The background of the book cover is a photograph of a church steeple silhouetted against a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a dark, almost black, at the top. The church building is dark, with the steeple being the most prominent feature. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

SUNSET
of the
WESTERN
CHURCH

E. H. SKOLFIELD

Sunset of the Western Church

Sunset of the Western Church

Ellis H. Skolfield

"Jesus Christ is come in the flesh"
I John 4:2



FISH HOUSE
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*Behold I am against those
who have prophesied false dreams,
and related them,
and led my people astray
by their falsehoods and reckless boasting;
Yet I did not send them
or command them
Nor do they furnish this people
the slightest benefit,
declares the Lord.*

Jeremiah 23:32

Preface

TO BE READ

One of Satan's goals today is to demonize the church. A hundred years ago, the very idea would have appeared farfetched, but now that unhappy fantasy is a sobering reality.

For over nineteen centuries, the church in the west has been a bastion of the Christian faith. Now it is losing its momentum. The zeal of the great reformation is past. The martyrdom of the saints of the middle ages is all but forgotten, and the western church drifts aimlessly in a sea of lukewarm indifference. The forces which have caused this decline are many and varied. This

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book focuses in on one tiny tile of a complex mosaic; a new attack of the enemy's which is meeting with unparalleled success.

In the nineteenth century, Christians knew their Bibles so well that the heresies now being seriously considered by church leaders would have never gotten by the first reading. However, with the advent of mass media, and other time-stealing amusements, individual believers and local pastors are spending less and less time reading the scriptures. Instead, for their doctrines they are depending upon tradition, church headquarters, or highly visible and sometimes openly heretical television evangelists.

Some of these leaders are the servants of the enemy, and by their disregard of the Word, they have invited a demonic invasion of the church. That would be an extremely reckless statement to make, if the contention could not be supported from the Bible.

This book contains some of the most painfully pointed examples of these heresies and their results that you will ever read. It is not the author's intent to be critical of any particular church, or body of believers, but to bring the horror of these false doctrines into focus. As a consequence, some of the adjectives chosen to show the spiritual condition of the proponents of these false teachings are most pithy. It abruptly stops us in our tracks, to look point blank at the reality of where we are today.

Somewhere along the line, the author will probably be accused of being against certain denomi-

nations, of attacking the church in general, of being against the gifts of the Spirit, or against being filled with the Holy Spirit. None of the above are true.

However, the author is against permitting demons into the church through false doctrine, or false gifts, or by showing the fallen angels that the church is not submitted to the Lord Jesus. In the past, the excesses which permit church demonization were in relatively few churches or denominations. Now they are spreading throughout the whole church.

In Revelation 2 and 3, the Lord said to each of the seven churches, "to him that overcometh." What was He commanding those 1st century saints to overcome? To five out of the seven churches the Lord brought to light some sin within their own ranks! So it is the sin within the church that Jesus is telling them to overcome. A church like each of those churches can be found in the churches of today, and through them, we likewise are commanded to overcome the sins within our own church, within our own lives.

In Thyatira, she who called herself a prophetess was not expelled. "The deep things of Satan" were not overcome. The cause of Thyatira's tribulation is clearly shown — Rev. 2:20. God's governmental order, and thus God's own authority, was disregarded. In so doing, the church opened its doors to demonic influence — Rev. 2:24.

In our own day, we are again rebelling against God's governmental order — God's authority,

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and again the church is learning the "deep things of Satan." The Lord has given us time to repent of our consorting with demons, but the churches don't want to, and Christian after Christian is unknowingly coming under Satanic influence. Satan has attacked in the same way a spider ensnares a butterfly that has blundered into its almost invisible net. Because the enemy is a master of delusion, escape is almost impossible, as he winds his cocoon of false doctrine ever tighter around the souls of the spiritually unwary.

That demons can enter and control the lives of disobedient Christians is a matter of record. Within the confines of this book people who are under direct demonic control will be referred to as being "demonized." Unfortunately, Christians in that state are not too hard to find anymore . . . and therein lies the tale . . .

I

The Enemy

Several years ago my wife and I were attending the Sunday evening service at a local Pentecostal church. For some reason beyond our understanding, after the closing prayer, we stood waiting in the vestibule.

"Let's go home," said my wife.

"I can't," I replied mystified.

"But almost everyone has gone. What are we standing around here for?" A reasonable enough question.

"I haven't the foggiest notion, dear, but we just can't leave yet." I began to wonder what I was doing.

"Come on, hon, it's getting late." My waiting wife, usually the soul of patience, was becoming a little irritated. "The service has been over for twenty minutes."

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I looked around. Sure enough, there wasn't anyone there I knew. Just three or four people chatting over to one side. What was I here for anyway? I was beginning to think I had taken leave of my senses.

Finally, a half hour after the service was over, a woman I had been introduced to once, but whose name I had forgotten walked up to me and said, "You don't know why you are here, but you are here to talk to me . . . I have a demon!"

