

Angels

In the study of spirits, angels, devils and demons, we are concerned with the action or function of these spirits today. We will study the function of spirits (both good and bad) from the beginning of Old Testament throughout the New Testament up to the present time. However, we want to consider and to give particular attention to the action and operation of spirits in this present era. This will be our chief endeavor because in this present period of time we find the greatest realm of disagreement about this important subject among Christians. First to understand this subject thoroughly we will have to understand God's dealing with mankind in general as well as God's own people.

From the beginning of the Bible until the last book of the New Testament we find God has concerned Himself with the affairs of the world, both amongst His own people and also amongst the nations of the world. This includes individuals also in both these realms. Whatever we are to learn about the action of spirits, angels, and demons in this era of the world affairs, it must of course be drawn from the Bible (both the Old and New Testament). God has revealed all knowledge that we need about this subject. From His revelation we will proceed to reason as to the function of the spirit world in these times; both the devil's sphere of influence as well as that of God's province. Psalms 125:2.

It is most necessary in a study of this kind to first obtain the necessary knowledge given to us in the Bible to ascertain just how much power God wields in the affairs of men, in the province of the devil and in the spirit world. However, we can never know all of it but the Bible will give us necessary knowledge of it so that we can then ascertain whether or not his (devil's) power has diminished in these realms and whether or not the same power is still exercised and how it is being used. We want to know just how God has used the power which He has and how it is being done today. It is often heard and taught that there are no miracles performed today and that God's function in the affairs of the world, both amongst His people and the heathen is done through only one medium and that is through the natural realm. In other words if a brother or sister is sick unto death, prayers are made by the saints for recovery, the sick one recovers and not by any interference of God but solely through the medium. Whether the doctor, the medicine and/or other means available here on earth. If the sick one recovers it is not due to interference by God but as a natural result of using the means supplied by man.

However, in studying God's operation and action through all the ages there is not one bit of evidence that God has at any time in the history of man left him solely to his own devices nor kept His hand out of his affairs either amongst His people or amongst the people of the world. Therefore, if we are to gain our knowledge from the Bible on the subject of God's influence and use of His power and if we are to understand whether or not God's actions and operation as of long ago has ceased we will have to go to the Bible for that confirmation. For if the Bible does not confirm this viewpoint we must change our minds and accept the Bible and not an opinion. Furthermore there is not a shred of evidence which would prove that God in this era keeps His, "a hands off policy", and

every___ and absolutely through the realm of natural happenstance. There is no evidence, scriptural or otherwise, that would lead us to believe that miracles are not a part of the world today.

The Bible teaches throughout that God has always interfered in the affairs of men and of His people. This is taught from Genesis to Revelation and this being true by what logical reason dare we presume to say that, today he does not perform miracles or carry out his will here on earth. If the theory that God works today solely through the natural or nature's province in His dealing with mankind then we should be able to find some confirmation of such an idea as this in the New Testament. However, unfortunately for those who believe that God does not perform miracles today or does not interfere in the natural course of events in this world. There is not any scripture to uphold this point of view. It might be added that to thus believe we would have to limit our prayers in some respects if God works only thru and according to nature's law; meaning of course that He does not break or go beyond the natural laws which govern the earth. Therefore to pray for one who we know is going to die would be to pray in vain; although this may be true in some instances. To understand God's influence and operation in the world today we must get all knowledge and understanding of this through one subject. How many have gone along with those who teach this, with no scriptural evidence to support what they believe and never really have given much attention to this subject?

We knew from God's word that there are angels, devils and spirits of different kinds. What we want to study particularly is the action and function of these various spirits and angels. We go to our Bible for all the information that is necessary to inquire into this particular subject. We know that angels and spirits are a reality but we want to understand how they operate and act in the lives of not only Christians but in the world also. This is the special category which we will help to clarify, inasmuch as there seems to be a dearth or lack of knowledge upon this interesting subject amongst the people of God. As a matter of fact it seldom is taught in the church and much that is taught in God's word is thrust aside as having no bearing in our lives today. Before we finish this lesson we will attempt to prove that angels, devils and demons are just as busy in the lives of Christians and in the world at large, as they ever were. If not, why not? Angels are servants of God and therefore serve Him. Why should such services cease?

From Genesis to Revelation we learn that God has always concerned Himself with the affairs of the world; both amongst His own people and the governments as well as individuals. Angels, and spirits have been used as His servants in the carrying out of His will ever since man has been here on earth. From the knowledge garnered from the Bible we necessarily conclude that God at this present time also intervenes and concerns Himself with mankind, both in the church and outside of the Kingdom. Angels and spirits as well as evil spirits in special instances have been used by Him in furthering His designs and carrying out His will upon this earth. He has wielded His power in various ways and methods, both in His realm as will as that of the devil; and He still does. Many perhaps will disagree with this statement and this lesson, which is written to prove that God's word teaches that, "God is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Miracles which could be

seen by eyes of man and heard are no longer methods of God's used today, we do not decline from this, they have ceased serving God.

God's concern and intervention in the lives of mankind is apparent and is still put into action when He so desires over His own as well as the devil's realm. The natural sphere as well as the elements are used then and now to bring about the furtherance of God's plans and intentions. As this Divine intrusion in the affairs of the world is plainly evident throughout all the ages, from what would we assume that this intervention has ceased? Certainly NOT from the Bible. Our neglect upon this vital subject has caused many to err in their thinking and to reject this premise. Romans 13:1 lends credence to this and we quote, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is NO POWER BUT OF GOD. The powers that be are ordained of God." Whatever power there is on this earth it is ALLOWED OF GOD. God ordains that it should stand, this includes the devil's power but God's power is above all power and the powers that be will stand only so long as He wills.

There is little if any controversy as to the reality of the devil, nor of devils and demons who serve him. We seemingly have difficulty in realizing their presence upon this earth. Rev. 12:7-10 will help us in believing and knowing that the devil and his angels are in our midst. We quote verse 9, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Again we quote Rev. 12:17, "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." John 14:30 reads, "Hereafter I will not talk with you: for the prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in me." John 12:31, "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." Another verse which confirms the descent of the devil to this earth is Luke 10:18, "And He said unto them I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

We can assume from this last verse that the advent of the devil to this earth happened while Christ was here on earth. The above verses are given to prove that the devil is here on earth and Peter in 1 Peter 5:8 explains his activity. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." In Job 1:7 we find that the devil had freedom to go forth upon the earth and in the heavens, which he does not have today. He is confined to this earth and is not at liberty to go where he desires, Rev. 12:10. Read Job 1:6-22 and I quote verse 7, "And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord and said, From going TO AND FRO IN THE EARTH and WALKING UP AND DOWN IN IT." This coincides with what Peter said in 1 Peter 5:3. These verses are given to prove that the devil was active upon this earth in the ages before Christ as well as in New Testament times and the necessary inference is that he is still actively engaged in warring against the saints at the present time.

