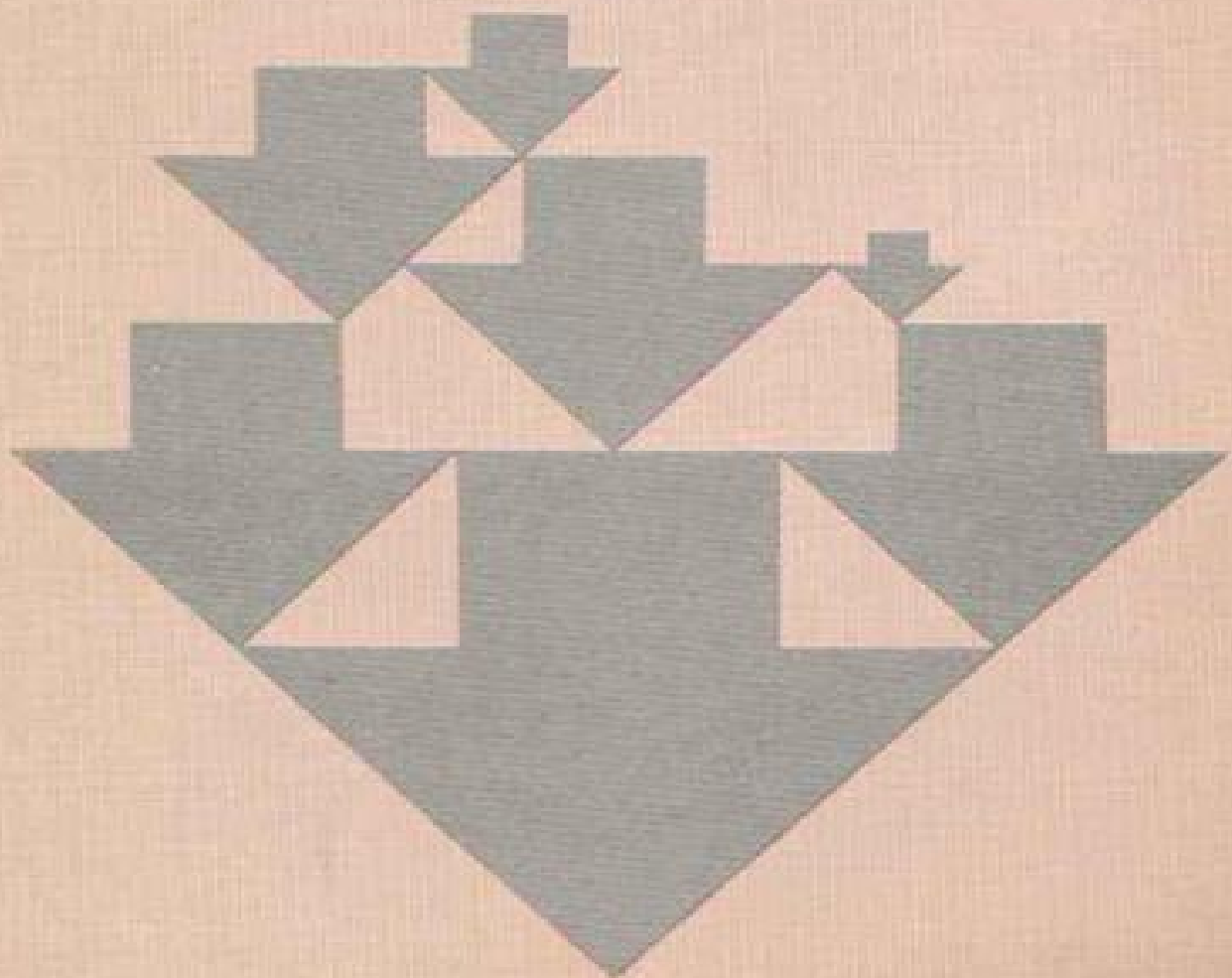


VOLUME 5 —

SATAN, FALLEN ANGELS AND DEMONS SERIES

The origin of demons and their orders

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The Origin of Demons and Their Orders

by

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Introduction

Some years ago we prepared a series of books entitled *Satan, Fallen Angels, and Demons*. Later we published other volumes on a kindred subject, *Sorcery*. Interest in these subjects has been so great that we resolved to prepare another series on demons and their activities. *The Origin of Demons and Their Orders* is the first title of the series. There will be a second volume, *Demons and the Occult*, and a third will be entitled *The Casting Out of Demons*. (A related volume, *The Scarlet Sin*, dealing with the demon of murder has also been published.)

In our present volume we review briefly the story of Satan's rebellion and fall. We then consider the Bible evidence concerning the origin of demons and note that they are a part of Satan's kingdom, although they are not to be confused with fallen angels. Demons are disembodied spirits which seek human habitation. On the other hand, fallen angels inhabit the heavenlies and engage in warfare against the angels of God. The latter are the rulers of darkness spoken of by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:12.

Chapter III is devoted to a discussion of the various orders or types of demons. People generally have the mistaken idea that demons are more or less alike. Demons are as different in their habits, power, and general activities as human beings. In one thing, however, they are in full agreement. They know that they are doomed and without hope of redemption. Therefore, they have one objective: to deceive and lead people away from God.

The Bible speaks of many kinds of spirits: deaf spirits, blind spirits, deceiving spirits, familiar spirits, foul spirits, unclean spirits, and still others.

A special chapter is devoted to a discussion of the difference between demon oppression, demon obsession, and demon possession. Not a few people fail to distinguish between the three kinds of demonic control of human beings. This leads to much confusion. The material contained in this volume is essential to the proper understanding of this subject which is so important for all believers.

Chapter I

Satan and His Army of Demons

In our previous series on Satan we made a distinction between the fallen angels who inhabit the heavenlies and demons which inhabit the bodies of their victims. In our present study we shall not enter into a detailed account of the fall of Satan and his angelic cohorts, but consider in particular the demon hosts that are obedient to him. We shall, therefore, review only briefly a few of the fundamental facts pertinent to the origin and organization of the kingdom of darkness. Isaiah 14 tells of the fall of Satan.

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14:12-14).

Ezekiel 28 relates the cause of his fall—pride.

"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. 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. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground. I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee" (Ezek. 28:11-17).

These passages inform us that Satan, also called Lucifer, was at one time during the primeval ages a holy being. He is described as a powerful archangel possessing unusual wisdom who, in the dateless past, exercised great authority as vice-regent of God's creation. Nevertheless, he was not satisfied with his exalted position, but in his heart aspired to a still higher place, that reserved for Jesus Christ. This unholy ambition became sin to him, and eventually culminated in his open rebellion and expulsion from heaven. Revelation 12:7-12 indicates that one third of the angels defected with him.

For reasons deemed wise by God, He did not immediately destroy Satan, but though ejected from heaven, he was permitted access to the lower heavenlies. At a later time in the Garden of Eden he managed by subtle suggestion to seduce Eve and her husband into disregarding the divine prohibition of partaking of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Thus they transferred their God-given dominion to Satan. For this reason the devil holds a legal claim upon the earth during this age. God Himself recognizes this claim, and Satan reminded Christ of this fact when he was tempting Him in the wilderness:

"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" (Luke 4:5-7).

Christ, of course, spurned the devil's offer. He would have no part in the kingdoms of this world (John 18:36). Nevertheless, the point is that Satan has a legal hold on the nations during this age. His kingdom is a highly organized one, and his emissaries work hand-and-glove together to deceive if possible all the members of the human race and thus thwart God's plan.

