

# PEOPLE'S PULPIT.

## IS SPIRITISM ONLY DEMONISM?

### Are Mediums Deceived as Well as Their Followers According to the Bible?

Jackonville, Fla., Feb. 16.—The Opera House was crowded to-day to hear Pastor Russell. He spoke twice. We report one of his discourses from the text, "The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation. He hath reserved in habitation restraints under the thick darkness for a judgment of the Great Day." (Jude 6.) He said:

Last Sunday we discussed the fall of the angels, and saw that they succumbed to the heaven of sin, which was first introduced by Satan's pride and rebellion, and was continued and increased by their disobedience and fall from Divine favor. Some might be inclined to say, Why preach about the angels and their fall? Why not rather confine our consideration to man? The answer is that man's fall had to do with the fall of the angels, as we have seen; and that since then the fallen angels have had much to do with man's further perversion mentally, morally, physically. St. Paul was not in error when he declared, "We wrestle not with flesh and blood (merely), but with principalities and powers—wicked spirits in high positions."—Ephesians 6:12.

I am aware that many amongst the millions who read my sermons in the newspapers will be inclined to laugh at what may be designated my superstitious belief in spirit beings and in close propinquity with humanity—a belief that man's fall had much to do with man's further perversion mentally, morally, physically. St. Paul was not in error when he declared, "We wrestle not with flesh and blood (merely), but with principalities and powers—wicked spirits in high positions."—Ephesians 6:12.

We should either take the Bible account as a whole, or should reject it as a whole. It is my constant effort to bring my own thoughts and words and conduct into full alignment with the Divine instructions of the Bible. I believe any other attitude to be dangerous in the extreme.

The fallen angels the Bible styles demons—rendered in our Common Version, devils. We charge these demons and not our forefathers, with having perverted the true Message of the Gospel. This thought is substantiated by the Apostle, who refers to their insidious and crafty doctrines of demons." By every means they seek to put darkness for light and light for darkness. In the doctrine of the Dark Ages, now discredited, these demons blasphemed God by teaching that He had prepared a torture chamber and was overseeing the everlasting torture of nearly all humanity—all except the very Elect—at the hands of fire-proof devils with pitchforks.

Thus the human mind was turned against the Almighty in deed. For humanity learned to think of Satan and his associates as in some far-off place. Now, as greater illumination comes, and humanity gradually ascertains that the theory of a "great torture place beyond the bounds of time and place was a hoax, these demons would lead such seekers in an opposite direction, and convince them that as there is no such torture chamber, neither are there any demons.

But the Bible all the while has been telling us that these evil spirits are near us, in our atmosphere; and that they have power over us in proportion as we yield our wills to their suggestions and our minds to sin. So far from telling of Satan's being far off, the Apostle declares that he goes about through the earth, seeking whom he may devour; and that his host of fallen angels are a present power for evil throughout the world. Similarly, Jesus tells us to pray, "Deliver us from the Evil One." He says that Satan was "a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the Truth."—John 8:44.

St. Peter tells us that the fallen angels at the time of the Deluge were cast down to Tartarus. This word tartarus is used only once in the Bible, and is mistranslated hell. It is generally conceded to refer to the earth's atmosphere, though it may be used in a figurative way, much as we use the word limbo, a prison, a place or condition of restraint.

We are not to confound the Bible story of the fall of the angels and their restraint in chains of darkness with the symbolical figure of Revelation, where Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven. The Revelation picture is purely symbolical, as all admit. It does not refer to literal Heaven at all, but in a figurative way describes matters which happened on earth—matters which found their fulfilment centuries ago, at the time the Roman Empire was overthrown, and Papacy set itself up, claiming earthly and Heavenly power and authority as the Kingdom of Messiah, operating through the popes as Messiah's viceregents.

At some length, Pastor Russell showed that the very name Satan signifies opponent of God, and that this name is well deserved, because he who was formerly known as Lucifer has arrayed himself against God and in opposition to every feature of the Divine Plan. The Almighty could have destroyed Satan at any time, but He has permitted him for the past six thousand years to go on in his course, in order to demonstrate the evil character of sin, and to give opportunity, on the contrary, of demonstrating the beauty of holiness. Eventually, when the lesson shall have been taught to angels and to

men, Satan and all who love sin will be utterly destroyed in the Second Death.—Revelation 21:8.

