

In *2 Timothy* iii. 8, we read, "As Jaannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth". How did the Egyptian Magicians *withstand* Moses? On turning to *Exodus* vii. 22, we see that it was by imitating the miracles of God, and on two occasions was this allowed. First, they produced blood, the emblem of death—how emblematic of the work of the devil, that great destroyer. Secondly, in *chapt. viii. 7*, they produce frogs, the figure used for evil spirits coming out of the mouth of the dragon in *Revelation* xvi. 13, again how emblematic of devilry; but in *verse 17*, where Moses out of the dust of the earth, or that which is a symbol of death, brings forth lice, or living things, this was far beyond the devil's power, it was acknowledged at once as "the finger of God"—none but God could bring resurrection life out of death, it was the principle of everything in nature that was involved in this miracle, yea, even the very crowning of the Glory of Christ, that through death, He overcame death, and was thus enabled to give everlasting life to all who believed in Him. In *1 Samuel* xv. 22, 23, we read, "to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft [or divination, or devilry], and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry". Connecting these Scriptures we see how God estimates *imitation* of truth, to be *resisting* the truth, and disobedience, not hearkening, rebellion, and stubbornness, and as such is spoken of as iniquity, idolatry, witchcraft, or devilry, in the sight of God.

Again, in close connection with imitation is compromise of truth, as specially shown in the following portion of *Exodus* viii. 25. Compromise the first is suggested by the Devil through Pharaoh, "Go ye sacrifice in the land". This is the form of God-and-mammon worship, which by the Word we know is impossible (*Luke* xvi. 13). If this is rejected, then comes compromise the second (*verse 28*), "ye shall not go very far away"; or, let the separation of God and mammon be merely nominal, in appearance only, but not in reality; in other words, let hypocrisy, the leaven of the Pharisees, be introduced. *Chap. x. 11*, is compromise the third, "Go now, ye that are men"; the wives and the children were to be left behind in Egypt, the form of sacrifice to be gone through with all propriety, but the heart-affections left behind in the world; does not God require of us that we should present ourselves a living sacrifice, an undivided heart, a whole burnt-offering; as in *Leviticus* i. 3, 9, with all our best affections and vigour of soul given to Him? So God says to Israel, "Ye shall seek Me and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with *all your heart*" (*Jeremiah* xxi. 13). It was the divided heart that caused Israel to be the empty vine, bringing forth fruit to himself, and increasing his altars, and therefore his idols (*Hosea* x. 1, 2). *Verse 24* is compromise the

(2—No. 8)