I was dumbfounded! Having been raised in the Philippines, the son of missionary parents, I had often seen demonized people. I had learned early in life that if someone told you he was demonized, you had better believe him. Once, as a child, I had ignored such a warning and was physically attacked by a demonized woman. That being a lesson not soon forgotten, I now silently asked the Lord for His guidance and protection, while aloud I asked, "And how and when did this happen?"

"I am a member of the choir," she replied. "I was on my way down the aisle to join them on the platform, when this demon physically grabbed my head and throat. He has fixed himself on the right side of my face and neck. Sometimes he siezes me so hard that I can't even pray or say Jesus' name."

I could plainly see that the woman was having great difficulty speaking to me. She was trying to scratch something unseen off the side of her face, and she looked as if she were in some type of deep inner struggle. Her features were slightly contorted, and she spoke in short, hurried gasps.

We started to pray and a strange thing happened. The woman broke into fluent tongues, without any sign of hesitancy or discomfort.

Now this is outlandish, I thought. She is having great difficulty talking at all. Sometimes she can't even say Jesus' name or pray, and yet she is speaking eloquently in an unknown tongue. By Pentecostal doctrine, that tongue is supposed to be prima-facia evidence that this woman is filled with the Holy Spirit of God. If she is filled with the Holy Spirit, why can't she say Jesus' name in English? I was deeply disturbed. Here was a sister in Christ, now in bondage to some sort of evil spirit, by a happening which she herself testified took place in church at the beginning of a worship service. How could this be?

Now finally, my half-hour wait after the service was understandable, but I was eager to get home so I could spend some time before the Lord. While praying, almost in red letters across my mind, came a little verse that no one I know commits to memory, and that I hadn't thought of in years. Like everyone else, I didn't think it was of any importance.

“therefore a woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, **BECAUSE OF THE ANGELS.**”

— I Cor. 11:10 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

Thus began the strangest odyssey through the scriptures on which the Lord has ever taken me . . . a study to learn the urgency of showing to the fallen angelic majesties that the church is under the

headship and authority of Jesus Christ. The Word plainly tells us how to do this. Matthew Henry in 1710 A.D. knew how. We have forgotten.¹

Down through church history the Lollards have babbled, the Quakers have quaked, the Shakers have shook . . . and now tongues. The genuineness of these experiences is not the question here. What we need to know is: have these signs taken place within the limits of the scriptural commands which protect us from demonic influence? Herein lies the central message of this book.

We, as Christians, can not be free from direct demonic attack, nor can the church prevent demonic invasion, if we do not obey those laws of God which limit the enemy's freedom to attack us.

Today we have put great emphasis on grace, little on obedience. Some pastor-teachers even give lengthy sermons on their hatred of legalism.² They sound sanctified indeed, but lack insight. The Bible is the greatest legal document ever written, and will remain so throughout eternity. It contains legally binding agreements between parties . . . contracts, if you prefer, known to us as the Old and New Testaments. A Testament is a contract. We have access to God by His eternal legal contract with us through the blood of His blessed Son. It is our "Writ of Emancipation"

which sets us free from the law of sin and death — Rom. 7:6. It is God upholding this contract which gives us the way of salvation. It is like shooting ourselves in the foot to say we don't like the system. Instead, we should praise God that He is a God of law — Deut. 29:10-13, Lev. 26:44-45, Matt. 26:28, Luke 22:20, II Cor. 3:6, Heb. 9:15, 12:22-24, 13:20.³

In the New Testament church, God the Father has put all things under the authority of His Son — Heb. 2:8. We saints have also been commanded to be submitted to Him in all things — Eph. 5:24, I Pet. 2:13-14, I John 2:4. The Bible has given us three visible ordinances which show our submission to the Lord Jesus. If we do not observe them, we visibly show the enemy that the church is in rebellion to God's law. That opens the door to demonic influence, or outright demonism.

Those who would suggest that saints cannot be demonized, or under demonic influence, do not have their doctrine compatible with scripture — Matt. 16:23, Matt. 12:43-45, Luke 11:24-26. Nor are their beliefs in line with the practical experience of missionaries on the field, or those pastors at home who have had to deal with this problem.⁴

The next few chapters will be theologically weighty to some, but these principles need to be open to us if we wish to know **WHY** and **HOW** Satan had the legal right to attack this poor woman. He has no such right unless we give it to him by law. To understand our New Testament situation, we must first examine some Old Testament examples.

FOOTNOTES
Chapter I

¹A Commentary on the Whole Bible; Matthew Henry, Vol. 6, pp 560-562, 813-814.

²To those who cry "legalism," it is true that we have been freed from the bondage of the law — Rom. 7:6, 8:3, Eph. 2:15, Col. 2:14. This does not, however, give us license to disobey the law — John 14:15, 21, 23-24, Romans 3:31, 6:16, 7:1, 7:6, 12:1-2, I Cor. 8:9, II Thess. 1:8, I Pet. 1:2. By our walk in the Spirit we may now fulfill the requirements of the law — Romans 8:3-4, Gal. 5:13-16, James 1:21-25, 2:10, 14, 17, 24. The church is under the law of liberty, to be sure, but a great heresy today is that this liberty frees us from obedience to God's Word. God's Word is eternal and we are commanded to obey it in both Testaments — I Sam. 15:22-23, Psa. 119:160, Is. 40:8, Matt. 5:19, Phil. 2:12, I Pet. 1:2, 14, I John 2:3-4, 3:24, 5:2-3, II John 6, 9. Unfortunately some have used our freedom from the Levitical Code, as a license to sin, or to worship God in whatever manner we like. God is unchangeable.