Acts 12:11-15, "And when Peter was come to himself he said, Now I know of a surety that the Lord hath sent His angel and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod and from all the expectations of the people of the Jews." Peter knew and believed in angels and knew God had rescued him by the angel sent forth from God. Not only did Peter believe in ministering angels but the saints also believed as written in verse 15, "And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel." They had been praying for Peter because he was in much danger. They knew and believed in ministering spirits as well as the fact that the people of God have an angel. They attested to his delivery once by an angel, same as Peter. They also recognized he had an angel. We might add here that in Biblical times it might awe one but there was always an acceptance of the phenomena. Which is more than can be said of my brethren in most instances, for far too many Christians have eliminated angels from their understanding and many find it impossible to explain or to actually believe that angels today serve God's people. Heb 1:14.

We need today to realize that in God's dealings with His people little has been changed, throughout the ages, methods perhaps but little else. The great principles set down in the Old Testament and the great lessons found there are for our learning and add to our knowledge. The devil's power is limited for God's power supersedes all power. In Job 1:12 we read, "And the Lord said unto Satan, FORTH THINE HAND." Satan was allowed only the power over one of God's people to the extent God allowed it. This principle is true today. We also have a protective hedge around us which is the gospel. As the righteousness of Job protected him from the devil's temptations; but we also have the power of prayer and the watchful angels and the spirits of God who serve us by the command of God in our daily lives. As Peter was saved from the cruelty of Herod, even perhaps from death itself, so can a Christian expect divine interference in times of danger. The Christian is in constant danger as he drives his car almost daily. The angels take care of them. Just how, we don't know but that miracles are used, although unseen, to keep God's people from being hurt, there is no doubt. The angel appeared to Peter. A Christian does not see him, this does not mean he is not busy watching and guarding him from danger. We live in a violent and insecure world today. There is little doubt that the angels attend daily in the lives of saints to minister, to protect and care for them.

In studying God's activity throughout all ages there is not any evidence that would lead us to believe that God at any time in history ever left man solely to his own devices, either His own people or that of the world. Quite the contrary, God has always and still does intervene in the affairs of men whenever or wherever it suits His designs or plans. He uses the elements of the world, floods, earthquakes, kings, shepherds, governments, nations, and miracles whenever He desires to further His own ends to punish the wicked and to save and protect the righteous. In Romans 13:3 & 4 we read, "For RULERS are not a terror to good works but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he (the rulers) is the minister to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the MINISTER OF GOD, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

Here we find the governments of the world are used (because they bear the sword of punishment) to execute God's wrath upon the evil doers. How does He do this? Sometimes to save the country where His people dwell. Within the last 45 years there have been two world wide conflicts and several lesser wars in which the United States has been involved. Yet the United States has never as yet been bombed nor devastated as Germany, Russia, and England have been. But over 95% of all of the kingdom of Christ dwell in the United States. Is God's hand in this? A believer in the Bible will believe this. And when the angel of death goes forth to arouse one nation against another because God's wrath is aroused against one or both we know that God is exercising His power over the world to punish evil doers as stated in Romans 13. In Is. 13:17 God stirred up the Medes against the Babylonians to punish them for their wickedness. Is. 13:9, "Behold the day of the Lord cometh cruel both with wrath and fierce anger to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." Christians should never fight in the wars of the world because "Vengeance is mine, sayeth the Lord." And how are we to know why nations are warring and what God's designs are and vengeance?

God makes wars to cease. Psalms 46:6-9, "Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations He hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth." He can stir nations against one another (vengeance) as He wills. There is nothing which goes on in this world that the eyes of God do not behold. Job 28:24 reads, "God understandeth the way thereof and He knoweth the place thereof, FOR HE LOOKETH TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, AND SEETH UNDER THE WHOLE HEAVEN." Again we read in Proverbs 15:3, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Read Ps. 11:4 and Ps. 66:5 & 7. The prevailing power of God and the various ways and means that His will is carried out are manifest in these verses and the ones we will now quote.

We are led by the scriptures to realize that much of what goes on the earth is brought to Him by His messengers the angels. Ps. 103:19 and 20 reads, "The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word." Psalms 33:15, "He considereth all their works." Are the messengers of God still busy? Are they protecting, helping and ministering to the people of God? Heb. 1:14 confirms this. We quote from 1 Samuel 2:6-9, "The Lord killeth and maketh alive: He bringeth down to the grave and bringeth up. The Lord maketh poor and maketh rich: He bringeth low and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's and He hath set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of His saints and the wicked shall be silent in darkness: for by strength shall no man prevail. The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces, out of heaven shall He thunder upon them..." Do His angels have a hand in this? We find in the Old Testament as well as the New that when things affected Children of God the

angels were busy. If so they obey God today when it is His will to intervene in the affairs of men.

These verses give us an understanding of God's interest as well as His intervention in the affairs of this world. While demonstrable miracles, the outward evidence as such has ceased we are forced to conclude that the interest and concern of God has not lessened in importance nor the miracles. Some have gone so far astray in their thinking upon this subject that they are almost horrified at the thought that Christians can believe in angels and their activity as a part of the world they live in. Because we do not see God's agents does not mean that we cannot see their work. A Christian who has not seen God's intervention in their life is indeed bereft of faith. Every child of God who lives faithful and in harmony with God's word is a recipient of God's intervention, protection and help. Much of this is done, as we can see by reading the Bible, through the work of His angels. If we believe in the power of prayer we would have to believe in miracles. James 5:16 shows us very clearly that God does answer the prayers of the righteous; that when sick the prayer of faith spoken in verse 15 shall be answered by God. We also find in verses 17 & 18 that God answered the righteous prayers concerning the weather, as He also will answer our prayers concerning the same. We are able to pray for rain and the discontinuance of it. This would mean that anyone who would teach this contrariwise would be admitting to an out and out disbelief in the Bible and in the functions of God.

In Psalms 33:18 & 19, "Behold the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine." Again from these verses we realize that God is aware of what goes on in this earth and especially interested and concerned about those who fear Him and walk in harmony with His law. In attempting to rationalize the verses quote on this page we are made to realize that if God is to protect, keep us from famine, destroy our enemies etc, that miracles would have to be performed. Therefore we are forced to conclude that he wields today upon this earth, both for protection and to help us maternally in all the affairs of this life, for His won people and punishment for the wicked.