In a real sense Satan is the god of this age (II Cor. 4:4). He is the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). John the apostle describes the world as being subject to the devil's wicked system. "And we know that we are of God and the whole world lieth in wickedness" (1 John 5:19). Satan apparently seeks to establish for his kingdom strategic centers of wickedness on the earth. Thus the people of Pergamos were said to dwell "where Satan's seat is" (Rev. 2:13).

The educational, social, and political systems of the world naturally do not recognize Satan's position of power. The intelligentsia of our day do not in fact acknowledge the existence of a personal devil. They consider the phenomena of the spirit world as being entirely psychic, explainable in terms of the natural operations of the human mind. Thus they are blinded and deceived by the very powers which they deny.

One of the most vivid pictures afforded by the Scriptures of Satan's rule over the nations is found in Daniel 10. Here we are told of a certain prince of Persia withstanding the very angels of God. The term "prince of Persia" could not refer to the visible king of that nation, who would certainly have no power to war against an angelic being, but to the invisible prince in the army of Satan who resided in the heavenlies and exercised the real power over the kingdom of Persia.

This leads to the conclusion that each nation has an unseen, though very real, prince from the kingdom of darkness. Under the hegemony of these powerful fallen archangels of the spirit world, a multitude of lesser spirits operate and as far as possible carry out the wishes of their supreme master—Lucifer. By means of the myriads of evil spirits, the devil is able to make his power felt in every part of the world.

These demons operate in diverse ways. They first seek to clothe themselves with human bodies, and then to deceive their victims and lead them into the deepest depths of delusion. All of them can be generally classified as lying spirits, for they deceive and delude the nations into rebellion against the true God. No demon may depart from the principles upon which this Satanic kingdom is based, although the manner of their operations and deceptions varies greatly. As Jesus said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?" (Matt. 12:25, 26).

Jesus went on to declare that "if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you" (verse 28). Satan, therefore, is not unlimited in his power, and his plans may be thwarted and brought to nought through prayer and intercession. In the case of Daniel, he waited in prayer and fasting before the Lord for three weeks. In the end Michael the archangel was dispatched to render assistance to the angel who was contending against the prince of Persia. The result was a great victory, and

the angel was able to get through to Daniel and inform him of the things that he was desirous to learn about the future of his nation. The prince of Persia was forced to give way to the angelic hosts, and following his defeat the prince of Grecia took over the dominion. Alexander the Great was the human prince of Grecia, and he obtained a great name in history, but the real ruler was a prince of the kingdom of darkness who exercised authority in the heavenlies.

It will be noted in passing that Daniel through his prayers played a vital part in defeating the hosts of darkness, and for his faithfulness he received the special commendation of the angel. The Scripture text is illuminating:

"And he said unto me, O Daniel, *a man greatly beloved*, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia" (Dan. 10:11-13).

That believers in their prayer life play an important part in the warfare in the heavenlies is very clear from Ephesians 6:12, 18:

"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 . . . Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Here we are told that our warfare is not against flesh and blood but against the unseen spiritual powers of wickedness in the heavenlies who influence the actions of men to evil. That is the reason that the people of God must develop a strong prayer life. By so doing they ward off the attacks of these malicious spirits and render them powerless to carry out their evil designs.

In the following chapters we shall note the various methods and means by which demons under the hegemony of Satan harm and injure human beings. We shall learn that there are many kinds of evil spirits, some more

powerful than others who are constantly carrying on a warfare against the saints of God.

It is not the province of this book to detail the activities of Satan and his host of evil angels, but more particularly the lesser spirits, the demons that operate under their direction. We shall mention, however, that during the Great Tribulation Satan and his angels will be cast out of the heavenlies as the result of the warfare of the righteous angels and the prayers of the saints of God.

"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 heavens, 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" (Rev. 12:7-12).

This event of Satan's being cast down to earth precipitates the fearful reign of the antichrist. His period is short, however, and at the time appointed Satan and his hosts will be rounded up and cast into the bottomless pit.

As we have said, our subject in this volume pertains in particular to the activities and practices of demons who are emissaries carrying out the will of their master, Satan. We shall, therefore, consider first of all what the Scriptures have to say about the origin of these evil spirits.

Chapter II

The Origin and Character of Demons

That demons, or unclean spirits, exist there is no doubt. But how they originated and fell is not fully clear, although enough is revealed in the Bible to give us a fair idea of these things. As we have said, Satan was once a holy being and vice-regent under the God of creation. His mad act to usurp the place of Christ, however, was his undoing, and as the result of the rebellion that he fomented, both he and the angels which followed him were cast out of heaven. The demons are not the same class of beings as fallen angels, although the evidence is strong that their fall is also associated with Satan's rebellion.

There is a general belief among Bible scholars that demons had their origin in a pre-Adamite age. There is strong Scriptural evidence, if not conclusive, to support this belief.

After placing Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the Lord gave them the command to multiply and replenish the earth (Gen. 1:28). This command was the same that He gave to Noah after the flood: "Multiply and replenish the earth" (Gen. 9:1). Since the same Hebrew word is used in each instance, the inference is that the population of the earth was depleted in both cases, which would indicate the existence of a pre-Adamite race.

Were there actually people on the earth before the days of Adam? There is no reason why there could not have been. There is a naive belief held by some that God began His activities just 6,000 years ago! This is not the place to debate this question. But it is important to remind ourselves that God is not only the God of time, but also from "everlasting to everlasting thou art God."

"For thus saith the high and *lofty One that inhabiteth eternity*, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and lofty place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isa. 57:15).

It is not to be considered strange that God was active in His divine plan long before the creation of Adam and his descendants. The Bible hints in more than one place that there was a pre-Adamite race, and that through transgression it came under judgment. Isaiah and Jeremiah refer to a catastrophe apparently greater in scope than there was at the time of the

Flood. In fact, the indication is that it was so severe that no man was left on the earth, and that "the earth was without form and void," the very condition the world was said to be in before the Adamic creation (Gen. 1:1, 2).

"Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof" (Isa. 24:1).

"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. 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" (Jer. 4:23-26).

The question is whether this judgment was related to the fall of Satan. Did the devil's rebellion affect the earth also? In Ezekiel 28:11- 19, which deals with the fall of Lucifer, we are told that this archangel was at one time in Eden, the Garden of God. We are also informed that Lucifer was perfect in his ways, until he was lifted up by reason of his beauty and his wisdom and "iniquity was found" in him.

If demons exist, as they surely do, then the question is, how did they originate? While there are some differences of opinion concerning this subject, the general conclusion is that their fall was associated in some way with that of Satan.

That demons are not the same as fallen angels would seem evidenced by the fact that they are seeking embodiment. A demon finds rest only when it can secure habitation in a human body. Once it takes possession, it will remain there until it is forcibly ejected, or until the person's death (Luke 11:15-26). It will never leave of its own accord.

Other Views Regarding the Origin of Demons

There are those who believe that demons are actually the fallen angels who defected at the time of Lucifer's fall. However, the evidence is strong against this theory. Fallen angels have spiritual bodies and do not naturally seek embodiment as demons do. Angels, not having physical bodies, do not die in the sense that men die (Luke 20:35, 36), although angels can sin and suffer spiritual death— separation from God.