³In any contract where two parties are involved, both have responsibilities. On our side we do what God commands, on His part He saves us, and brings to pass all the blessed promises in the Bible. God did not give us His ordinances just to give the church something to do. Obeying His Word is in our best interest. "Thou shalt not murder, commit adultery, steal," are for man's benefit. We cannot live in peace with one another without these laws, nor can we live in harmony with God if we ignore those laws that regulate our relationship to Him.

⁴What Demons Can Do to Saints, Merrill Unger, Moody Press, 1977.

II

Moses Was Angry

The Old Testament is full of symbols and foreshadowings of the life of Christ. These symbols appeared as historic incidents, religious practices, or physical objects. Each in some way portrayed an aspect of the soon-coming Savior of mankind.

- 1) **David as King of Israel: Jesus as spiritual king of Israel by adoption, i.e., the church.**
- 2) **A lamb without spot or blemish: Jesus, the sinless Savior.**
- 3) **The brazen serpent — John 3:14: The cross of Calvary.**

All in some way displayed either the nature or office of the Lord Jesus in His ministry on earth, or His authority over the church. These symbols are called "types" of Christ. Much of the New Testament is difficult to understand without a grasp of the spiritual significance of these types. The book of Hebrews explains many of them to us. Look at a couple of examples.

The beautiful and moving account of Abraham offering up his only son Isaac, is a type of God the Father sacrificing His only Son the Lord Jesus. This type is in the form of a historical incident — Genesis 22. Another example is the sacrifice of the Passover lamb — Ex. 12:3-13 — about which John the Baptist said when he saw Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the World" — John 1:29. This type defined how the Israelites were to commemorate the cross of Jesus, even while it was still far in the future. Praise God, even today the Jews remember Passover. They don't know why, but they still observe it.

How important were these types in the eyes of the Lord, and what were the consequences when a type of Christ was broken?

Shortly after the Exodus, but early in their wilderness wanderings, the Children of Israel were at Meribah. While there, God commanded Moses to strike a rock to bring forth water for His thirsting people — Ex. 17:5-6. This was a type of Jesus, our rock, who was struck for us at Calvary — I Cor. 10:4. Forth came the water of life to which Jesus himself referred when He

said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink" — John 7:37.

Years later, the children of Israel were again at Meribah and thirsted — Nu. 20:1-9. This time the Lord commanded Moses to speak to the rock. Interesting . . . why strike the rock the first time, but speak to it the second?

Because Jesus only went to the cross once. It is a sin to try and crucify Him to ourselves a second time — Heb. 6:6. His one perfect sacrifice on the cross is sufficient for all sin for all time. We now speak to Jesus through prayer, and He answers us. He need be struck no more, ever, through all eternity. Doesn't that bless your soul?

But an angry Moses, that dear, uncompromising man of God, chided to his very soul by the continued rebellion of the children of Israel, then committed the only sin recorded against him for forty years . . . he struck the rock twice, and broke a type of Christ — Nu. 20:10-11. This typologically implied that the one sacrifice of the Lord Jesus was not a perfect satisfaction to God the Father for the sins of the world . . . that Jesus needed to die more than once.

Heartbreaking! Moses, the meekest man on the earth, the lawgiver, who spoke to God face to face . . . how he must have regretted that one angry act. In God's eyes it was extremely serious, and the price Moses had to pay for breaking that one type was staggering. The Lord did not permit him to lead the people into the promised land — Deut. 32:48-52. Just one broken type

prevented Moses from achieving the goal of his whole life's work! Meditate on that.

There are further lessons to be learned from the wilderness wanderings. Bible scholars who specialize in typology tell us that the Tabernacle, Moses, and the High Priest were themselves, to varying degrees, types of Christ.

Another aspect of this truth is that the Tabernacle, Moses, and the High Priest, as the governmental and spiritual rulers of the children of Israel, were earthly representatives of God's authority. As types, Moses represented God the Father, the High Priest represented Jesus, and the people the church. So the authority of Moses and the High Priest over the people was a symbol of God's authority over the church — Heb. 3:1, 5:1-9, 8:1-6. This same Governmental order is spelled out for us elsewhere in the New Testament — I Cor. 11:3, Eph. 3:8-11. When these authorities were dishonored in any way, judgment was severe and usually terminal.

Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons and authorized priests themselves, offered incense before the Lord, contrary to command. Incense, as used in the Tabernacle, was a type of the Holy Spirit, or prayer offered through the Holy Spirit. Were Nadab and Abihu worshipping a false god? No. They were worshipping our own true God in a false spirit. Nadab and Abihu disobeyed **HOW**, not who. Fire came forth from God's presence and consumed them — Lev. 10:1-3.