Quite often my brethren because they do not want to accept this plain teaching they are prone to resort to the scriptures in 1 Cor. 13:1-9 to uphold their opinion that miracles are not a part of God's dealing with His people today. In verse 8 we read, "Love never faileth: whether there be prophecies they shall fail: whether there be tongues, they shall cease, whether there shall be knowledge, it shall be done away." Stretch this anyway we want to, but the exegesis remains the same, viz: the prophecies or teachings of the gospel, given by God through the Holy Spirit would be done away with. The reason is clear, we have the written word and it is all that is needed for our salvation. Tongues would no be needed anymore, the gospel would be taken throughout the world and the New Testament would be written for all men to study and to know. However the knowledge was obtained by the Holy Spirit talking to and leading the apostles; by angels who acted as messengers and who freed and guided Peter from prison; as well as the power of the apostles to convey gift and powers by the laying on of hands to others, would be done away with. And it is not difficult to understand this, they were no longer

needed. But the power of God, to work miracles, the angels acting as messengers from heaven to this earth (though unseen by us), the divine protection afforded us, the destruction and damnation of our enemies, the punishment of the wicked and the healing of the sick and all the other wonderful and miraculous things which God does and has always done HAS NOT BEEN DONE AWAY WITH. There are still angels busy doing His will; there are still demons and devils doing the will of Satan, the same as they always have.

The mistake in the reasoning of those who read something into this passage that is not there is the failure to see the liaison between heaven and this earth. We have come into an innumerable company of angels (Hebrews 12:22 & 23) but we miss this delightful and divine solace which is afforded to all Christians living in harmony with God's word, when we deliberately resist the Holy Scriptures in the belief of angels as one of the means by which God protects and helps His own; and that miracles are still performed in the doing of God's will here on this earth. My brethren quite often take the scriptures on the preceding page to mean that God no longer performs miracles and that angels have ceased from any activity upon this earth; and that any and all intervention by God in these times is carried out by God through the natural means only. Even if we tried we could not read this kind of meaning into these verses in 1 Cor. 13. In rationalizing this subject we do not find any scriptures to confirm the idea that God does not perform miracles today; or that whatever intervention there is by God is done, only through natural means. Certainly the verses in 1 Cor. 13: do not teach such. In fact the Bible from the beginning to the end teaches exactly the opposite. Natural means are often used but miracles are not to be confused to such means as those of natural ones.

If ever man needed the help of God; if ever the Holy Spirit was needed as a constant comforter within our human frame to help and to intercede for the saints; if ever the intervention of the Divine Presence was needed in human and spiritual affairs, now that all spirits and angels, prophets and miracles have ceased to be evident to the human eye, it would seem to the faithful and the holy in Christ Jesus, THAT IT WOULD BE IN THESE PRESENTTIMES. What a loss of comfort and joy to these who refuse to accept the plain teachings of the Bible. It is a grim and ironical mistake to assume that the children of God deny themselves the available and unbelievable joy and comfort of believing in miracles here on this earth while engaged in the great conflict with the devil and his angels.

The connection between this earth (material and fleshly) and that of heaven (spiritually) is just a thin line. We must realize that we are spirits, housed in a fleshly body. While here on earth is to do our utmost to throw off the fleshly desires and to desire above all things to become spiritual. If we do this successfully, and we must if we are to see heaven, then the spiritual part of our natures becomes the dominant part of our being and the spiritual life becomes more of a reality than the earthly. Our affections and our joy and our happiness in the heavenly and the spiritual. The more spiritual we become the more we realize how near the heavenly and how close the other world is to this one.

To continue along this line we cite verses 1 to 14 from Rom. 8. We feel it is most necessary to gain the spirituality here on earth which will enable us someday to occupy our heavenly abode. With Bible knowledge of the subject of spirits and angels it is not difficult to understand and enjoy the close proximity of this life with the heavenly; and as we near the end of this journey it should become more and more a reality. We cannot become too spiritual and as we grow in grace and knowledge the flesh is more and more subdued and the spirit renewed. As the body slowly perishes and gets ready for death the spirit is getting ready for life eternal. II Cor. 5:16. As the flesh is mortified and crucified the spirit becomes the dominant force in a Christian's life. It is not difficult to accept guardian angels and spirits who serve the children of God. It is a most natural thing to believe in God's intervention and supervision in His children as well as the affairs of this world. If not, why pray?

The disbelief and ignorance of Christians relative to the subject of spirits being actively engaged in protecting and helping us in our lives here on earth and the angels intervening at God's command in the world's affairs as well as in the Christians is perhaps partly explained by the worldliness of the members of the Church and the lack of sound teaching. They do not mortify the flesh enough; they do not grow in grace and knowledge and the carnal mind is unwilling to accept the spiritual things of God. A Christian can become so worldly and so wicked that if a miracle was performed right before them they would reject and not receive the evidence. (As the wicked did in the New Testament times)

Romans 8:5-8 reads, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit; For to be carnally minded is DEATH: BUT TO BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS LIFE AND PEACE. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." These scriptures prove conclusively that the Christian must grow spiritually as long as life last; the longer we live the more spiritually minded we should become. That is why the carnally minded in the church refuse to believe in angels and spirits as part of our daily life; and that miracles are not performed today; but it is all done by natural means. Which means actually that if our prayers are answered in many instances it just happens to come about by natural means and that God has little or nothing to do with it. Which is almost the same as not believing in prayer at all. And we have false teachers in the church who have taught that prayer is practically useless today because everything we could pray for has been answered anyway. So this is an evidence of the carnal mind which is bereft of spiritual understanding.

A Christian must grow. If this growth continues throughout a Christian's life he reaps the fruits of the Spirit which is God's method of blessing the fruitful life of a saint. The above verses of scripture and the expounding of them is to call attention to the necessity of spiritual growth. This spiritual growth is attained by a life devoted to doing the will of God; continued increase of knowledge by diligent study of God's word;

(something which is sadly neglected today and is the cause of much of our woes and the apostasy of the church in these times) and to works of love and sacrifice.