Another important argument against fallen angels being demons is the fact that the latter have their habitat upon earth, while the fallen angels

occupy the heavenlies and are generally engaged in conflict with the angelic hosts of God as depicted in Daniel 10. This warfare in the heavenlies is graphically described by Paul in Ephesians 6:12, which we have quoted previously.

The saints who sit in heavenly places with Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6) also participate in this warfare and are urged to put on the whole armor of God in order to stand against the evil day. Of course it is possible for Satan or one of his angels to enter temporarily into a human being (Luke 22:3), but since they have access to the heavenlies, it would appear, all things considered, that they would not confine themselves to human bodies.

The distinction, therefore, between demons and fallen angels appears to be rather conclusive.

There is another theory held by some that demons are disembodied spirits of the progeny of angels and the "daughters of men" spoken of in Genesis 6:2. However, Jesus said that angels neither marry nor are given in marriage, and it seems unlikely that the "sons of God" spoken of in that chapter were actually angels. It certainly would be a most unusual prodigy for an angelic incursion upon the earth of this nature.

Such are the main views on the various origins of demons. The subject has a fascination, but fortunately the complete resolution of the problem is not necessary to an adequate understanding of the activities of demons, their habits, and methods of operation. And it is this which is really important to understand.

Demons Are Personalities

That demons are more than an evil influence but are personalities is proved in various ways, including their power of speech. Spiritist mediums in trance are often unconscious of what the impersonating spirit is saying, and yet a very intelligent though delusive conversation may be carried on with them. These demons pretend to be the spirits of the dead, which is, of course, false. They are evil spirits under the hegemony of Satan. And though they operate in different manners, their ultimate purpose is to deceive people and lead them into darkness.

The writer has had varied experiences in which a demon has spoken. Ordinarily it seeks to hide its identity, but when exposed it may speak in vicious and hateful language. Nell Hibbard in her book *Demonology* tells of an instance in which she dealt with a demon possessed woman. We take the liberty to quote from it in this account:

Several years ago a frantic husband and some friends brought a poor demon-possessed woman from Fort Worth to our church for prayer. She was lying on her back in the nursery of the church when we arrived. As we entered the room the devils screamed through the woman's lips. Her eyes crossed and stood out as though they were on stems. Her face became so distorted that it lost a human resemblance. The right corner of her mouth drew underneath the center of her chin. White froth rolled from her mouth and stood an inch high like solid anchored banks.

"I hate you," a fiendish voice screamed, and the woman lunged toward me like an angry wild animal seeking her prey.

As we pleaded the blood of Christ, instantly she stood dead still in her tracks as though someone had suddenly stopped her. Then the devil through her lips told me my sermon topic of the previous evening. Bear in mind that I was in Dallas, and the woman in Fort Worth, yet the devil knew that I had preached on demonology Sunday evening.

One imp snarled, "You tried to wreck our kingdom last night by telling the people the way we work and by telling the tactics we use. Well, you did give us a bit of trouble, but there's enough of us in here to give you and several others plenty of trouble." My blood momentarily chilled, but we began earnestly praying. For three days and two nights someone stayed with her in earnest travail before God. At the end of the second night, the last demon was cast out and she was gloriously liberated. That was an example of real demon possession. In that case the demons not only possessed her, but controlled her physical body.

In a case I personally witnessed in my youth, the devil at first pretended to be the Spirit of God and warned us not to doubt. It had many things to tell us about the spirit world of heaven and hell, and it seemed to us at first to be genuine. But the Bible warns us to test the spirits (1 John 4:1-3). And in this case the spirit in question did not stand the test. When finally the evil spirit's identity was clear, it readily admitted it was a demon. The individual through whom the spirit had spoken had quite a battle, but was finally delivered from its power.

Demons Can Occupy Identical Space at the Same Time

It is a law of physics that only a certain amount of matter can occupy the same space at the same time. An enormous amount of pressure can be

applied to a substance, water for example, and still it will not compress, or only a very small amount. Atomic scientists tell us that there has to be a total disruption of the atom before there can be a collapse of matter.

So much for the physical universe. But what is true of the physical world is not necessarily true in the spiritual world. When the Holy Spirit comes upon a man, He in no way diminishes the man's personality or his spirit, but instead the person's whole being is quickened and made more alive. On the other hand, evil spirits, one or many can inhabit the same person; that is, fill the same space. But an evil spirit, unlike the Holy Spirit, instead of blessing the person acts like a malignant disease which not only injures but degenerates the whole person, body, soul, and spirit. The more of these evil spirits that enter the person, the more powerful their control, and the more rapid the deterioration of the personality.

In the case of the man who was delivered from a dumb spirit, Jesus afterward gave a solemn warning (Luke 11:24-26). He said that the man must now fill his life with the things of God or else the evil spirit should presently return with seven more spirits, making eight in all. In such case the man's condition would be much worse than it was in the beginning.

There was the case of Mary Magdalene "out of whom went seven devils [demons]" (Luke 8:2). Obviously she was a hard case before deliverance, but afterward she showed her extreme gratitude for her deliverance and disregarding any possible danger to herself was among the first to visit the tomb where Jesus was buried. The Lord, recognizing her great devotion, appeared to her first after He was risen (Mark 16:1, 9).

Seven or eight demons in a person would appear to be a large number. However, in recent times there have been cases in which an individual has been possessed of dozens and even scores of demons.

In some instances these have come out one at a time, calling their names as they left. Spiritist mediums who consort with these demons are blind to their satanic nature and mistake them for spirits of the dead.

It is not surprising that there is system and order even in the spirit world (Matt. 12:25-26). In spiritist seances it is usual for a particular demon (who generally pretends to be a previous resident of the earth) to assume authority under the guise of a "guide." Other demons who wish to communicate with some client of the medium must do so through this guide. An important point to be remembered is that many evil spirits can

converse, communicate, and live together in the body of the same person, causing him no little misery and suffering.

The almost limitless capacity of the human body to be possessed of demons was well demonstrated in the case of the demoniac. When Jesus, before He delivered the lunatic, questioned the demons as to their names, the leader replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many" (Mark 5:9). Now a legion of soldiers in the Roman army was about 6,000. This does not necessarily mean that the man was possessed by exactly 6,000 demons, but it does indicate there was a vast number—enough so that when exorcized from their victim they violently disturbed a herd of 2,000 swine, insomuch that the latter stampeded into the sea and were drowned (Mark 5:13).

This indicates that a large concentration of evil spirits may generate enough demonic energy to create convulsions among living creatures, whether man or beast. This no doubt is a clue to the frenzied actions of an excited mob which sometimes commits incredible acts of violence. In saner moments the same people as individuals would probably recoil at the very thought of such acts.

Chapter III

Different Orders of Demons

People are generally under the impression that all demons are more or less alike. But this is a mistake. Demons are as different in their individual capacities, their habits, their ways, as human beings are with this exception: their objective is consistently malevolent; and they invariably seek the ruin of the souls of those whom they seduce and deceive.

For example, certain demons are specifically adapted to afflict the bodies of people. Others direct their operations toward deception and delusion. Some demons can be cast out readily, while others are so tenacious that they can only be exorcised by prayer and fasting. The Bible enumerates many kinds of demons. There are deaf spirits, blind spirits, deceiving spirits, seducing spirits, jealous spirits, insane spirits, epileptic spirits, familiar spirits, foul spirits, and still others.

When these spirits were created, they were not unclean spirits but were holy beings. God does not create wicked spirits; God said of Lucifer before he fell, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee" (Ezek. 28:15). But Lucifer through his pride apostatized and came under judgment. The demons were apparently involved in Satan's rebellion.