Later, Korah and two hundred and fifty of the elders of Israel demanded that some of the au-

thority, delegated by God to Moses and Aaron, be shared with them. In this request they sinned against God's own authority, because it was God who had appointed Moses and Aaron. The ground opened up and swallowed them — Num. 16:1-35.

Notice in these three incidents that none of the universally respected ten commandments were involved. There was no idolatry, no murder, no adultery; but, in each case judgment was severe and irrevocable, even for Moses.

- 1) **Moses broke a type.**
- 2) **Nadab and Abihu worshipped in a false spirit.**
- 3) **Korah and associates wanted more authority.**

Having set the historic stage, are there New Testament parallels for the church? If so, what are these types and ordinances and are there serious consequences for ignoring them?

It might be said that every religious ordinance of the children of Israel was a type of Christ and the church. So also, every New Testament type of Christ and the church has an ordinance. Church ordinances are by definition physical fulfillments of types of Christ in the individual believer. Being a fulfillment of a type of Christ is what makes it an ordinance. It was true of the Israelites — it is true for us.

Baptism and Communion are understood and obeyed by all. Both have scripturally defined re-

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sults. The third, the Bridegroom and Bride, has been forgotten in the last forty years. It can be scripturally and historically shown that ignoring the ordinances relating to this type can lead to a demonic invasion of the church. Let's look at all three types.

III

Bridegroom and Bride

Our warfare is not against flesh and blood — Eph. 6:10-13. It is a day by day spiritual battle for us all during our stay here on earth. Since God's Word is the only offensive weapon in our armor — Eph. 6:13-17 — it is reasonable to conclude that we derive some spiritual protection from obeying it. This is especially true of the New Testament typological ordinances. Through Baptism, Communion, and the Bridegroom and Bride, we are demonstrating to the fallen angels and demons three different aspects of the Chris-

tian's firm position in Christ.¹ In outwardly showing these positions, we limit Satan's access to tempt us in these areas. Man is a three part being, body, soul and spirit. Each of the typological ordinances directly relates to one of these aspects of man's nature — I Thess. 5:23.

(1) **Baptism**, commanded for all believers, displays the burial of the old man and our resurrection into newness of life in Christ Jesus — Rom. 6:3-4. By this act we show to men and angels that we have accepted Jesus as our Savior and that we have now been placed in Christ by God the Father — Rom. 6:5. The author does not wish to join the ranks of those who make pontifical pronouncements about the spiritual significance of this ordinance. However, I Peter 3:21-22 indicates that baptism is primarily related to conscience. The seat of our conscience is the spirit. It is in our spirits that God's Spirit meets with us and quickens us. From I Peter 3:21-22 and Acts 22:16, it is concludable that baptism is instrumental in freeing our *spirits* from the contamination of sin.

(2) **Communion** displays that the believer has partaken in the crucifixion of Christ — I Cor. 10:16-17 — that he has died with Him on the cross — Gal. 2:20 — that he assents to the discipline of God — I Cor. 11:32.

If we accept our loving Father's discipline, it limits Satan's access to demand our flesh. Concludable, because taking communion in an unworthy manner can lead to weakness, sickness or

even death of the flesh. We are commanded to judge the body² correctly before communion — I Cor. 11:28-32. In this type, if we dishonor the blood of Jesus, our bodies are no longer protected. Consequently, this type relates to the preservation of the *flesh*.

(3) **The Bridegroom and Bride** is related to authority, the authority of Jesus as head of the church. This third type may be the most important one of all. Why?

Because the third facet of man's nature is his soul, the seat of the will, the mind. When we observe the ordinances relating to the soul, we limit Satan's freedom to attack our *souls*. We show our souls and our wills to be under the authority of God. One more time:

Baptism protects the *spirit*.

Communion protects the *body*.

Bridegroom and Bride protects the *soul*.³

We will see how this type relates to the soul and will as we continue on in this study.

When we come to the Lord Jesus, it is for the "salvation of our souls." All flesh will see death — Job 34:15, Ecl. 3:20, Heb. 9:27 — and our spirit will return to God from whence it came — Psa. 104:29-30, Ecl. 12:7. It is our souls, the seat of our individual personalities that Jesus came to save. It is the soul that sinned, it is the soul that needs salvation. It is through rebellion of the soul that

man fell — it is by submission of the soul, through faith in Jesus, that we are saved. We would do well to observe those ordinances which relate to our wills, for they **display the salvation of our souls.**

When Satan fell, he committed a sin of rebellion. He sinned against God's authority. In his own words, "I will make myself like the Most High" — Isaiah 14:14. That statement is the ultimate in rebellion, the most heinous blasphemy. The unsaved are also in a state of rebellion, and are part of the enemy's kingdom of darkness.

When we accept the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we submit to the authority of Him against whom Satan rebelled. We turn away from our rebellion against God and His law, and turn unto Him through His Son. We accept the blood of Jesus as the full satisfaction to God the Father for our sins . . . the full purchase price to transfer us from being the property of Satan, to being the children of the Living God — Eph. 5:8, Co. 1:13.