Where are the scholars of today? Where are the great and Godly men of yesterday who fought the innovations which have wrecked a good portion of the church? Where is the early militancy and zeal of the church? The church is still fighting against orphan homes. Herald of Truth, and things of that sort: But it needs to look at itself and see the seed of ineptness, the lack of zeal, and the resulting smugness and complacency, as well as the many deviations of the authority of God amongst themselves. What is discouraging is that most don't see it. The orphan home and the Herald of Truth and all the other departures of the church are here and those who are part of it are on their way to becoming a full fledged denomination and probably soon. Let's quit fighting windmills. All of the church is cognizant of and has been taught thoroughly of the falseness of orphan homes. It's over and over and over again, we are harping and arguing the same thing, but it is most evident the cleavage has been made, the separation is complete, now let's get to the business of cleaning our own back yard.

If we do clean house; and it is badly needed, let's start with preachers, the paid clergy. Some of the unscriptural things done in the church today are just as unauthorized as orphan homes and colleges, etc. But the awful thing about it is we seem to be completely unaware of our own lack and our disobedience to God's word. It would seem perhaps that is why we keep harping about orphan homes, etc. The battle has been fought. Let's get on with the one which now confronts us and one of the primary jobs in our midst is teaching. Teaching and preaching will cause the church to grow, not stagnate. Recently Brother Tant said in an editorial. "They go to a Bible class and are bored to death." Also to hear preaching which bores to death (Quote) "And that's about it." The teaching which has stagnated the church and which springs from our paid clergy and our inept and unqualified elders has just about wrecked and will in time if a change isn't made. It has kept the church from growing and the spiritual life of the average Christian is more worldly than spiritual. No wonder when the deep things are taught he rejects them or refuses to understand them. Angels and spirits are a part of this life and Heb. 1:14 teaches such along with many other scriptures which will be expounded upon in this lesson. It will not be difficult to accept the heavenly as well the earthly activity of the angels; nor to believe that miracles are just as much of God's domain as they ever were. Paul said at the end of his life, "I have fought the good fight of faith..." and when a Christian has fought the battles which confront him in this world, warred with Satan and his angels, spent a lifetime studying and teachings the word of God and consecrated his life to doing the works as commanded in the Bible and which are so necessary to the spiritual welfare of a saint; he is prepared for heaven while still here on earth and he is also prepared to accept spirits and angels in his life here. Important: His (Bro. Tant) lack of knowledge of God's word is apparent. There is a famine of the Word of God. The deep things are taught and the scholarly and Godly men of yesterday are few and far between. Today we need men of courage, men without hypocrisy, men willing to fight and die for Christ, men willing to work for nothing. We need militant, learned, self sacrificing preachers today. Men devoted to spreading the Word of God and battling to

save the souls of the lost. Instead we have men who go from one established church to another and complain constantly because they are not paid enough.

But back to our theme. We quote from God's word, Ps. 33:18 & 19, "Behold the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine." In times of need both spiritually as well as physically, God takes care of those who fear and obey His will. This of course would leave out the worldly, the carnal minded and disobedient in the church. However, these kind would not accept the spiritual implications contained in this lesson. Throughout all ages God has taken care and watched over as well as had His angels serve His people. It is unreasonable and unscriptural to suppose that in this dispensation all this intervention, protection and concern as well as the activity of His servants (the angels) has ceased.

We quote again from II Chron. 32:1-22; verse 8 reads, "With him is the arm of flesh but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles. Verse 21, "And the Lord sent an Angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valor." In II Kings 19:35 we read, "And it came to pass that night, that the Angel of the Lord went out and smote in the camp of the Assyrians and hundred for score and five thousand." We are all cognizant of the fact that the physical battles of God's people in Old Testament times is a type of our battles against sin and the devil today. Ours is spiritual and theirs was physical and their obedience to God's commands made it possible to win their battles. We notice specifically that the angels of the Lord were evident in these battles by commanding His Angels to serve in this capacity by what reasoning or scripture we presume to negate this same interference in our battles against our enemies as well as God's protection when danger is nigh us? If we believe Heb. 1:14, we have the answer, and for the Christian there is more danger than just physical.

Again we quote from Is. 41:10-13, verse 11, "Behold all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish." Verse 12, "...and they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of naught." Comforting words are they not? We can get just as much comfort from them as our brethren in ages past. God is no respecter of persons: and if He helped and succored His people then He does it now. If He used angels then He does now. We might note here that when angels are used by God to destroy the enemy or to win battles for his people, that seldom are the angels viewed by the Israelites..

Any Christian worth his salt, or should we say the salt still has its preserving quality; and who has fought the good fight of faith; and who has lived Godly and suffered persecution from his enemies; and has seen his enemies disappear, has seen them exposed, as well as many times when things looked the blackest, their power to do harm has suddenly ceased and they have been confounded? Even also seen them die suddenly, being taken out of our midst to keep them from doing more harm to the Body of Christ. Some have ceased to stay in the Church and have gone away and never been

heard from again. Some who were preaching ceased to preach because the prayers of the saints have asked of God that their mouths be stopped.

How are these things done? Well, we find Pharaoh's mind being changed by God in Ex. 7:3, God speaking to Moses, "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt." The reason for this is shown in verse 4 & 5 which reads, "But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies and my people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt great judgments. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them." The reason for God hardening the heart of Pharaoh is plain. The children of God would not leave Egypt until the power of God was shown to them and the Egyptians. The Hebrews lived 430 years amongst idolaters, they needed the miraculous evidence of God's power.

The miracles had a two fold purpose; not only to convince the Egyptians of God's power and Divinity but also to stimulate the faith and to give courage to His people who had been under the power and also the degrading influence of the customs and idol worship of the Egyptians for 430 years. Neither could any of God's children ever be able to blame God for their lack of faith or their lack of obedience. Sometimes Pharaoh hardened his own heart, Ex. 7:14 & 22. And at other times God hardened it so that all of His will and His purpose towards the heathen as well as His people should be carried out. We find before all the miracles were done with Pharaoh he became a believer in the Mighty Jehovah. Ex 8:8, "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, ENTREAT THE LORD that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people...." He knew that this Power came not from men nor from Moses or Aaron but from GOD.

By letting the land of Goshen be free of the plagues which beset Egypt, God made it plain to the unbelieving Jews that He was still their God and that by the miracles performed and BY HIS PROTECTION FOR THEM HE proved it to them. So this lesson teaches the Christian that God today can harden the minds of our enemies so that it might benefit us if such a lesson is needed; and that He takes charge of our destiny when necessary and circumvents the designs of our enemies if He so wills. God also makes it plain to us by His word that there is a difference between the world and His people. His angels still act as His messengers between this earth and heaven; and minister unto the saints as God determines or decides they should. Quote from Ex. 8:22, "And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth." God can protect and/or punish His people at His will. This has always been true and is true today. Ex 9:12, is another example of God hardening the heart of Pharaoh so that His will and His design and purpose might be carried out to the uttermost until that had been accomplished which He designed, to know that God is Lord of all.

