for education, for culture, and humanity's physical comfort, **but real worldwide evangelization must ever drag on with its shameful limitations and debts.**

This, being even more noticed in the believer's prayer life, this warfare of Satan, this is his place of greatest usefulness and power, and it is subject to the severest conflict. In this connection it may be stated safely that there is comparatively little prevailing prayer today. Yet the way is open and the promises are sure. **If the believer cannot be beguiled into indifference or a denial of Christ, he is often tempted to place an undue emphasis upon some minor Truth, and, in partial blindness, to sacrifice his whole influence for good through the apparent unbalance of his testimony.**

Satan's warfare against the plan of God is still more evident in his direct hindering of the unsaved. Not only are they constantly blinded to the Gospel, but, when the Spirit would draw them, their minds are often filled with strange fears and distorted visions. Their inability to cast themselves upon Christ is a mystery to themselves, and **nothing but the direct illuminating power of the Holy Spirit in conviction** can open their eyes and deliver them from their gross darkness.

Satan has always adapted his methods to the times and conditions. If attention has been gained, a complete denial of the Truth has been made, or, when some recognition of the Truth is demanded, **it has been granted on the condition that that which is vital in redemption should be omitted.** **This partial recognition of the Truth is required by the world today.** For the direct result of the believer's testimony to the COSMOS has been toward the gathering out of the Bride, which has been already stated in the Bible and exemplified in the life of Christ. Moreover, they have heard that every principle of humanitarian sympathy or righteous government has been revealed in the Scriptures of Truth. Thus there has

grown a more or less popular appreciation of the value of these moral precepts of the Scriptures and of the example which Christ presents. This condition has prevailed to such a degree that any new system of doctrine which secures a hearing today must base its claim upon the Bible, and include, to some extent, the Person and teachings of Christ.

The fact that the world has thus partly acknowledged the value of the Scriptures is taken by many to be a glorious victory for the Lord, while, on the contrary, fallen humanity is less inclined to accept God's terms of salvation than in the generations past. It is evident that this partial concession of the world to the testimony of God has opened the way for counterfeit systems of Truth, which according to prophecy, are the last and most to be dreaded methods in the satanic warfare.

In this connection it must be conceded that Satan has really granted nothing from his own position, even though he be forced to acknowledge every principle of Truth save that upon which salvation depends. Rather is he advantaged by such a concession, FOR THE VALUE AND DELUSION OF A COUNTERFEIT ARE INCREASED BY THE NEARNESS OF ITS LIKENESS TO THE REAL. BY ADVOCATING MUCH TRUTH, IN THE FORM OF A COUNTERFEIT SYSTEM OF TRUTH, SATAN CAN SATISFY ALL THE EXTERNAL RELIGIOUS CRAVINGS OF THE WORLD, AND YET ACCOMPLISH HIS OWN END BY WITHHOLDING THAT ON WHICH MAN'S ONLY HOPE DEPENDS. He even quotes Scripture.

IT IS THEREFORE NO LONGER SAVE TO SUBSCRIBE BLINDLY TO THAT WHICH PROMISES GENERAL GOOD, SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS GOOD AND IS GARNISHED WITH THE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE, FOR GOOD HAS CEASED TO BE ALL ON THE ONE SIDE AND EVIL ON THE OTHER.

We have good on both sides and you must distinguish between good and good. Human, satanic good vs. Divine Good.

That is the issue. In fact, that which is evil in purpose has gradually appropriated the good until but one issue distinguishes them.