What Satan refused to be before the Lord is fulfilled in the church. We submitted where he rebelled. Glory is brought to God the Father, through His Son, by the voluntary submission of the church to His authority. This is displayed typologically to man and angelic majesties by those ordinances relating to the Bridegroom and Bride.⁴

Gospel parables show the Bridegroom as a type of Christ, and the Bride, a type of the church — Matt. 9:14-17, 25:1-13, Luke 5:34-35, John 3:29. This is affirmed in the epistles and Revelation — II Cor. 11:2, Rom. 7:4, Rev. 21:2, 9. The

husband is a type of Christ, the wife a type of the church. The Lord has beautifully explained this truth in Ephesians.⁵

22 Wives be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as **Christ also is the head of the church**. He Himself being the Savior of the body.

24 **But as the church is subject to Christ**, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ also loved the church** and gave Himself up for her;

26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, **just as Christ also does the church**,

30 because we are members of His body.

31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.

32 **This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.**

— Ephesians 5:23-32 NASB

Read verses 23 and 32 again, and again, and then one more time . . . until the Holy Spirit makes

them real to your heart. Husband you are a type of Christ, wife you are a type of the church! This truth will stand as long as there are men and women. The single man is still a type of Christ, the single woman is still a type of the church. I Cor. 11:3, 7 shows this also, without reference to marital status.

It needs to be said right here, and will be repeated again. This relationship does not teach male superiority. I Cor. 11:11-12 and Gal. 3:28 make this quite clear. To believe that they do, is one of the "doctrines of demons," part of the deception of the enemy. This chain of command is about God's government. Satan rebelled against God's governmental order, and today he is getting the church to do the same thing under the guise of equality for woman. The Bible states that men and women are equal before the Lord, but this equality does not give us license to disregard God's government.

Let me give a little example. Is the governor of the state, or the local policeman, any "better" than anyone else in God's eyes? Of course not. They are men for whom Christ died, just like any of us. Nevertheless, they represent an earthly authority which we dare not disobey. If we openly rebel against them, we will go to jail or get shot. God has not "given them the sword for nothing" — Rom. 13:4. If we respect man's governmental authority out of fear, what should our attitude be to the governmental order, established by God, for the saints?

On earth, when governments become brutal or repressive, history shows that rebellion is soon to follow — the American Revolution in 1776 is an example. God's government is never repressive, of course, but sometimes His delegated representatives are. If husbands are unkind or coercive, they should not be surprised by the rebellion of their wives.

Husbands, be in fear if your wife is submitted to you because of these laws of God, and you are walking in sin; if she is obedient while you rebel. Here is why. If we have a Righteous King and a righteous servant, and in between a steward who mistreats that king's servant, it will not be long before the Righteous King punishes the unjust steward — Matt. 24:45-51, Luke 12:43-46. That is the way government works.

Wives, pray for your husbands if they mistreat you, forgive them, and fear for them. The Lord has not forgotten you, and sooner or later His disciplining hand will rest heavily upon them. They have broken a type of Christ. Jesus does not oppress the church.

The Bridegroom and the Bride type has three visible signs or ordinances⁶ which display the submission of the church to the headship of Christ, and the governmental authority of God the Father. If we ignore these ordinances which show God's authority, do not think for a moment that it will escape the notice of Satan and his angels, neither will we be able to remain free of his influence or domination. There are numerous scriptures which support this conclusion — I Cor.

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5:5, II Cor. 2:11, I Tim. 1:20, 5:15, Matt. 12:43-45, Luke 11:24-26, Rev. 2:24, 3:9. What are these ordinances then, and how do they display the authority of God?

FOOTNOTES

Chapter III

¹Two books which beautifully expound on these truths could prove to be a blessing. *The Normal Christian Life*, Watchman Nee, Tyndale House, 1985. *Love One Another*, Watchman Nee, Tyndale House, 1980.

²The Greek word for body, "sōma" is defined as "the living instrument of life, whether of man living or dead, or of beasts . . . the word is also used of the physical nature . . ." *Vines Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words*, Bethany House, 1984, pp 128-129.

³Do not hastily conclude that "protects" is too strong a word. The Old Testament has several examples of obedience to typological ordinances or commands that resulted in life or health for the believer: Passover — Ex. 12:23, The Brazen serpent — Nu. 21:9, Honoring our parents — Ex. 20:12; as well as general references showing that health or life results from obedience to God's law — Prov. 3:7-8, 4:20-22, Psa. 38:3.

On what basis would we assume that the same principle does not hold true for the church? Scripture was written for real people, fighting real spiritual battles, that have real impacts upon the daily physical, mental, and spiritual health of the believer. Rest fully assured, the ordinances we obey today will have a real impact on our lives. The author is disgusted with theoretical theology. If it don't work, it ain't no good!