Having lost their bodies, the demons became disembodied spirits. As human beings vary in their talents, abilities, and powers, so these spirits after their disembodiment retain to some degree the special aptitudes and capabilities of their former existence, although all is perverted to evil purposes. Some demons are more subtle than others in their operations and their capacity to deceive. Others, like the epileptic spirit, have much greater power than other demons. Once this kind of spirit gets control, it is able to resist expulsion more than others.

Again there are seducing spirits that are engaged in enticing men and women into immorality. Others are murderous spirits which incite men to commit homicide or self-destruction. Still others are familiar spirits that enter into a sort of covenant relationship with the medium. They pretend to be spirits of dead persons who previously lived on the earth.

Demons of the Sense Organs

Certain demons are able to assume a measure of control over the physical body through the major nerve centers of the sense organs. It should be noted that these kinds of spirits do not necessarily acquire dominion over the moral nature of the person. Indeed they are often able to afflict devoted Christians who do not understand nor realize their authority over Satan. Let us notice the operations of various types of spirits as recorded in the gospels.

Deaf and Blind Spirits

"Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw" (Matt. 12:22).

Evil spirits are able to produce deafness by lodging on the auditory nerve. They are able to cause blindness by resting upon the optic nerve. Where the structure of the organ has not been damaged, often startling miracles result through the simple exorcising of these spirits. When they lodge on important nerves, the organ becomes paralyzed and ceases to function properly. Thus when the deaf spirit is cast out, the person is immediately able to hear sounds. Unfortunately, if the person has been deaf since birth or infancy, he will be able to hear the sound but unable to understand its meaning any more than we can understand Chinese when we hear it for the first time. The lay person, however, often fails to take this into consideration and expects the individual to begin carrying on a fluent conversation at once. But he cannot, any more than we could converse with a foreigner in his language, after hearing him speak for the first time. Without special care, the deaf person already suffering from an inferiority complex tends to withdraw back into his shell and continue to live in the world to which he is accustomed.

It seems strange to some people that a demon can cause blindness. The writer once was conversing with a prominent minister on the subject, and he strongly objected to the view that a demon could cause blindness. When I showed him Matthew 12:22, he looked at it in astonishment, having apparently failed before to note its significance. Those who have prayed for deaf people or the blind well know that such spirits are able to produce these conditions, and when they are cast out it often results in instantaneous deliverance.

In foreign lands during the great healing campaigns of a few years ago, perhaps the most spectacular deliverances were those in which demons

in blind persons were cast out. The blind people had never been taught either belief or unbelief. Although they knew little of the Scriptures, when they heard of people getting healed, it seemed that their faith would be so stimulated that large numbers of such cases would receive instant deliverance. There would not be the atmosphere of doubt present that so effectually hinders the working of the miraculous in the homeland.

A child is often easy to minister to as he has a natural faith. In the case of a blind child, if the eyes are not structurally damaged and the condition arises simply because a blind spirit has deadened the optic nerve, the deliverance can be so immediate as to send a thrill through a large congregation, and any opposition to miraculous healing is quickly silenced. Such a case occurred some years ago in a large meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. One of the newspapers initiated a series of articles denouncing the meetings and asserting that the reported healings were all fraudulent. One of the boys that I had prayed for personally in an afternoon meeting had been brought to the services totally blind. After prayer his eyes were wonderfully opened. When the case was presented to the large congregation together with the testimonies of the mother and the boy's nurse, the newspaper quickly ceased its persecutions. It was a little late, however, in its action, for many people sent in notice to discontinue subscriptions to the paper. Some time after, it went out of business.

It must be stated, however, that if there is serious structural damage to the eye, casting out the offending spirit is not sufficient. A creative miracle is necessary to restore sight.

On occasion these kinds of spirits may also attack the vocal organs, either giving their victims an impediment of speech or causing them to become mute altogether. When such spirits are cast out, the tongue is immediately loosed (Mark 7:32-35).

Infirm Spirits

There are also spirits which control or inhabit the functions of the members of the body in various ways. These may be classified as infirm spirits. On occasion they may settle on the spinal cord, an organ which performs vital functions of the body and which controls the reflexes of the entire nervous system. On occasion these spirits may cause the person's body to be twisted or bowed over in a most grotesque manner. In Luke 13:11, we have an example of this nature. We are told of a woman who had

an infirm spirit who was "bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself."

It is significant to note that Jesus specifically stated that she was a daughter of Abraham, a daughter of faith. In other words, she was a believer in the faith of Abraham. This shows that there are people who are believers who may be subject to infirm spirits. When Christ cast out the infirm spirit, she was able to stand and walk normally.

This is a circumstance that is hard for some people to accept. It is a hard pill to swallow that their affliction may be caused by an infirm spirit. They will continue to suffer with their infirmity, comforting themselves with the illusion that God has put this burden upon them for some mysterious purpose. But Jesus in one stroke swept away these false illusions by frankly stating that although this woman was a true daughter of Abraham, Satan had bound her with a spirit of infirmity. The devil was responsible and not God.

Actually the devil has no right to afflict the body of a believer, any more than he has his soul, and if the individual recognizes his position of authority in God, he will not tolerate the enemy to continue to oppress him. But it is up to Christians to recognize their authority and take dominion over evil spirits.

The severe symptoms caused by an infirm spirit seizing control of the muscles of the throat are not an uncommon occurrence. A lady whom I have known well for many years had such an experience. She was suffering from some trouble in her throat caused by a flu virus. Suddenly a strange power seemed to seize her throat, causing her extreme distress and severe choking spells. In desperation, she called me long distance and explained what had happened. I recognized at once that an infirm spirit had gained control of her throat muscles and she was in serious danger. I told her over the phone to recognize her position in Christ as a believer and that the devil had no right to so affect a child of God. We then rebuked the infirm spirit and relief came almost instantly.

It should be understood that not all afflictions are directly caused by demons. Most diseases are caused by virus or various kinds of germs or bacteria. However, in many cases such diseases weaken the body so that an infirm spirit may get control of some organ of the body. To secure complete deliverance the afflicting spirit must be cast out. Thus Peter's mother-in-law was ill with a great fever, which perhaps began with a virus. But Jesus

recognized that an afflicting spirit of some kind was there and had taken advantage of the condition and was oppressing the woman. He, therefore, rebuked it, resulting in the mother-in-law's immediate deliverance.

Oppression of the Brain

There is a difference between the mind and the brain. After the physical body dies, the mind still retains consciousness. The brain is a very powerful tool of the mind, though the two are not identical. When the devil gets complete control of the mind, it gradually becomes Satanic just like its master. However, Satan may attack the physical brain and not the mind and produce seizures that will actually render the victim unconscious. Such was the case of the boy who was subject to attacks by a powerful epileptic demon (Mark 9:14-29). Likewise was the case of Elder Graves who wrote a number of our favorite Christian songs such as "Honey in the Rock." He was, however, gloriously delivered from the power of the epileptic spirit.

Thus far we have considered various ways in which demons afflict the human body, including those of many Christians who do not understand their authority and position in Christ. In the cases considered, the devil attacked the nervous system of the body, but did not affect the person's moral character. We shall now note ways in which the devil attacks the moral nature of man, deceiving him and demoralizing and diseasing his spirit. This power of Satan to transform his dupes into his own image is spoken of by Paul in II Cor. 11:14, 15:

"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."