Part-truthism has come into final conflict with whole-truthism, and woe to the soul that does not discern between them. The first, though externally religious, is of Satan, and leaves its followers in the doom of everlasting banishment from the presence of God. While the latter is of God, "having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

It is also noticeable that the term "infidel" has, within a generation, disappeared from common usage, and that **the manner of open denial of the Truth has been almost wholly abandoned. Yet the real Church has by no means lost her foes, for they are now even more numerous, subtle, and terrible than ever before.** These present enemies, however, like the unclean birds in the mustard tree, **have taken shelter under the Church's branches. THEY ARE OFFICIATING AT HER MOST SACRED ALTARS AND CONDUCTING HER INSTITUTIONS.** These vultures are fed by a multitude, both in the Church and out, who in satanic blindness, are committed to the furtherance of any project or the acceptance of **any theory that promises good to the world if it is apparently based upon Scripture, LITTLE REALIZING THAT THEY ARE OFTEN REALLY SUPPORTING THE ENEMIES OF GOD.**

A counterfeit is Satan's most natural method of resisting the purpose of God, since by it he can realize to that extent his desire to be "like the Most High." Every material is in hand, as never before, for the setting up of those conditions which are predicted to appear only in the very end of the Age. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 one of these predictions may be found. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of them that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lov-

ers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having the form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

Every word of this prophecy is worthy of most careful study in the light of the present tendency of society. The fifth verse is especially important in connection with the subject of counterfeits of the Truth. "HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS, BUT DENYING THE POWER THEREOF: FROM SUCH TURN AWAY." The important element is the true faith which is to be omitted is this. "Form" is defined elsewhere in the Scriptures. "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, but Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God," 1 Corinthians 1:23, 24. **Therefore that which is omitted so carefully from these forms is the salvation which is in Christ.** Having a form, denying the power. **The power of salvation which is in Christ is what they deny.**

Now this is most suggestive because, "There is none other Name under heaven given unto men, whereby we must be saved," and it is by salvation alone that any deliverance can be had from the power of darkness.

Without this salvation Satan can still claim all his own. It is perhaps necessary to add that, judging from all his writings, this salvation of which Paul confesses he was not ashamed was no less an undertaking than regeneration by the Spirit, and whatever other theories may be advanced, this is the teaching of the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul.

This prophecy concerning conditions in the "last days" ends with an injunction which is addressed only to the believers who are called upon to live and witness during those days. To them it is said, "FROM SUCH," a form of godliness which denies the power thereof, "TURN AWAY." As certainly as the

"last days" are now present, so certainly this injunction is now to be heeded, and **the Lord's people are called upon to separate from churches and institutions which deny the Gospel of God's saving GRACE through the substitutionary blood redemption of the cross. To support institutions or ministries which "deny the power thereof," is to lend aid to Satan, the enemy of God.**

With no less force it is stated in 2 Peter 2:1, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction." In the same manner according to this passage, the denial falls not on the Person of Christ, but rather on His redeeming work. "The Lord that bought them."

It therefore follows that one feature of the last days will be a form of godliness which carefully denies the power of God in salvation.

Again Satan is "in the latter times" to be the promoter of a system of truth of doctrine. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons: Speaking lies in hypocrisy: having their conscience seared with a hot iron," 1 Timothy 4:1, 2. These predicted satanic systems are here accurately described. **Their offers will be so attractive and externally so religious that into them will be drawn some who "shall depart from the faith,"** they being enticed by seducing spirits. **No reference is made here to personal faith by which one may be saved.** It is "the faith," a body of Truth, which is first seen to some extent, and then rejected.

Jude 3, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

These attractive systems are not only from Satan, but are themselves "lies in hypocrisy" being presented by those whose conscience has been seared with a hot iron. No more illuminating terms could be used than these. **A lie covered by hypocrisy means, evidently, that they are still attempting to be counted among the faithful, and the conscience seared would indicate that they can destroy the testimony of God and blindly point other souls to perdition, without present remorse or regret.**

The doctrines of demons are again referred to in Revelation 2:24 as "the deep things of Satan," and this is Satan's counterfeit of "the deep things of God," which the Holy Spirit reveals to them that love Him. 1 Corinthians 2:10, "But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searched all things, yea, the deep things of God."