Note the persistence of Satan, said Pastor Russell, and his affrontery. God distinctly told Adam and Eve that disobedience would bring upon them the penalty of death. Satan contradicted the Almighty point-blank, declaring, "Ye shall not surely die." And when our race found the truth of God's statement borne in upon them by death, Satan still sought to pervert the Word of God and the minds of men by telling humanity that they do not die really but in appearance only; that in reality a dead man is much more alive than a living one.

This absurdity has been repeated to our race century after century, until to-day mankind, as a whole, believe Satan's lie and entirely discredit the Word of God. The way back to God and to sanity of reasoning is the repudiation of Satan's falsehood and the acceptance of God's Truth. The dead know not anything. Their spirits will seek more and more to dishonor and they perceive it not of them.—Ecclesiastes 9:5; Job 14:21.

Satan's original lie is the basis of all the superstitions of religion. If mankind believed God—that the dead are dead, and that their only hope of a future life is based on the resurrection—it would clear the world of a thousand superstitions. How could the dead suffer tortures in a Protestant hell or in a Catholic purgatory, if the dead know not anything, as the Bible declares? If the Truth prevailed, where would come in prayers and masses for the dead? And where would come in the belief of spiritists and others that they have communications with their dead friends—if, as the Bible says, "The dead know not anything?"

On the basis of human credulity—the supposition that the dead become more alive when they appear to die—demons have advanced their deceptions, and sought to enthrall humanity. Invisible to men, yet fully informed respecting all human affairs, they can readily personate the dead. The fallen angels, since the Deluge deprived of the power to materialize, use as channels of communication such individuals as they can deceive into being their servants—mediums. Many of these are noble characters, and many of them the reverse; but vicious or ignorant or good, the demons use such as they can control, none being too debased for their service.

Working on the credulity of their dupes, they use the lips or the pencil of the medium to describe the dead one, who is supposed to be very anxious to communicate with the living. And the description generally fits well to the dupe's least knowledge of the person—age, sex, clothing, all. So deluded do people become that they fail to remember that the children of two or ten years would ten years later, if alive, be twelve or twenty years of age, and proportionately larger, and certainly not content to wear in a spirit land the same clothing they wore when last seen by the dupe. The demons' power to discuss matters known only to the dupe and the deceased carries conviction.

And all the workings of all the denominations, that the dead are not dead, are helping on with the deception. The venerable minister, deceived by the doctrines of the Dark Ages, tells his hearers at the funeral that their deceased friend is hovering over them; and that if he could speak, he would say, "Geeep not for me." Let those who deny that there are invisible evil spirits explain what Jesus meant when He gave His disciples power over all manner of disease, and over unclean spirits. Let them explain what the Apostles meant when they returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject unto us in Thy name." It is for them to explain, too, what really took place at Gadara, where the Scriptures declare Jesus cast a legion of these evil spirits out of one man. That legion, permitted to go into the swine, were sufficient in number to craze the entire herd.

Let us also have an explanation of what St. Paul meant when he turned to rebuke the young woman who had the power of divination, and commanded the evil spirits to come out of her. (Acts 16:16-18.) Let them explain why her soothsaying prognostications were at an end, when once the evil spirit was gone forth. Let us also remember that there is not a suggestion anywhere in the Bible that these evil spirits were ever human beings in any sense of the word, or at any time. Let us all remember that these are the same evil spirits dealt with at the time of the Deluge. Immediately after the Flood, they began their attack upon humanity, their attack upon the Truth, their endeavor to make humanity believe the lie—that the dead are not dead. To whatever extent they succeeded in so deceiving humanity they prepared mankind proportionately to be their dupes. The goal of their ambition is

possession, and everything else is accessory.

Spirit mediums recognize the demon character of the spirits communicating through them; and they dread them and warn each other against the danger of allowing their wills to come completely under spirit influence, knowing that surely the result will be possession, demonization. And this in our day is called insanity, although many physicians realize the difference, and candidly say that one-half the cases in an insane asylum are due to functional disorder. The majority are cases of possession by evil spirits.