Lying Spirits

"And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. And the Lord said unto him. Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit, in the mouth of his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so" (I Kings 22:19-22).

The incident recorded in Chapter 22 of I Kings is of special interest as it throws light on the activities of demons in the spirit world. As for the background of the incident, King Ahab had persuaded Jehoshaphat to join him in a military venture to take Ramoth-gilead, a town which was located at the site of the present city of Salt, Jordan. Jehoshaphat was a godly king, but he had a weakness for ventures with the ungodly Ahab. King Ahab, it will be recalled, married the wicked Jezebel, a woman utterly void of principle, who heads the list of the most infamous female characters in the Bible.

After Ahab had secured Jehoshaphat's pledge to join him in his plan to capture Ramoth-gilead, his first step was to consult his oracles. Ahab's court always supported a large band of prophets who were instructed to prophesy good things. He was like Balak, who in the days of Balaam believed that with gold and silver he could hire the services of prophets to put a curse on his enemies and secure immunity from harm himself.

As it happened, all of Ahab's prophets prophesied certain victory. But the Scriptures reveal that these prophets were possessed by lying spirits. Naturally, deceiving spirits do not always lie. Their powers of deception depend on their telling the truth part of the time, until they have gained the confidence of their victims. In this respect it is interesting to recall that Adolph Hitler was in the habit of consulting seers and astrologers. His oracles time after time prophesied victories which came to pass so consistently until all Europe was believing Hitler was invincible, that he was born under a lucky star. Attempts were made to assassinate him, but apparently he lived a charmed life. It was after Hitler was convinced that he was infallible that "the stars in their courses fought against" him (Judges 5:20). At a certain point in his career the tide turned, and from then on everything seemed to work against him, until finally he had to accept the inevitable that he was a doomed man.

Ahab had supreme confidence in his prophets. He had carefully coached them to prophesy good things. Jehoshaphat, who began to be a little leary of them, finally realized that these prophets were not prophets of the Lord at all. Somewhat disturbed, he inquired, "Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we might inquire of him?" (I Kings 22:7). Ahab frowned when he heard this, for he knew such a man, Micaiah, but he hated him because he never prophesied anything good, but only bad things. What was the use of having a prophet unless he prophesied good things?

Nevertheless, because Jehoshaphat insisted, Micaiah was brought out. Apparently the messenger who was sent to procure him had been also instructed and he told Micaiah, "Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good" (I Kings 22:13).

But Micaiah was not a prophet that could be bought, and he too had a word; and his word was from the Lord. He saw the men of Israel scattered on the hills and their master missing. He was not afraid to tell the king the truth, although he knew that to do so was at the risk of his own life. He then related to Ahab and Jehoshaphat the strange scene he had witnessed in the spirit world.

In this connection we see that in the absolute sense, God rules the universe, that even the evil spirits may go no further than they are permitted. For the sake of Jehoshaphat, God was making known the truth of what was happening in the spirit world that caused the Baal prophets to prophesy victory. If Ahab had had enough sense to have accepted Micaiah's warning, he would have saved his life. Nevertheless, he preferred to give heed to his hired prophets whose task was to predict "good things" regardless of the real truth.

As we have seen, the lying spirits had received divine permission to put lies in the mouth of Ahab's prophets. They had evidently secured Ahab's confidence, but now was the time to practice their deception and lead Ahab to his doom. It is often true that those who consult the occult oracles seem to prosper up to a certain point. Then everything goes against them.

Ahab thought to settle what he thought was Micaiah's insolence by sentencing him to a bread-and-water diet in prison. Ahab in a fool's euphoria continued his plans, confident of victory, but his plans led only to his own death in battle. His execrable wife Jezebel was soon to suffer a similar fate—an ignominious death.

It is important to note that lying spirits are permitted to deceive only when heaven gives the word. Christ said that "if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24). God is guarding the interests of His elect, even as He did for His servant Jehoshaphat.

Nevertheless, in the coming days preceding the great battle of Armageddon these lying spirits will be permitted to go forth and gather the armies of the nations "to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

"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 the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:13, 14).

The number of lying spirits which are abroad these days deceiving people and leading them into darkness indicates that the great showdown of Armageddon is not far off.

The Case of John Alexander Dowie

In the case of John Alexander Dowie, during the heyday of his great healing ministry, a man came to him and told him that he was Elijah returned to earth. Dowie sharply rebuked him for suggesting such a thing and declared that a lying spirit had told him this. But in the years following, Dowie never completely rid himself of the idea. He dallied with the thought, speculating whether he might be Elijah after all. The result was that in time the lying spirits impressed it so on his consciousness that the idea became more than a possibility; it turned into an obsession. He wanted to believe it, and the time finally came that he did believe it. Thus Satan was able to destroy a great ministry. The man who had by his great faith brought deliverance to multitudes and had won the respect of the nation, suddenly by his act of folly destroyed his ministry and made himself the laughing stock of unbelievers.

A similar instance has taken place in recent years in the case of another man of God. Fawning followers, anxious to bask in the light of a man greatly used of God, insisted that he was Elijah returned to earth. When he reluctantly went along with these people, who were possessed by these lying spirits, his ministry came to an abrupt end. Lying spirits and seducing spirits are very similar in their operation. Seducing spirits are particularly characterized by their work of subverting people from the pure faith of the Gospel into some kind of perversion of it. We shall consider these kinds of spirits next.

Seducing Spirits

"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; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:1, 2).

Seducing spirits are a special kind of demon which is deceptive, but their function is essentially to lead people away from the faith into false doctrine. Paul mentions a few examples in Verse 3, such as "forbidding to marry" and to "abstain from meats." As we know, there are denominations which forbid their ministers to marry, which often leads to immorality and various deviations. There are other groups which teach that it is a sin to eat meat and contend that people should be restricted to a vegetarian diet.

These are sidelines; the real object of seducing spirits is to influence people to depart from the faith. Paul adds to his remarks on this subject in II Timothy 3:1, 4-5, in which he mentions that in the last days men will have a "form of godliness but denying the power thereof." These people are characterized as "high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." All such are influenced by the doctrines of seducing spirits. Ostensibly these "ministers of light" are not opposers of religion, but rather they substitute a false form of it which the Bible characterizes as apostate.

Peter warns of these false teachers and false prophets in II Peter 2:1-2.

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

Peter condemns such teachers in rather harsh words, comparing them to Balaam the hireling prophet and saying, "These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest, to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever" (II Pet. 2:17).

Jude also warns against these men and exhorts the saints to contend earnestly for the faith, adding:

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4).

Jude too compares them to Balaam who went greedily after reward. Balaam as we know misused his gift and turned to enchantments. Joshua 13:22 shows that Balaam in the end became a common soothsayer and was slain by the children of Israel. A soothsayer is one who practices divination with familiar spirits.

False religions and cults spring up as a result of leaders and their followers being deceived by seducing spirits.

We are reminded of the case of a minister we have known who twenty years ago was considered sound in his teachings. It is evident that he now is the victim of seducing spirits. A copy of his latest book came to me containing his most recent "revelations." They are so ludicrous that it seems foolish even to take notice of them. First, he contends that scientists, geologists, explorers, and air pilots are all in a gigantic conspiracy to conceal the truth about the North and South Poles, that in reality a hole exists there that descends to the center of the earth. He adds that at this point is located both paradise and the bottomless pit. And the interior sun, so he claims, illuminates this region in the heart of the earth. There the wicked and even Satan will be converted, although it will take some centuries to effect the latter. As can be seen, the man is hopelessly the victim of seducing spirits, demons which have led him into the depths of delusion.