Thus there are predicted for the last days of this Age, both a form of godliness which denies the power of salvation that is in Christ, and a system known as "the deep things of Satan," or "doctrines of demons" speaking "lies in hypocrisy." Can there be any doubt that these two Scriptures describe the same thing, since they also refer to the same time? **The lies of one can be but the covered denial of salvation in the other.**

Again Satan has his assembly, or congregational meeting, which is **his counterfeit of the visible Church**. This assembly is referred to, both in Revelation 2:9 and Revelation 3:9, as "the synagogue of Satan," an organized assembly being relatively as important for testimony in the deep things of Satan as it has been in the deep things of God.

In Matthew 15 the tares appear "among" the wheat and the appearance is said to be after the sowing of the wheat. **So also, the "children of the Wicked One" appear and are often included and even organized within the forms of the visible Church.**

The assembly of Satan, calling itself a part of the visible Church, is to have its ministers and teachers. This is stated in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

Now here is a remarkable revelation of the possible extent of the satanic counterfeit: "false apostles," "deceitful workers," "transforming themselves into apostles of Christ," and "ministers of righteousness." False apostles, compared with apostles of Christ. Deceitful workers, compared with ministers of righteousness. Yet they are only seen here to be agents of the great deceiver, **Satan, who himself is transformed into an angel, minister, with a message of light, HIS LIGHT**. It is evident that the method of this deception is to imitate the real ministers of Christ. **Certainly these false apostles cannot so appear unless they gather into their message every available "form of godliness" and cover their lies with the most subtle hypocrisy.**

Evil will never appear on the outside of these systems, **but it will be announced as "another gospel,"** or as a larger understanding of the previously accepted truth, **and will be all the more attractive and delusive since it is heralded by those who claim to be ministers of Christ, who reflect the beauty of the "angel of light," Lucifer, the son of the morning, and whose lives are undoubtedly free from great temptation.** It should be noted however, that these **false ministers do not necessarily know the real mission they have.** Being unregenerate persons of the COSMOS, and thus blinded to the real Gospel, **they are sincere, preaching and teaching the best things the angel of light, their energizing power, is pleased to reveal unto them.** The spirit of error.

Their gospel is one of human reason, and appeals to human resources. There can be no appreciation of Divine revelation in them, for they have not come really to know God or His Son Jesus Christ. They are ministers of righteousness, which message should never be confused with the Gospel of GRACE. One is directed only at the reformation of the natural man, while the other aims at regeneration through the power of God.

All this is true, **how perilous is the attitude of many who follow attractive ministers and religious guides only because they claim to be such and are sincere, and who are not awake to the one final test of doctrine by which alone the whole covert system of satanic lies may be distinguished from the Truth of God.** In this connection, John writes the following, “If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed.” 2 John 1:10.

False teachers are usually sincere and full of humanitarian zeal, but they are “unregenerate.” This judgment necessarily follows when it is understood that **they deny the only ground of redemption.** Being unregenerate, it is said of them, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14. **Such religious leaders may be highly educated and able to speak with authority on every aspect of human knowledge, but if they are not born again, their judgement in spiritual matters is worthless and misleading. All teachers are to be judged by their attitude toward the doctrine of the blood redemption of Christ, rather than by their winsome personalities, their education, or their sincerity.**

Since the blood redemption of the cross is the central Truth and value of the true faith, it being “the power of God unto salvation,” Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 1:23, 24, any counterfeit system of doctrine which

would omit this essential fact, **must force some secondary truth into the place of prominence.** Any of the great scriptural subjects which are of universal interest to humanity, such as **physical health, life after death, morality, unfulfilled prophecy, or religious forms, may be substituted in the false systems for that which is vital.** And while those subjects are all found in their proper relations and importance to the true faith, the fact that **people are universally inclined to give attention to them furnishes an opportunity for Satan to make a strong appeal to humanity through them, and using these subjects as central truths in his false and counterfeit systems.**

Many are easily led to fix their attention upon the secondary things, and to neglect wholly the primary thing. **Especially is this true since the secondary things are tangible and seen, while the one essential thing is spiritual and unseen, and Satan has blinded their eyes toward that which is of eternal value.**