⁴The Bridegroom and Bride is a type of the relationship between Christ and the church in both love and authority. It indeed regulates how husbands and wives should in-

teract. Nevertheless, it is not an ordinance. Instead, it is the theological foundation upon which the ordinances relating to Christ's authority over the church is based. **Ordinances are rules of behavior observed when the church assembles to worship.**

⁶In this and all passages following: Bold face type is added to emphasize some doctrinal point, or to bring attention to a central verse or phrase. No such emphasis exists in the original texts of the Bible.

⁶It has been theorized that all church ordinances were instituted by Jesus during His life on earth. This is a misunderstanding of what church ordinances are. They are physical typological fulfillments of the relationship of Christ to the individual believer in his life or in the church. The ordinances relating to the Bridegroom and Bride could not have been instituted during Jesus lifetime, because the church was not established until after Jesus was glorified! It would be impossible to observe these ordinances in the church before there was a church in which they could have been observed. These ordinances were contained within the "excellence of the revelation" granted unto Paul, the apostle to the Gentile church!

IV

Timothy Was In Ephesus

Women, as the type of the church, have the awesome responsibility of showing the spiritual condition of the church to all creation. By what they do, they can show to angelic majesties whether or not the church will be under the protection of the holy angels, or open to demonic attack. The three ordinances are:

- 1) **“Let a woman cover her head when praying or prophesying”** — I Cor. 11:5-6.
- 2) **“Let a woman remain silent in the church . . . they are not permitted to speak”** — I Cor. 14:34.
- 3) **“I do not allow woman to teach or hold authority over a man”** — I Tim. 2:12.

These are very pointed and explicit instructions, and the Lord did not put them in His Word to be argued about in committee. If these precepts were not part of God's eternal law, they would have been nullified somewhere else in scripture, just as the Levitical code was superceded by the New Covenant. These commands have not been nullified, so they stand today — II Pet. 3:2, 15-16. If we wish to free the church from demonic influence, rather than trying to interpret these commands away, we need to become enlightened as to why they are in the Bible.

Believing that the Lord inspired the scripture in the order we have it, passages relating to these commands are quoted in the order they appear. There are many other allusions and quotations, but these are the primary references. Note that all of them are stated as firm directives, not suggestions.

This I Corinthians passage is quoted in its entirety, to preclude any contention that verses were taken out of context to prove a doctrinal position, or to avoid "difficult" statements. Verses central to our study have been set in bold face type. For a complete exegesis of every verse, see footnote¹.

(1) HEAD-COVERING

3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

4 Every man who has something on his head

while praying or prophesying, disgraces his head.

5 But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying, disgraces her head, for she is one and the same with her whose head is shaved.

6 For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head.

7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

8 For a man does not originate from woman, but woman from man;

9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.

10 Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

11 However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.

12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.

13 Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God with head uncovered?

14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair it is a dishonor to him,

15 but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? For her hair is given to her for a covering.

16 But if one is inclined to be contentious, we have no other practice, nor have the churches of God.

17 But in giving this instruction, I do not praise

you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse.

18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it.

19 For there must also be factions among you, in order that those who are approved may have become evident among you.

— I Corinthians 11:3-19 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

Look carefully at verse three. As this verse itself states, it is the key to understanding this passage — “I want you to understand.” God the Father is showing to all creation His governmental order. He is the head of Christ, Christ is the head of man, man is the head of woman.¹

Is it only for us here on earth? Look carefully at verse ten. God’s governmental order is being displayed to angelic majesties, Eph. 3:9-10 affirms this truth. When a woman, as a type of the church, covers her head, she is showing to angels the submission of the church to Christ. What a privilege and blessing women have in this. Through a little thing like a hat, Col. 2:15 is fulfilled, “when He disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them . . .” Satan and his angels were totally defeated at the cross — Luke 10:18, John 12:31, and a public display of this victory is made with a little thing like a woman covering her head. Satan hates for the church to observe this ordinance, and will do all he can to stop it. It is a visible sign of his defeat. Indeed “God has chosen the weak things of the

world to shame the things which are strong" —
I Cor. 1:27.

Putting on a head-covering does not accomplish submission to the Lord Jesus, any more than being baptized or taking communion makes us Christians. A veil or hat is an outward sign of an inner spiritual condition. But it is a visible sign, of the salvation of the soul, which fallen angels see! Let's say that again. This sign is seen visibly by the fallen angels! That ought to warn us of something!²

(2) SILENCE

34 Let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

35 And if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

36 Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only?

37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

38 But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

39 Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues.

40 But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.

— I Corinthians 14:34-40 NASB

(3) SUBMISSION OF AUTHORITY

8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissention.

9 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments;

10 but rather by means of good works, as befits women making a claim to godliness.

11 **Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.**

12 **But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.**

13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.

14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression.

15 But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

— I Timothy 2:8-15 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

Just in case “with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” — 1 Cor. 1:2, is not sufficient to convince us that the book of 1 Corinthians is for us today, notice where the last of the above quotes is found — in Paul’s pastoral epistle to Timothy. As such, it makes mincemeat of any contention that these precepts were addressed to an unruly 1st Century Corinthian church. Timothy was in Ephesus! I Tim. 1:3. There is no hint, from the sublime epistle to

the Ephesians, that they were unruly or an assembly in disregard to authority.⁹

Women's silence of I Cor. 14:34-35 is affirmed, and to it is added that a woman should not teach or hold authority over a man, reinforcing Gen. 3:16. If our spiritual eyes are open, we see typologically that the church should receive instruction with quiet submissiveness. Certainly the church can not teach or hold authority over the Son of God — I Tim. 2:11-12.