Seducing spirits on occasion may work very subtly, and are busy today seeking to influence and sidetrack men who have been used of God. The spirits if possible will lead the person out of the mainstream of Christianity into some sideline that substantially or altogether cancels his effectiveness as an evangelical minister. Or alas, in some instances, may cause the man to repudiate his whole faith and take up with some occult religion as was the sad case of Bishop Pike.

The Demon of Murder

Among the demons that took possession of King Saul was a murderous demon. It is one thing to be envious of another person or jealous of him, it is another thing to want to kill him. But the relation between the two is nearer than generally realized. When these passions dominate the human heart, the door is open to the murder demon. This is clearly exemplified in the life of Saul. When "the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him" (I Sam. 16:14). At that time the demon did not yet have a strong grip on the king, and when David played on his harp the songs of Zion, the spirit of worship drove away the oppressing spirit (verse 23).

Later, however, when David became popular in Israel after slaying the giant Goliath, the king became exceedingly jealous. A murderous spirit entered into him, and he attempted to kill David with his javelin (I Sam.

18:10-12). Indeed later, Saul made an attempt to murder his own son Jonathan (I Sam. 20:30-33).

The firstborn of the human race was a murderer, and he slew his brother Abel in a fit of jealousy and rage. The inference is that a murderous demon took possession of Cain, "who was of that wicked one" because of his hatred for his brother:

"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous" (I John 3:10-12).

The average person finds it hard to conceive of circumstances which would drive him to take human life. And yet most murders are not committed by professional criminals, but by relatives or acquaintances of the victim.

We have the case of Abimelech, the son of Gideon's concubine, whose ruthless ambition caused him to murder 70 of his brethren. It is implied that his treacherous act was caused by a murderous spirit which not only dominated him, but in the end came between him and his own men of Shechem (Judges 9:23).

John the apostle said, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer. . ." (I John 3:15). When these passions of hatred are allowed full sway, they permit demon powers to gain entrance into the heart. Thus begins a vicious cycle, for demons increase their hold until they have the victim completely under their power.

In the William Heirens case, which involved a series of heinous crimes that rocked Chicago, young Heirens after his capture was placed under a "truth serum." While under the influence of the drug, a remarkable confession came forth. It revealed a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde case all over again. Heirens blamed the crimes on another person altogether whom he called "George Murman," and who he claimed lived inside him.

This evil personality apparently took possession of young Heirens after he had seen the film *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. In interviews with Lucy Freeman, a noted woman psychiatrist, he discussed his dual personality, and in a very confused state of mind, said of George: "I cannot put my finger where he is at, or where he is, but to me he seems just as real as if he is

here." While young Bill was under the influence of the "truth serum," he told how he tried to "make George a good boy," but that George always insisted on having his own way.

The case was indeed remarkable from other aspects. So real was this person to Heirens that when the youth was captured, they actually found a letter addressed to George Murman on his person. Heirens described George as "having red eyes, being about six feet tall, combs his hair straight back, and slicks it down with oil."

When asked if this man was a part of him, his answer was, "He has to be a part of me." Lucy Freeman, who had many interviews with Heirens and made a detailed study of the strange case expressed certainty that the boy was definitely schizophrenic, a split personality. During the interviews, Heirens, far from being a wild man, seemed to be an earnest youth sincerely interested in learning why he did certain things. At times he was convinced that he had nothing to do with the murders; at other times it was George Murman who was the one responsible. Yet again he admitted that he must have been the one who committed the crimes.

Mrs. Freeman, in diagnosing the strange case, called special attention to the writing on the wall in lipstick that was left by the murderer after he had killed one of his victims. The scrawled note shows a split personality—man and demon. It read:

"For heaven's sake catch me before I kill more. I can't control myself."

Psychiatrists in most cases do not admit the existence of demons. Therefore, Mrs. Freeman lacked a vital link in her attempt to analyze the condition of young Heirens.

It would seem that even if we did not have the Bible to go by, the evidence would be irresistible that there are malicious spirits who get control of human beings and cause them to do terrible things. In Heiren's case, it was a murder demon. (See author's book *The Scarlet Sin* for further information on the activities of these kinds of demons.)

Chapter IV

Stages of Demonic Control— Oppression, Obsession, Possession

The subject of demonic oppression is one that is greatly misunderstood by Christians. People confuse the terms—demon oppression, demon obsession, and demon possession. In so doing they are often led into error and false conclusions concerning this subject.

We must begin by declaring it is not the will of God for a believer to be under Satan's oppression in any form or way. This refers principally to demonic oppression, since Satan exercises his power and extends his sway largely through his vast army of evil spirits. Satan is a defeated foe, as far as the Christian is concerned. As Christ was "in the world, so are ye." The devil sought to tempt Christ on various occasions, but never once did he succeed in getting him to yield. Satan was unable to touch Him because He was wholly committed to the will of the Father and refused to hearken to his solicitations. The Lord resisted the enemy through the sword of the Spirit saying, "It is written." So as the shadow of the cross loomed before Him, Jesus could say, "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me" (John 14:30).

How does Satan get control of a human being? Certainly he cannot go up to a person and take over by direct onslaught. He would like to do this if he could, but the human body is so created by God as to possess certain barriers that resist the intrusion of alien spirits. Ordinarily a period of time is required for Satan to get full control of a person, and he begins generally with the mind. He whispers a subtle suggestion, and if it is accepted, he gets a little foothold. He then goes on from there.

Sinners are naturally vulnerable to Satan's attacks, but in the beginning the person may, if he chooses, reject his suggestions.

Man has a conscience and the power of a will. He has power to reject Satan and choose the right. If he rejects Christ, the demonic influences gradually increase their pressure, and if no change of attitude occurs, chains are forged that eventually cannot be broken by human power. The

importance of being born again and accepting Christ into every department of one's life is clear from I John 5:18, 19:

"We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

From this we see that sin is the main avenue by which Satan can attack the soul. It is indeed important that the Christian keep himself from all evil, for then he shuts off the avenues by which Satan enters. Certainly the person has something to do. "He that is begotten of God keepeth himself." We are told to resist the devil and he will flee from us (James 4:7). The latter part of the Scripture in I John 5:19 is of solemn import. "The whole world lieth in wickedness," or "the wicked one." It is because of the prevalence of evil in the world that Satan is able to create such havoc within the human race. The only antidote is repentance and the new birth. We cannot exorcise the devil from the heart unless there is a change of heart. If the enemy is cast out and the heart is unchanged, it would only be an invitation for the devil to return. Thus to secure deliverance from the oppression of Satan we seek first to bring men to repentance.

"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (II Tim. 2:25,26).

True repentance is one of the greatest means of exorcising Satan's grip upon a life.

The Incident of the Demon Possessed Intruder

One of the cases in which a man under demonic control attempting a daring confrontation with a man of God in public assembly occurred some years ago in the City Auditorium in Portland, Oregon. The incident happened during a campaign which the writer was managing. Early in the service, just as the evangelist had gone to the rostrum to speak, a man walked up the aisle and took a menacing attitude on the platform. In a loud voice he began to denounce the minister, cursing him, calling him a snake in the grass, a deceiver of the people, a liar. It was an evident case of demon possession.