A system of doctrine may be formed, then, which includes every truth of the Scriptures save one, exalting the Person of Christ, but not His work, and thereby emphasizing some secondary truth as its central value. This system will be **readily accepted by blinded humanity, though the real power of God unto salvation has been carefully withdrawn.** Naturally it would be supposed that such Satan-inspired systems would have no value or power, since there could be no Divine favor upon them. **Such a supposition would be possible only because of the prevailing misunderstanding with respect to the real power of Satan.**

If the description given of him in the Scriptures is accepted, he will be seen to be **possessed with miraculous power, able to perform such marvels that the whole world is led to wonder and then to worship. He is free also to bestow this miraculous power upon others.** Revelation 13:2, “And the beast which I saw was like

unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: AND THE DRAGON GAVE HIM HIS POWER, AND HIS SEAT, AND GREAT AUTHORITY."

So it is no marvel if his ministers, who appear as the ministers of righteousness, **are able to exert superhuman power when it is directly in the interest of the satanic projects.** The great power of Satan has doubtless been active along these lines during all the ages past, for it is impossible that humanity should have worshipped other gods blindly, without some recompense, and **it is Satan himself who has been thus worshipped.**

Leviticus 17:7, "And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations." 2 Chronicles 11:15, "And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made." Revelation 9:20, "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plaques yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk."

It is not final evidence, therefore, that a system of doctrine is of God simply because there are accompanying manifestations of superhuman power, nor is it final evidence that the Almighty has responded simply because any form of supplication has been answered. The Divine movements are, of necessity, limited by the laws of the Lord's own holiness, and access into His presence is by the blood of Christ alone, by a new and living way which was consecrated for us through His flesh. Hebrews 10:19, 20, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh."

Assuming to come before God in prayer but ignoring this Truth is but to insult with pollution Him who is infinitely holy and pure. Surely, the Satan-ruled world does not come before God by the blood of Christ. Churches sometimes fall an easy prey to forms of doctrine, "deceivableness of unrighteousness," which Satan originated. **Sad is the spectacle of churches meeting week after week to be beguiled by the philosophy of men, and raising no voice in protest against the denial of their only foundation as a church, and the individuals only hope for time and eternity.**

Far more honorable were the infidels of the past generation than those who minister in these churches. They were wholly outside of the church. But now, behold the inconsistency. **Men who are covered by the vesture of the Church, ministering its sacraments, and supported by benevolence, are making an open attack upon that wisdom of God which made Christ Jesus the only ground for all righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.**

The predictions of the last days are thus not only being fulfilled by the false systems and doctrines, **but they are found in the visible Church itself.** "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears: And they shall turn away their ears from the Truth, and shall be turned into fables," 2 Timothy 4:3, 4.

Great religious activities are possible without coming into complication with saving faith. IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIGHT AGAINST SIN AND NOT PRESENT THE SAVIOUR, OR TO URGE THE HIGHEST SCRIPTURAL IDEALS AND YET OFFER NO REASONABLE WAY OF ATTAINMENT.

There is a strange fascination about these undertakings which are humanitarian, and are religious only in form and title. **And there is a strange attractiveness in the leader who announces that he is not concerned with the doctrine of the Bible, be-**

cause the helping of humanity is his one passion and care, yet all his passion is lost and his care is to no real end unless coupled with a very positive message of a particular way of salvation, the true understanding of which demands a series of most careful distinctions.