Verse 13 in "Adam was created first" affirms God's governmental order. Verse 14 in "the woman being quite deceived" amplifies the reason for it, and is most important. It brings to our attention a strange phenomenon of man's nature.

Women are more sensitive to messages from spirits than men are. They have better spiritual antenna, I suppose. This is easily provable today. Mediums, fortune tellers, palmists and witches are rarely men. That is why Satan tempted Eve . . . she could get the message!

When this first woman turned unto a message from a spirit and shared it with her husband, it caused the fall of man. The Lord is reminding us of the fall here, and telling us not to listen to women who are listening to spirits anymore . . . that it is not in our best spiritual interest to do so. Can we hear that? Of course not! Our minds are too filled with escaping male domination and breaking cultural molds. There is little time left for true spiritual insight.

Despite these warnings in the Bible, some women are again receiving messages from the

spirits. Most tongues are uttered by women, and men are listening. This time, the men of the church! The first time, the fall of man . . . this time it will probably lead to the fall of the church, the great apostasy. Impossible? Wait until you read the rest of this book before you say so.

Dear Christian wives, be very, very careful when you discuss spiritual matters with your husbands. Be careful, because of your wonderful, God-given, but spiritually dangerous sensitivity. You could again lead a man astray.

(4) CHURCH TYPES

Though the following quotes contain no specific rules which may be typologically interpreted, they are tender little spiritual glimpses of the beauty and the witness of the church as the Lord would desire to see it. All Christians should be able to see themselves mirrored here.

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

4 that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the world of God may not be dishonored.

6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;

7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,

8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach,

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in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

9 Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,

10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

— Titus 2:3-11 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

What a blessing these verses are when we look at them as the type of the church. We can see what the Lord desires the witness of the saints, His beloved people, to be before the world and the angelic hosts. In Verse 5 the type of Christ and the church is again alluded to in "that the word of God may not be dishonored." A typological word by word exegesis of this passage could take a whole chapter (not appropriate here), but it is a wonderful subject for personal devotions.

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

3 And let not your adornment be merely external — braiding the hair and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.

6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

7 You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

8 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for that very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

— I Peter 3:1-9 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

Oh brethren, what a humbling passage. As Abraham offered up Isaac and later became the father of all Israel (including the church by adoption) we see him here as a type of God the Father for all the believers, Jew and Gentile. The disobedient husbands are seen symbolically as the unsaved world. From verses two through five, look at the beautiful picture we have of what the church should be. From verse six, as Sarah was toward Abraham, look at what our attitude should be to the Father. The first half of verse seven shows us how God the Father looks at the church. How beautiful!

These are not new truths. They have been with us for centuries. But what our fathers knew and taught in the church is hidden from us now. Until about forty years ago, the submission ordinances were understood and observed the world over. In some countries, where the church is being severely persecuted, they are still observed, fulfilling II Tim. 3:12 — “All those who desire to live Godly in Jesus Christ shall be persecuted.” Persecution accompanies standing for the Lord today, just as it always has.

It is interesting to note that the explosion of the world-wide charismatic experience was not in the church, until after these precepts were generally disregarded. If that means what it appears to mean, it would be to our advantage to get our spiritual heads screwed back on straight, and our doctrine and behavior back in line with what the Bible directs.

In our rushing headlong after each new spiritual experience and manifestation, we have forgotten to check with our guidebook, the Word of God. We need to ask, what has caused us to become so lax that we allow all forms of worldliness in our own lives, and in the church. Why have we permitted our children to become addicted to rock music, drugs and satanism? What is the relationship between the ordinances we are ignoring and the falling away of the church?

FOOTNOTES

Chapter IV

¹This passage is difficult to understand apart from the governmental order expressed in V:3, and men and women as a type of Christ and the church, described in Ephesians 5:23-32. But, in that light, every verse becomes crystal clear.

V:4 Christ is victorious. If a man covers his head he shows Jesus to be in submission.

V:5 The church should be submitted to Jesus. If a woman does not cover her head, as a type she shows the church to be in rebellion to the headship of Christ. That her hair is not a sufficient covering is proved by, "she is one and the same with her whose head is shaved." Head shaving for woman is an almost universal and timeless symbol for one in harlotry, or adultery.

V:6 If a woman will not cover her head she must be bald. "Let her have her hair cut off" is stated as a command. The Lord is telling us how serious this is. If a woman does not cover her head, she is showing the church to be in harlotry . . . in idolatry . . . in rebellion!

V:7 Typologically, the church is to glorify Jesus . . . not Jesus the church.

V:8 The church originates from Jesus . . . not Jesus from the church.

V:9 The church was created for Jesus' sake . . . not Jesus for the churches' sake.