The disturbance threw a momentary scare into the ministers, a large number of whom were sitting on the platform. The challenger was strong

physically and well able to carry out his threats against the diminutive evangelist. However, the man of God went over and stood beside him and began to take dominion over him in the name of Jesus, saying, "Satan, because you have come here to cast reproach on the man of God and to harm the Lord's anointed, therefore, in the name of Jesus you must fall down before me on the floor." The man suddenly began to be under a terrible strain; his eyes bulged, his veins stood out, beads of perspiration stood on his forehead as he ineffectually tried to withstand the power that was overcoming him. Suddenly with a groan he fell to the floor, sobbing. Satan had met his match.

But as the evangelist explained, the man was not fully delivered since he did not desire deliverance from the demon. Satan's control had reached the point of obsession, and it had caused the man to attempt to break up the meeting. We learned afterward he had broken up services in various churches previously, but in none of these was there the faith to deal with him as occurred in the Portland auditorium. So far as we know, he never again repeated his performance.

Distinguishing Between Demon Oppression, Obsession, and Possession

Satan's initial manner of approach is through the human mind. He cannot just go up to people and by direct attack take possession of their bodies; he must work by more subtle means. Usually he does not accomplish his work instantly, but there is a process of time involved. The cardinal sin is that the person realizing that there is a deterioration of his personality does nothing about it. If he resists the Holy Spirit's wooings, the demon powers will gradually exercise a stronger and stronger control until at last they have forged fetters that can scarcely be broken.

The unsaved are more or less under oppression from Satan, but there are sharp differences between individuals as to the extent of their control. Thus the devil's influence over some persons is comparatively weak. Their conscience is tender, and when the gospel is preached to them they presently yield themselves to the Spirit's call and accept Christ's way of salvation. On the other hand, there are those who steadily resist the Holy Spirit and thereby come more and more under the sway of the enemy. Unfortunately these people do not realize, or else refuse to recognize, that the power which is influencing them against Christ is that of Satan. Their

only hope of deliverance lies in their turning away from the enemy of the soul and accepting Christ, even as Paul declares in II Tim. 2:25, 26.

Under the malign influence of Satan the human soul outside of God steadily gravitates into evil ways and loses its taste for anything spiritual. Unregenerate man never of himself turns to Christ and will only do so if the Word of God is powerfully applied to his heart and quickened by the Spirit. Paul describes this in Ephesians:

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 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" (Eph. 2:1. 2).

The awakened sinner when under deep conviction of the Spirit realizes to some degree his unpreparedness to meet God. To receive deliverance from Satan's control, he must repent and accept Christ. Whatever the decision, ultimately it will determine for eternity whether he will be a saved man or henceforth a slave of Satan.

Demon Oppression of the Mind

When the human mind is not in full accord with the revealed will of God, it is to some degree open to suggestions of the enemy. This can be observed in the case of Peter, who no doubt was a saved man (Luke 10:20). When Jesus asked, "Whom do men say that I am?" the disciples replied that the religious leaders had various answers, yet not the right one. But when Jesus asked, "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter was quick to answer, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." The Lord pointed out that flesh and blood had not revealed this to him, but the Father in heaven (Matt. 16:15-16).

In view of this divine revelation that Peter received, it is interesting to note that in the next verses we are told he was open to a subtle suggestion from Satan, so much so that he took it upon himself to rebuke the Lord and tell Him He was not to die upon the cross. Note what Jesus said in reply. He did not address Peter at all, but it was a rebuke to the evil spirit that was seeking to influence Peter's thinking:

"Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men" (Matt. 16:23).

In other words, Peter was so carnal he could not distinguish between the voice of God and the voice of Satan. This same mistake is often made

by carnal Christians who sometimes think they have received a special revelation from heaven; but it actually originated from one of Satan's emissaries.

I recall an instance of a woman who was trying to persuade us to accept a certain "revelation" which she claimed to have received. I pointed out that the Scriptures did not back up her "revelation." She told me that this "new light" was received only by special dispensation. I replied perhaps a little sternly (though I did not mean to be harsh, but I felt under the circumstances that it was necessary to be very plain) that she had indeed seen a light, but not the light of the Word of God, rather "the glow from the bottomless pit." She was, of course, not happy over this remark.

Isaiah 53 tells of the sufferings of the Messiah who was to come, but Peter did not see it that way. He wanted the Lord to set up His throne on earth immediately. This suggestion did not come from God; it came from Satan. The Lord gave the devil a rebuke, saying, "Get thee behind me Satan . . . for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

Demonic Obsession

Demon oppression is Satan's first step in seeking control of a human being. It varies in intensity and effectiveness in different persons, but if the individual makes no serious attempt to resist the evil powers, inevitably Satan's grip becomes stronger and stronger.

When a person is "neurotic," evidence is that Satan has increased his hold to the point that his thinking in some channels has become seriously distorted. The number of neurotics in this country is far greater than is generally supposed. Some put the number as high as one in ten. A neurotic is sane in most respects, but on some line tends to act irrationally with abnormal conduct. Since we deal with the subject of neurosis in detail elsewhere, we shall not enlarge on the subject here, except to say that Satan in such cases has usually succeeded in securing a hold strong enough on the person that he is no longer a happy, normal individual. Unfortunately among this company are not a few professing Christians, some of whom are verging on a mental breakdown.

As we have said, demonic oppression once it begins tends to increase rather than decrease, and over the years if unchecked, may move into the realm of obsession.

Obsession is far more serious than is oppression. The person may still be recognized as legally sane, but his thinking on certain lines is dangerously warped and distorted. He is well on his way to a paranoid condition which will bring his sanity into serious question.

A person who is oppressed by an evil spirit may recognize his condition and fervently desire deliverance. It is popular today to consult a psychiatrist, if one is financially able. Treatments are very costly and most extend over a period of many months or even years. A Christian, however, should look to the Lord rather than to the arm of flesh. Unfortunately, when a person reaches a state of obsession, he is for all practical purposes mentally unsound. He often does not wish deliverance because he fervently believes in or wishes to harbor his delusions.

The classic illustration in the Scriptures of obsession is the case of King Saul. Even though the demon of jealousy which troubled him had been exorcised several times, Saul continued to brood over his misfortunes. True to the symptoms of his disease, he imagined that his troubles were caused by another— David, in this case—rather than himself. As a consequence of his constant brooding, he invited the devil to return. As the demon increased his hold upon Saul, he became obsessed with the desire to kill David, the one who had done him a great service by slaying the giant Goliath, who had challenged the armies of Israel.

Saul never rid himself of this obsession, but continued on in his mad course, pursuing David and abandoning himself to his elemental emotions, until finally the Spirit of the Lord departed from him altogether. His act on the final night of his life was to consult a witch in an attempt to communicate with Samuel, long dead.

Demon Possession

Absolute demon possession often means insanity, although there is another kind of demonic possession in which the person enters into a kind of covenant relation with the demon—the spiritualist medium. We shall discuss this in another volume.

Often where demon possession results in a psychotic condition, a number of demons have entered into a person. The disease progresses by stages, and finally the demons increase their grip until the person is hopelessly under their control. What are the causes of such a sad condition? The uncontrolled emotions of jealousy, hatred, envy, bitterness, and the like,

open the door to these wicked spirits. People who know not the Lord or do not live close to Him, who get into serious trouble or incur severe financial losses may brood over their misfortunes. In so doing, they encourage the entrance of these unclean spirits. Their attitude becomes entirely negative, and instead of an atmosphere of dominion, they tend to absorb the prevailing elements that surround them. In such cases more than one demon may enter, and the condition is aggravated until the person becomes violently insane.