Who can be the god of these systems? The energizing power in these people? And the answers of their prayers? **Surely not God, not the God of the Scriptures who cannot deny Himself, and whose Word cannot be made to pass away.** Revelation sets forth one being, only one other being who is capable of these undertakings, and it not only assigns to this being a great and sufficient motive for all such activity, but clearly predicts that he will thus "oppose" and "exalt himself" in this very day and age. Much of the secondary truth is the present inheritance of the child of God. However, if there is a choice to be made, **the deepest wisdom will perceive that all the combined secondary values which Satan can offer are but for a fleeting time, and not worthy to be compared with the eternal riches of GRACE in Christ Jesus.**

Certain religious systems which are in no way related to the Bible and have continued for millenniums, including the ancient pagan systems and spiritism, and have held the devotion of uncounted millions and bear evidence of being inspired by Satan. The moral problems, which are felt to some degree by every human being, are seized upon by almost every unscriptural system. **The idea that man will stand on a basis of personal worthiness has been the chief heresy, opposing the central doctrine of GRACE, from the time of Christ's death to the present hour.** It so permeates the Church that few who preach are able to seclude it from their attempts at Gospel preaching. **It is safe to say that wherever the element of human merit is allowed to intrude into the presentation of the plan of salvation, the message is satanic to that extent.**

The ministers of Satan proclaim personal righteousness as the ground of the individuals right relations to God. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. No sphere of profession has been more confused and befogged by the intrusion of human merit than the church of Rome. As has been observed, cults are now multiplying and their appearance is restricted to very recent times. These cults cover a variety of ideas, all the way from Christian Science to Buchmanism. The latter as completely ignores the blood redemption of Christ as the former. While the former substitutes bodily health for the salvation of the soul, the latter substitutes consecration to God for a new birth by the Spirit.

No less misleading is the modern doctrine that salvation is through faith plus consecration. Probably no religious movement is more bold than the "I am" cult of recent years. It unblushingly announces by its blasphemous name that it freely embraces all that belongs to the original life. Its title would have been equally appropriate had it been "I will be like the Most High."

Space cannot be claimed for an enumeration and analysis of all these systems, ancient and modern. No one can anticipate the number that will yet appear or the confusion of doctrines they will engender, **but for each and all there is but one acid test, namely, what place does it give to the redeeming GRACE of God made possible only through the death and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ?**

In light of which we have studied, it may be concluded that, by creation, Satan is the highest of all angels and that he fell into sin, being befogged by the distortion of insanity which pride engenders. His sin took the form of an assumption to act in independence of the Creator, an undertaking which, of necessity, became a concrete embodiment of "untruth" as certainly as God is Truth. According to Divine method of dealing with creature assumption, as seen in all past history, Satan is allowed, if not required, to put his scheme of

independent action to an experimental test, and its present development, though manifesting even now its corrupt nature, is yet incomplete.

The inerrant, prophetic Scriptures carry the stupendous enterprise on to the unavoidable, irrational, incomprehensible spiritual bankruptcy which characterizes the consummation of this gigantic experiment. During these terrible ages of trial, light is pitted against darkness, and Truth against falsehood. Little attention can have been given to Scripture on the part of men who propose to account for the Evil One as a mere influence in the world.

Of such wicked inattention to revelation we must say, in the history of Jesus Christ the fact of the deadly hatred of evil to the ideal of good, of fiendlike wickedness toward spotless virtue, no one can deny. Those who choose to ascribe such appalling inhumanity and diabolism exclusively to Jews and Gentiles, instead of referring it to a mighty personal evil spirit as its background, do not get rid, as they suppose, of a devil. Then man is himself resolved into a devil, for he is invested with a kind and degree of malice which dehumanizes human nature, turns Earth into pandemonium, and history into an interminable war of incarnate fiends.

Maybe both things here stated are true. Not only are Satan and his angels to be seen in their true light as fiends of darkness, **but humanity as allied with them is evidently**

seen by God to be wholly evil, if not diabolical. It is such who, having cast in their lot with the satanic lie, must, if not be saved out of it, share the lake of fire which originally was prepared for "the devil and his angels." Matthew 25:41, "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." Revelation 20:10, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

It is to these fallen, God-repudiating human beings that the Gospel of eternal redemption and heavenly glory is to be preached. How matchless is the GRACE of God toward these enemies. Romans 5:10, "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." And how incomprehensibly blessed are the words of Jesus Christ, "I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, but have everlasting life."

Buddy Dano, Pastor

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