Again we find God changing the minds of the Egyptians so that they gave their wealth to the people of God when they left Egypt. Ex. 3:21 & 22 reads, "And I will give

this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass that when ye go ye shall not go empty: But every woman shall borrow of her neighbor and of her that so journeth in her house, jewels of silver and jewels of gold and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons and upon your daughters: and ye SHALL SPOIL THE EGYPTIANS." Here is a miracle, one that cannot be rationalized except that God softened the minds of the Egyptians towards their slaves and to the extent they gave their silver and gold and their clothes to God's people who had served them as slaves for 430 years. It is not reasonable to believe that the voluntarily gave this; God intervened and made the Egyptians look with favor upon a people whom they had despised and enslaved. God works miracles, changes minds, hardens hearts, brings floods, famines, rain, intervenes and protects His children whenever it pleases Him to do so, "The same Yesterday, Today and Forever."

Along this same line we find in Ex. 14:17 that God was responsible for the Egyptians following His people when they left Egypt. And of course this was to carry out His will to destroy them in the waters of the Red Sea. The verses read, "And I behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh and upon all his host, upon his chariot and upon his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots and upon his horsemen." In the same chapter and the 25th verse we read that this is exactly what came to pass. The Egyptians believed also in the mighty God Jehovah, but too late. Verse 24 & 25, "And it came to pass that in the morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians. And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egyptians." They had fear of the mighty Jehovah. Today it is evident that God's people have lost their fear of Him.

So we find the heathen Pharaoh and all the fighting hosts of Egypt recognizing and believing in the great God Jehovah. They recognized the power of God when he interfered with their chariots. I wonder today if we Christians realize the power of God when we are saved from drowning, or escape from fire or from death in car accidents, etc. Is it just taken for granted or do we believe that God intervened or that an angel was sent by Him to help us. Another example of God's hardening the heart of the enemy that He might carry out His will against them as He did to the Egyptians is found in Josh. 11:20 and we read, "For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might destroy them utterly, and that they might have no favour, but that He might destroy them, as the Lord commanded Moses." Are we to believe that God made it possible for Joshua to destroy the Anakims utterly as we find in the next two verses of chapter eleven or that Joshua did this all on his own.

Perhaps more than anything else in this lesson I am attempting to prove God's intervention in the affairs of this world. It is important to the study of angels, demons and devils because if we can understand the constant intervention of God in all that goes on in the world. We can better realize and know that angels and devils and demons are a

real reality and that they still do the bidding of God in doing the will, of God upon this earth. Again we will go to Judges 9:23 to prove this point further, "Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem: and the men of Ahechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech." The next verse explains God's intervention, "That the cruelty done to the three score and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren." "Vengeance is Mine sayeth the Lord." Then and now, never changing. The church today in its division and unbelieving fallen condition will not accept the punishment of God.

These verses prove when the saints do wickedness in the church and the wrath of God is aroused against them that He can and does turn men against them and uses evil spirits in this capacity. Demons and devils against them and uses evil spirits in this capacity. Demons and devils still dwell in men and God can and does send them into wicked men to carry out His vengeance when He so will; then and now. The spirit which was used in this instance to bring God's people; and/or teach falsely and carry God's people into apostasy; and/or preach and teach falsely a manner that God's people are not fed properly; or perhaps preach for money and thereby thwart the will of God in the work of saving the lost. Elders also can have evil spirits and the church can be the recipient of the wrath of God and evil spirits can be used in this respect and are being used to punish the congregation for allowing men who are unqualified to rule over the people of God. When men preach compromisingly, so that the members of the church suffer spiritually; or preach falsely so that many are led away from God; when the church is ruled over by haughty and arrogant men who instead of watching over the flock use the flock for their own ends; and when the members themselves become so weak and many times so wicked they are of no use to God anymore, then will God take vengeance. Spirits can and are used when this kind of thing is prevalent (And believe me, brethren, it is prevalent) and men's hearts can be hardened by God for His own purposes and to help the innocent and the righteous. The wicked in the church, those who divide asunder the church of God, and who slander and hurt the righteous can very easily be the recipient of an evil spirit who inhabits their bodies and which is sent by God. Men so wicked, that stoop so low as to deny their brethren access to the use of the baptistery to baptize a lost soul. God will punish the wicked!

In this respect we will use the scriptures from I Samuel 16:14 & 15. "But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an EVIL SPIRIT FROM THE LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee." Verse 23 reads, "And it came to pass when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul that David took an harp and played with his hand; so Saul was refreshed and was well and the evil spirit departed from him." We find that the evil spirit may depart but it also comes back, I Samuel 18:10; that the evil spirit has again entered Saul, "And it came to pass on the morrow that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul..." verse 12, "And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him and was departed from Saul." **We note Saul was conscious God had departed, also recognized David was the recipient of the Holy Spirit.

The evil spirit from God continued to work on Saul so that instead of being refreshed Saul attempted to kill David.

There are note worthy things here that are very apparent and from which we can get a lesson today. First that God does send evil spirits into men when His spirit has departed. Also the evil spirit can and does depart and it can also return. That an evil spirit effects the mind and we find Saul attempting to kill David, his friend, several times when under the influence of the evil spirit and when not under the evil influence he is quieter and normal, verse 23 of I Samuel 16. We find in the New Testament Satan himself entering into Judas to help him to carry out his evil deed of betrayal of Jesus, Luke 22:3. If evil spirits could enter into people in the days of the prophets and in the days of Jesus, we would ask (in as much as spirits whether good or evil do not die) why could they not enter into people today? Of course the answer is that God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. God will use the evil spirits the same as the good ones to do His will here on earth, as He has always done. The necessary inference from Bible scriptures would teach us this.

The saints, which are the children of God are given the gift of the Holy Spirit when they have been cleansed of their sins. A Christian can become so wicked that the Holy Spirit can no longer dwell in him. When the Spirit from God departed from Saul then there was found a place for the evil spirit. A saint living in harmony with God cannot as long as he lives righteously ever have an evil spirit. But if he becomes wicked and thereby lost such as those mentioned in II Peter 2:10-22 and Heb. 6:1-6 and have become like brute beasts then of course the Holy Spirit would depart and an evil spirit could come into one in this condition. God could also send one if it so suited His designs. We find in Hebrews 6:1-6 that a Christian could get himself into such a wicked state as to be unable to repent and of course would be utterly and hopelessly lost. Heb. 10:26-30 also bears this out. Again in Jude we read of people who have reached a state of utter spiritual ruin and no longer have the Holy Spirit. Verse 19 reads, "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Read from verse 8 to 19. When brethren reach the point where they refuse to let brethren use the baptistery that a lost soul might be baptized, then be sure the devil is leading them.