We are living in days when so many people have become mentally maladjusted that psychiatry is having a field day. But psychiatrists generally do not recognize the existence of demon spirits, and of course have no power to cast them out. Since their diagnosis is faulty, their ability to cure is limited to teaching people to live with their sins. The adulterer, for example, is not told by the average psychiatrist to break off his evil doings, but rather to submerge or ignore his guilt complex. (There are, of course, trained Christian psychiatrists who do excellent work, but their number is relatively small.)

The most prominent case of absolute demon possession in the Bible is related in Mark 5:1-19. As we have mentioned elsewhere, the man was not possessed of one but of a legion of demons. The demoniac had superhuman power, breaking the fetters and chains with which men attempted to bind him. In his torment he tore the clothes from his back and ran about in the tombs crying and cutting himself with the sharp stones.

The man could not by the remotest possibility have delivered himself. But Jesus in His great compassion delivered him from the legion of demons, after which he sat at Jesus' feet, clothed and in his right mind. Following his great deliverance, the man went back to his own city and published everywhere the story of how Christ had healed him.

Exhibitionism—Sign of Demon Possession

We cannot begin to cover the many phases of demon possession in the limited space at our disposal. We noted that the demon-possessed man, immediately after deliverance clothed himself. A pronounced inclination to nudity, almost a certain sign of demon possession, is becoming common these days.

One of the most startling cases of exhibitionism that ever came to our attention was that of a man who visited our church in which we were pastors years ago. On the surface the man seemed to be normal. In fact he

held a position of trust in a large religious organization. It is hard to imagine that under the respectable facade he presented, there lurked a raging demon. Consequently we could scarcely believe our ears when we heard that in the next city he had been caught and arrested in the act of exhibiting himself to some young girls. How powerful must have been the sinister drive to allow him to commit an act that in a moment resulted in tearing down everything he had built up in a lifetime, bringing shame upon his wife and family.

That sad event occurred a number of years ago. Since then there has been a steady moral deterioration of society. Masses of people seem to be under the influence of exhibitionist demons. At outdoor rock festivals, it is not unusual for a number of young people to disrobe completely. Nudity is now common on some California beaches. Thousands of young women shamelessly expose their bodies to supply the demand of pornographic photography. Due to the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, pornographic films and plays are regularly displayed in "adult theaters" where the vilest perversions are performed.

As in the case of the demons, which after being cast out of the demoniac swarmed over the swine causing them to panic and stampede to their destruction, demons today seem to swarm en-masse over humanity that has sold itself to sensuality, driving it to madness and to the most extreme acts of depravity. It has been said to be bestiality. But that is not true, for an animal has a covering, and only human beings in the lowest stages of moral degeneration seek to expose themselves.

The Believer Has Power Over All Power of the Enemy

"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:17-19).

We must reserve for a succeeding volume a discussion of how the believer indeed has all power over the enemy. But in closing we shall relate one instance of the casting out of a powerful insane demon, an incident which was carried in the book, *The New John G. Lake Sermons*. It is the story of a remarkable deliverance in South Africa of a demon-possessed boy, one of many that took place during those eventful years. Dr. Lake

begins by telling of the conversion of a young man named Von Shield. After he received the baptism of the Spirit, he retired to the mountains to pray. When he returned weeks later, he had received a mighty anointing of the Spirit. Dr. Lake tells what happened:

One day Von Shield returned under such an anointing of the Spirit as I have never before witnessed on any life. Not long after that he came to me and said, "Brother Lake, did you know this was in the Bible?" And he proceeded to read to me that familiar verse in the 16th chapter of Mark: "These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils." Looking up into my face with great earnestness, he said, "My! I wish I knew somebody that had a devil!"

I believe God had planned that situation, for I was reminded that in my mail a couple of days before had come a request for an insane son. The mother said, "As far as I can tell my son has a devil," and her request was that we might come and pray that the devil might be cast out. He said, "Why, this is only a couple or three blocks from where I live. I am going to find this fellow and then I am coming back for you."

I said to myself, "Here is a newborn soul, whose vision enters into the real realm of God-power." I realized that my own spirit had not touched the degree of faith that was in that soul, and I said to myself, "I do not want to say a word or do a thing that will discourage that soul in the least."

Presently he came back and said, "Brother Lake, come on." We went and found a boy who had been mad from his birth; he was like a wild animal. He would not wear clothes and would smash himself or anybody else with anything that was given him. He couldn't even have a dish to eat on. But in the center of the enclosure where he was they had a large stone hollowed out and they would put his food in that and let him eat it just like an animal.

We tried to catch him, but he was wild as a lion. He would jump right over my head. Finally his father said, "You will not catch him out there." I had been somewhat of an athlete in my youth and I said to Von Shield, "You get on one side and if he comes to your side you will take care of him, and if he comes to my side I will take care of him."

Now beloved, this all sounds strange I know, but I'll never forget that afternoon as long as I live. As I looked across to that young man I could see the lightning flash of faith, and I knew that if he got his hands on that man that devil would come out.

Presently he landed on my side of the bed, and in an instant Von Shield sprang over the bed, laid his hands on his head and commanded the devil to come out. In two minutes that man was absolutely transformed, and was a sane man, the first moment of sanity he ever knew.

What is the Final Fate of the Demons?

What of the future of the demonic hosts? What will be their fate? One of the most fearsome events involving demons will occur during the great and terrible day of the Lord. It will be the incursion of demons from the bottomless pit. Apparently there is a great number of these spirits presently incarcerated in the pit (also called the abyss), a place of imprisonment of spirits. Just why some demons are free and others are imprisoned is not clear, but at the sounding of the fifth trumpet the bottomless pit is opened, and these malicious spirits will be permitted to escape to conduct new mischief upon earth. When we consider the extent of evil that the demon spirits now roaming the earth are able to inflict upon humanity, one can only imagine the fearful result of these vast reinforcements of the hosts of hell.

The appearance of these demons from the pit is that of locusts, but they are not ordinary locusts, for the description given is of something entirely different. Ordinary locusts attack the green vegetation, but these do not hurt "the grass of the earth, neither any green thing." They do have a grievous power to afflict the wicked, tormenting them but not producing death. Their activities are controlled by Abaddon, the angel of the bottomless pit. (Rev. 9:1-11).

As the great and terrible day of the Lord does not occur until following the Great Tribulation and the final harvest of God's elect, the saints will not be affected by this terrible judgment, but woe to those who reject the gospel and remain on earth during these terrible days.

The demons know that they have a limited period of freedom on earth. When Jesus met the demoniac in which a legion of demons dwelt, they cried out, "Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" (Matt. 8:29). Adam had received authority over the earth for a period of time; when he through obedience to Satan transferred his authority to him, the kingdom of darkness exercised dominion over the earth. But that time at last is drawing to a close. After the judgments of the day of the Lord, Satan and his followers will be cast into the bottomless pit.

"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" (Rev. 20:1-3).

After the thousand years are finished, Satan will be loosed for a little season to test the inhabitants of the earth born during the Millennium. Following that he will be cast into the lake of fire.

"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" (Rev. 20:10).

That this same judgment will be inflicted upon the followers of Satan is explicitly stated in 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"

Thus ends the regime of this wicked archangel, but as Jesus said, "but the righteous [go] into life eternal" (Matt. 25:46).