These are the four steps along which those who do not put themselves under the guidance of the Lord are in danger of being led by the demons. And every step of the way should be fought with a determination of the will, if the "wiles of the Adversary" would be escaped. The vacant, unoccupied, mind is the more open to suggestions of the demons. The proper way to escape is to have a protection in their activity. But if suggestions, or imaginations, have been entertained, the second step may soon follow—desire. The mind will be diverted from the lines of thought—study, prayer, or what not. The power of suggestion being that they do not interfere with proper thinking and reasoning.

This leads on to the third step—impression. Some are "naturally more impressionable than are others," they really are, and are accomplished with more or less of a struggle—sometimes covering years. In the struggle, sometimes by chameleon power, sometimes through mediums, the spirit will seek more and more the confidence of the dupes. If he be inclined toward evil, the leadings will be that way. If he have a religious tendency, he will be counseled to pray or read the Bible, then be chided, the object always being to bring him into full submission of his mind, in a manner that none should yield himself to the Almighty; whom the evil spirits sometimes personate in their speech.

Many to-day laugh at the stories of witchcraft handed down from the past. Quite probably some excited as witches may have been good people, misunderstood by their neighbors. This does not, however, alter the fact that witches, wizards and necromancers are not mere myths. The Bible tells us of them as realities, and explains the demon power operating through them.

In olden times, the Divine Law forbade any witch, wizard or necromancer (one claiming to have communications from the dead) to live in the land of Israel, or to practice their black arts. (Deuteronomy 18:9-14.) Through the Prophet the Lord asked the people why they should seek unto those who peep and mutter, and claim to have communication with the dead (for wisdom, knowledge, guidance, etc.), and not unto the living God? "Should not a people seek unto their God?"—Isaiah 8:19, 20.

We all remember the story of the Witch of Endor and how King Saul, when he could not find a prophet to communicate with the Lord, sought communication with Samuel the Prophet, who was dead. Saul saw nothing, but heard nothing. The witch described to him an old man with a mantle, and Saul recognized the description as corresponding with that of the Prophet Samuel. The witch was guided by the demons, however much she might have supposed that the visions she saw and the words she heard were from the dead Prophet. The prophecies were all from the evil spirits, the demons. (1 Samuel 28:19; 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14.) So in all heathen lands, the demons have had to do with the people.

The lesson to God's people is full loyalty to God, strict attention to His inspired Words through the Prophets and the Apostles. These are the only sure protection against the wiles of the Adversary. How glad we are that the lessons to angels and to men, built upon God's permission of a reign of sin and death for the past six thousand years, will soon be finished! How glad we are to know of a surety that the end will justify the permission of all the evil which has come to pass! How glad we are to know that eventually all the blinded ones will be enlightened and that eventually all the willfully evil shall be destroyed, and that without remedy!

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**REOR**

Of the Bridge and But Two of the victed in O

(Courier Leased)

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 21.—The organization of the International Iron Workers, all but two executive officers from a December of promoting a dynamite plot in the union's strike at "open shop" contractors, at the Association's annual convention, which opens to-day, in Milwaukee in 1911, several months before the secreted guilty to dynamiting a temple because of the conspiracy trial which was the conviction of President Ryan and 32 other union members of whom are still in

**SUFFE**

Among the New Twelve Hundred at One S

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—that the garment factory 70,000 of whom are said to be suffering, was furnished representatives of over 1500 applied yesterday at a re-established by the United trades to obtain food soup bread-line extended for many others as long were. other stations in the Brooklyn. Gifts of clothing were also made. An official of the cloak makers estimated that that or alone had already spent over in relief work.

Thomas A. Rickert, President of the United Garment Workers, said:

It is now a question of out until the employers, in two and three from the tions with which they are, and settle individually with kers. The strike is gradu

**Mrs. Pankhurst Under A**

(Courier Leased)

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Mrs. Pankhurst was arrested on a warrant on which she was arrested on a police magistrate at Epsom

TO-MORROW'S WEAT

Decidedly cold.

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