It has been my experience to see those in the church who have gone beyond the point of repentance and have lost the Holy Spirit and whose minds have become tormented just as was Saul's. It is my contention that all insanity amongst Christians or even a tormented mind such as King Saul's is the result of an evil spirit. When the Holy Spirit has departed and He can no longer inhabit the body of one who is utterly lost and incapable of repentance then that body becomes a potential habitation of an evil spirit. Judas gives us an example of this and we find in Matt. 12:22 an example of a man cured of dumbness and blindness when the devil had been cast out. Mark 9:17-27 teaches that an evil spirit can cause one to foam at the mouth and gnash with the teeth. If these things were done in those days, we must ask, "Why is it not possible today?" Mark 3:11 we find another evidence of evil spirits. Mark 1:34.

Evil spirits and demons are a reality and the child of God should bear in mind that he can lose that which he has obtained as a gift. Many brethren (unconverted) have rejected the Holy Spirit and they no longer believe in Acts 2:38 or Acts 5:32. And in so doing an evil spirit can come and inhabit the body of them whom the Holy Spirit has departed. Judges 16:20 teaches us that Samson by his disobedience and slothfulness in doing the work God had ordained him to do, eventually lost God. "And he wist (knew) not that the Lord had departed from him." So it is possible to lose the Holy Spirit and not be conscious at the time that the Lord has left us and the Holy Spirit has departed. In reading the scriptures pertaining to King Saul we find however that at sometime in the life of a disobedient child of God, when they no longer can repent, that they realize they are bereft of God. I Samuel 18:12. However, they can utterly deceive themselves after having this knowledge into believing that they can attain God's favor. Saul's life and his latter end give us this knowledge but before a child of God then or now, utterly deceives himself, which many do, he is given the knowledge that he no longer has the Spirit of God. The tongue talkers are perfect pictures of this. They have been sent, by God, a strong delusion. II Thes. 2:11.

God uses spirits in many ways. In I Kings 22:22 we find that God let lying spirits enter into the false prophets to Ahab, king of Israel, that the judgment of God against him might be fulfilled. I Samuel 22:8-21 and we quote verses 20-22 only, "And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? 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 all his prophets. And He said, Thou shalt persuade him and prevail also: Go forth and do so." verse 23, "Now therefore, behold, THE LORD HATH PUT A LYING SPIRIT IN THE MOUTH of all these thy prophets and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee." If God used lying spirits when it pleased him, to carry out his will, the same thing today when needed? (Pat Boone's book and writings of others who believe in tongues have lying spirits).

If God use lying spirits when it pleased Him, to carry out His will, why should we not presume to get the lesson from this, that He does the same thing today when needed? So a child of God who presumes to thwart the will of God and become as wicked as Ahab and yet who continues to do harm to the church and to the members thereof; could have God designed also to put within him a lying spirit? Devils inhabited many in the New Testament. Luke 8:2 reads, "And certain women which had been healed of evil spirits, and infirmities, called Mary Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils." Matt. 15:22 also read Mark 5:2-20, we find a man who was possessed with an unclean spirit who cried and cut himself with stones. He had many evil spirits in him and Christ called them out. Verse 15 reads, "And they came to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil and had the legion, sitting and clothed, and IN HIS RIGHT MIND: and they were afraid." here we again find that those who have devils are quite often demented as was this man. Sometimes the devils in people can take this form and we find in other instances that they are fairly passive in comparison. Mark 9:17-29. From some of these scriptures we are led to believe that devils can enter into people who are not children of

God. A devil could never enter into a child of God whether in older times or today until the Lord had departed from them and/or of today the Holy Spirit had left because of disobedience and wickedness of the lost one.

We find relative to this subject that God changes the minds of our enemies when He desires and we go to II Samuel 15:27-31 and we quote only the 31st verse, "And one told David saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirator with Absalom. And David said, O, Lord I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness." Read the 16th and 17th chapters and in chapter 17:14-23 we find that God answered David's prayer and the advice of Ahithophel was refused by Absalom. "And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite (the friend of David) is better than the counsel of Ahithophel. FOR THE LORD HAD APPOINTED TO DEFEAT THE GOOD COUNSEL of Ahithophel to the intent that the Lord might bring evil upon Absalom." God does have the power to change the mind of man for whatever purpose He sees fit. If it be for protection of His people or to give place to His wrath upon man. John 7:3-30 and Rev. 17:17.

When we consider the above teachings from the Old Testament and then read the New Testament wherein God takes the same care and has the same concern for His people, working with them with angels and the Holy Spirit, saving them, thwarting their enemies, leading them to safety, keeping them from pestilence and famine, we find a similarity in His dealings which makes it impossible not to believe that these are a part of God's design and work today. In Neh. 4:1-23 and we quote verses 9 and 15, "Nevertheless we made our prayer unto God and set a watch against them day and night because of them." "And it came to pass then our enemies heard that it was known unto us and GOD HAD BROUGHT THEIR COUNSEL TO NOUGHT, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work." "I will make my arrows drunk with blood and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy. Rejoice, O ye nations with His people; for He will avenge the blood of His servants and will render vengeance to His adversaries, and will be merciful unto His land and to His people." Romans 12: and Romans 13: agree with this.

Most of my brethren would agree and say they believe the above verses but how many would agree that God is still avenging those who do evil to His people and taking His vengeance out upon the wicked nations of the world? How many would believe that He used His angels today to carry out His will in these acts as well as other methods; sometimes He uses the elements and the natural laws for His purposes but at other times He has His angels do this directly. God overrules Not only man's acts as well as the devil's machinations. Read Is. 13:12-22.

Judges 9:23, "Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech." "That the cruelty done to the three score and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren." God uses His own spirits and angels and quite often as we see above uses of the evil spirits as well. His power over-rules All

Power over the earth when He wills it to be so. The power of the devil is limited as well as that of His angels by the power of God.

As these acts are true in the Old Testament so do we find God acting in the same manner in the New Testament. We might consider at this point that if God dealt with the wicked of the heathen nations as well as the wicked of His own nation by many methods and in various ways, sometimes His own power carrying out the act of vengeance, then we are constrained by the scriptures of both the Old as well as the New Testament to accept the word of God as true and believe that devils and angels are a reality in this world today and are doing the word of God in acts of vengeance as well as that of blessings. Not to, would be an act of unbelief and a rejection of the Word of God. The fact that the church today has not only rejected the activity of angels and demons today, is proven by their rejection of reality and function of the Holy Spirit.

Let's read some of the scriptures from various books of both the Old and New Testament in our search for the truth about Angels, Devils, and Demons. Is. 29:1-8 from which I quote the first verse, verse 4, verses 6 to 8. "Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices..." "And thou shalt be brought down and shalt speak out of the ground and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust..." "Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder and with earthquake and great noise, with storm and tempest and the flame of devouring fire." "And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision."

The above is prophecy and God intends using thunder, earthquakes, storms, and tempest, to carry out His prophecy. Does He still use those things which He has created to carry out His will upon the wicked nations of this world? If we believe the Bible we must believe that He is still using whatever means He desires for vengeance, not only against the wicked but against His own people when they defect and/or rebel against His word. Amos 3:6, "Shall a trumpet be blown in the city and the people be not afraid? Shall there be evil in a city and the Lord hath rising of the sun and from the west and there is none beside me; I am the Lord, and there is none else." "I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.

These verses are used to prove that nothing evil or good goes on, on this earth but that the Lord is aware of it and when vengeance of God strikes He uses the elements, which He created, He uses the evil forces of the devil when it's needed in His plans and His own spirits to do His will.

The Bible from cover to cover is filled with accounts of the workings of the great God above as He carries out His will upon the earth, thwarting His enemies, protecting His children and raining vengeance upon the wicked and the rebellious of this world.

Let's mark some of these that we might not forget them. Read all the 15th chapter of Exodus as God's power, His vengeance is taken upon the Egyptians. I will quote only a few beginning with verse 4, "Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath He (God) cast into the

sea; his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea." verse 6, "Thy right hand O Lord is become glorious in power: thy right hand O Lord hath dashed in pieces the enemy." verse 7, "And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble." (Yesterday, Today and Forever)

These verses tell us several things about the Almighty Jehovah but I want to bring out two of the most important. First He takes care of our enemies when they threaten or try to harm us. Whether they are drowned in the Red Sea or not is not the question, the point is that He has always in the New and the Old Testament kept His children from harm. And because the Bible teaches this we must believe today that He is just as concerned about us as He was about them of long ago and that we also are kept from harm. God has promised His children a long life and if it so suits Him they will live in spite of their enemies, wars, hurricanes, famine or anything else which may threaten their lives or would bring harm to them. God put us here to glorify Him and the devil cannot have his way with the children of God. As long as we do the will of God, and work His works, spreading the gospel throughout the world He will keep us from harm.

However, as we find when the children of God strayed away from His commandments, when they no longer obeyed His will, then their zeal was quenched and when they desired to be like the nations around them when God's anger will not be allayed. He will punish them here as well as hereafter. The church should take notice of this and fear God, because of the transgressions they have gone away into digression, into apostasy within this last generation and God's anger and wrath can be and will be (if we believe our Bible) aroused against the church for this and like a whirlwind of old He will rain down upon the rebellious and apostasized church his vengeance and they will suffer. Read Jeremiah 7: and 8:, from which I will quote a few verses to show the wrath of God upon His own when they departed from His word. His punishment is sure and certain here and hereafter. Hear and fear. The liberals will and have already felt His wrath and the church has been harmed by the advent of evil angels amongst them. The conservatives had better change from their ways or they will be punished also.

Jer. 7:19 and 20. "Do they provoke me to anger? sayeth the Lord; do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces. Therefore, sayeth the Lord God; BEHOLD MINE ANGER AND MY FURY shall be poured out upon this place, upon man and upon beast and upon the field and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn and shall not be quenched." These terrible words are just as appropriate today as then. The church today is 2/3 in apostasy and the balance in a weakened and lukewarm condition should not these works from the Lord and hear and fear. How long will God allow the church to stay in the condition it's in, practically without zeal, a few hundred saved a year perhaps a few thousand (which is doubtful). Our preachers no longer evangelize, running from place to place converting and building the foundation as well as the walls of Zion in the places where it has not been taken but sitting comfortable in the houses of ivory at ease, basking in the admiration of the people and compromising the work of God that their comfortable position may not be jeopardized. Refusing to help the smaller

congregations, doing very little in helping to spread the word of God (although God has greatly enriched them) and using unscriptural methods as well as words to hurt and destroy those who do try to do the will of God. They are fat and full. But God's anger and wrath awaits the children of God if they do not turn back from their wicked ways and again turn to converting the world and doing the work of God. There is little hope of their turning away from their sins and their unbelief because they're deluded and deceived by preachers and their own lack of knowledge. Jer. 23:18-20, "For who hath stood in the counsel of the Lord, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?" "Behold, A WHIRLWIND OF THE LORD IS GONE FORTH IN FURY, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked." "The anger of the Lord shall not return, UNTIL HE HAVE EXECUTED, and till He have performed the thoughts of His heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly." Where is the considering of My brethren, where is the fear, that they can turn their backs to the evident proof and the fierce wrath of God? My brethren should take heed to Rev. 3:15, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot." "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth." "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Also Rev. 3:1, "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." They had the name Church of Christ but they were dead. And so with the Church today; they go by the name but they're dead as far as to believe and to live by the commandments of Christ. The rejection of the functions of God concerning His power in the use of Angels, Devils & Demons is an obvious disbelief and out and out repudiation in the Word of God. How long will God allow the Candlestick to remain in the church with such unscriptural practices?

Jer. 7:28 again says words which are appropriate to the children of God today in their forlorn spiritual condition, "But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the Lord their God nor receiveth correction: truth is perished and is cut off from their mouth, Cut off thine hair, O Jerusalem and cast it away and take up a lamentation on high places; for the Lord hath rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath." These words are a warning to God's children today, that God will not withhold His wrath from us if we continue in the "luke warm" and unstable condition which we are in. Our preachers are leeches making a mockery of Christianity as they preach for money and live at ease. Their churches are full but the souls of those who listen to their words are dried up for lack of soul sustaining food. They are not feeding the flock, and the people cannot grow in spiritual strength so that they can wrestle with the false teaching and the compromising words which issue from the lips of those who are preaching and teaching. Evangelism, the saving of the lost has died; the death of all who perish spiritually is from a lack of knowledge and zeal.

As brought out there are many reasons for the condition of the church today. One is their unwillingness to confess and repent of their wickedness. Much of the sin of the church is covered up because of the weakness of their leaders who mislead and

discourage confession of sins. Also their lack of understanding of the function of the Holy Spirit individually as well as collectively in their lives. Again there are many things which we believe and do which are traditionally accepted rather than scripturally taught. And the anger of the church, especially those in authority, is aroused when anything or anyone deviates away from the tradition. For instance the government of the church. The great misunderstanding relative to the function of the elders in the church. Also woman's place in the church. And the lack of zeal within the church. And the watered down, the compromising type of teaching instead of the true Biblical words of the New Testament. And especially the system of paying the preachers as they rotate from one converted church to another, instead of going forth all over the world and establishing churches where there are none.

Furthermore there is not only a lack of soul sustaining and sound teaching of the word of God, we find that the people of God have widespread and divergent views upon almost every question which is taught. Prejudice against the races, especially the negro, is prevalent, the divorce and remarriage question (which is so plain that no one could make a mistake about it) is carried back and forth and souls are taken to hell because of this. The question whether or not a Christian can go forth to war at the instigation of the heathen government (are not all governments the instruments of the devil, owned by him, Matt. 4:8 & 9) and kill and mutilate is bandied around as though the bible was not explicit and clear in its teaching on the matter. Many thousands of the young go forth to battle and to kill and be killed and thereby lose their souls because we compromise the word of God; or perchance we teach unscripturally, or it could be that we ignore the question because it is controversial and we must avoid controversy at all costs lest it jeopardize the authority and perhaps the welfare of those who have charge of the church and the position and livelihood of the paid preachers.

Again while we busy ourselves shouting against the liberal churches for their leaving the authority of the bible by advocating and practicing the doing the work of the Lord by organizing other organizations to do the work of the church, we hypocritically go about helping with our money to continue to build organizations or colleges which are another organization outside the church. We do as the liberal brethren justifying our faith in this particular organization, although it is a proven fact that colleges have done more harm and wrecked more churches than any other one organization, by saying it is good for our children to have a place where they gain their education in a religious atmosphere. Why? And what proof is there of such an assertion. All good comes from the church and the family. There is no good that a college can do for our children that can't be done by the church. However, the church cannot educate them in a secular way. Why mix education and religion? It is a known fact that not only do colleges or any other organization, founded to help the church do it's work, are a menace and a detriment to the soundness of the church.

The bad overshadows whatever good there may be, besides unscripturally giving of our means to orphan homes goes outside the church. Schools use up more of the Lords money in their upkeep than any other one thing, but that there is not one shred of

evidence that they are helpful in making our children better Christians, or more spiritual or anything else we might claim for them. If they do this then the church and the family both have failed its mission. What is the difference in giving the colleges credit for giving our children a healthier atmosphere while they pursue their education than to say that the orphanage doesn't give children a healthier place to stay while they are being let out for adoption.

They are both pernicious influences and whatever good countermanded by the fact that both are unscriptural, what makes one unscriptural makes the other unscriptural, and we cannot find any scripture which will support either one of them. Nor can we find a scripture which gives us the authority individually or collectively to give the money of the Lord to the support of them.

Besides we overlook one pertinent fact which is, that all these things, organizations, whatever they may be, are only symptoms of the disease which the church is suffering from both the liberals outward as well as the conservative and that disease is unbelief. The reason we cannot come together upon the questions which agitate the church today is because we don't believe and in many cases don't know what the scriptures teach upon them. It isn't that the scriptures are not plain or clear, it is our faith which we have turned into unbelief. Besides we can continue attending church and going thru the (and that unbelief has been caused somewhat at least by our failure to study, learn, and to grow) motions of worship and still be unbelievers in the sight of God. Hebrews 3:16-19, verses 10 also. Romans 3:3.

But to get back to our lesson about angels, devils, and demons and our acceptance of their work today here on earth. The Israelites would not accept Christ because their natures were carnal and their spiritual senses not exercised by obedience to the word of God. So knowledge and wisdom had died amongst the people of God and when Christ came they were unprepared to accept their Savior. Today the church suffers from a famine of the word, wisdom and learning has departed from them to a great extent. Therefore when lessons on the Holy Spirit and His function in the Christian and the help derived from the indwelling of the Spirit of God is taught the carnal nature of many of our preachers and those taught by them rebel and refuse to accept that which is so comforting as well as apparent in the word of God. The miracles of Christ were apparent but unacceptable to the carnal Israelites... Today teaching upon divorce and remarriage, killing, colleges, church government, prejudice and dozens more are unwelcome and many times utterly refused by those whose spiritual senses have not been exercised because they are dull from the constant feeding of the milk, who cannot receive strong meat, and they will not receive it, **THEY ARE CARNAL.**

And so this lesson on angels, devils, and demons will perhaps not be readily received either. Nevertheless it is such a wonderful subject and one quite often overlooked by the brethren that it is a joy to convey that which I have acquired from the word of God to others so that they might have joy from it and be uplifted, comforted and

edified by the marvelous understanding of the workings of the Father in heaven who never forgets His children here on this earth.

While God punishes the church for their straying away from His word or those who despise dominion and rebel against His teachings and/or who teach falsely and lead the church into apostasy, we also find that He helps, protects, and punishes our enemies. Most of us will agree to this in theory but when we teach that angels and spirits have a part in these endeavors some are utterly incapable in rationalizing the teachings of the Bible on the function and actions of angels and their function and action today. II Chron. 32:1-33, from which I quote verse 8, "Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria nor for all the multitude that is with him; but with us IS THE LORD GOD TO HELP US, and TO FIGHT OUR BATTLES."

Again we read from the 21st and 22nd verse, "And the Lord sent an Angel which cut off all the mighty men of valor and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria..." "Thus the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib and from these verses we see God protecting His people from their enemies and saving them by His angel. This was carnal warfare and ours is a spiritual warfare. But we have enemies also. Sometimes it is the laws of the land, sometimes we are afflicted and persecuted by our friends, our families and yes, even by those of our brethren. But the Lord saves His own and takes care of them. He used angels in this administration the same as He did there. Find scriptures for angels helping Peter and others, prove to yourselves that angels, devils, and demons are just as active today as they were throughout the writings of the Bible.

"KNOW YOUR OWN SELVES WHETHER YE BE IN THE FAITH" Remember, God has always watched over his children and intervenes whenever He so desires His will to be done... "YESTERDAY, TODAY & FOREVER."

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