V:10 By this time, I hope spiritual alarm claxtons are going off in your heart . . . "Therefore a woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head because of the angels!" Oh, my dear brothers and sisters, look at all we show to the enemy about the spiritual condition of the church if we ignore this passage. What terrible access we give him.

V:11-12 These verses clarify that men and women are equal when kneeling before the throne of grace.

V:15 When in the presence of Jesus, the woman as a type of the church should hide her glory that the Lord might get all the glory. God gave long hair to woman as His covering to those who are ignorant of His Word, a universal covering to all women on earth. We have the Bible, and more is expected of us. We are not excused from obeying Verses 5-6 and 10 by this verse!

V:16 This is the only verse in this whole passage which might be culturally interpreted. In the 1st century, neither Greek men nor women covered their heads as a daily practice. Jewish men and women both did. The extant pictorial records of both cultures are too conclusive for debate. That women only should wear a head covering was a practice peculiar to the church. That is probably what Paul meant when he said, "We (the Jews) have no such practice, nor have the (Gentile) churches of God." The NASB translates the intent of this verse more clearly than the literal KJV. But regardless of how we wish to interpret Verses 15 and 16, they in no way negate the direct commands of Verses 5, 6 and 10. Since these commands are not countermanded in any other scriptures, they stand today. If we wish to disregard them, we need Biblical support to do so, not theological suppositions.

³It is scripturally sound to accept that the gifts of the Spirit — I Cor. 12-14 — are for today . . . But it is spiritual Russian roulette to ignore the commands which appear just before and just after them, in I Cor. 11 and 14. These commands regulate the exercise of these gifts. We can't have it both ways. If the gifts are for today, so are the commands. If the commands are only for the 1st century, so are the gifts. If we play it any other way, we become a judge of the law rather than a doer of it.

***This letter to Timothy at Ephesus was written later than Paul's epistle to the Ephesians. It is probable that I Tim. 2:8-15 represents the practical applications of the type of Christ and the Church which Paul had already outlined in his prior epistle to that church — Eph. 5:21-33.**

Holy Angels, Fallen Angels

Since the Word tells us that the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth — John 16:13, for the mature brethren, we could probably end the book right here. It is never a matter of doctrine, always a question of submission. Are we willing to obey God's Word? However, for the younger brethren not yet nurtured in the Word, it might be well to amplify a few points.

“If anyone is inclined to be contentious . . .” — I Cor. 11:16. There has been plenty of argument over these passages, sure enough. But like we

couldn't understand being born again until we were, neither can we understand the spiritual significance of head-covering, silence, or submission to authority until we obey and become so.

Remember when we were saved, how the Holy Spirit opened the Word to us, so that each day new spiritual truths seemed to just pop off the pages of the Bible? When we come under the submission ordinances, the same wonderful thing happens. We walk up another step on the staircase of our Christian growth.

Suddenly, passages of Scripture which were obscure to us become clear as a mountain stream. Verses such as, "If you forgive the sins of any . . . they have been forgiven. If you retain the sins of any they have been retained" — John 20:23, and "Whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven" — Matt. 18:19. We learn that these verses can become true in our lives; that we rule with Christ, as Scripture says — Rev. 1:6, 5:10, I Pet. 2:5, 9 — not just in abstract theory, but in actuality, over a real spiritual kingdom which exists today! We learn about spiritual authority . . . what it is, and how the Lord delegates it.

We learn that the Lord does not give spiritual authority to anyone who is not totally submitted to Him, any more than an earthly government would make a rebel the captain of one of their nuclear subs. The weapons that would be under his control are far too dangerous.

Spiritual power is also far too dangerous to give to anyone unless it is the Lord, and only the Lord, who is calling the shots. Consequently, spiritual power is a litmus test of our willingness to make Jesus the Lord of our life. If we lack spiritual power in our Christian service, it is because we are not totally submitted to Him.

God's Word is absolutely authoritative. When a servant quotes God's Word, he is speaking with absolute authority. His authority is diminished by what ever degree he dilutes God's Words with his own. Moses probably had more spiritual authority than any other man who ever lived (except Jesus). He was also the meekest — Nu. 12:3.

True spiritual authority is delegated in direct proportion to our submission, and visible to all through our walk. God's servant is obedient to His Word. The more submitted we become, the less we depart from scriptural truth and the more we fear presumptuously exceeding our authority.

In truth, we have no spiritual authority, unless it is imputed to us from God. This can only take place when we cease to strive in the flesh, and become just a conduit for God's own authority through His Word. God will not grant spiritual authority, nor place His stamp of approval on people who are not submitted to His Will — Josh. 7, I Sam. 4:3-11, 16:14, Jonah 1, Nu. 16.

If authority is being displayed by someone in disobedience to the Bible, the power he is wielding is not the Lord's. It is the enemy's, through violent men attempting to take the kingdom of God

by force, Matt. 11:12. The church is full of these aggressive and willful seekers of power today.

Demons, being in rebellion themselves, are delighted to empower men and women who are also in rebellion. In this way rebellion and heresy are spread throughout the church.¹

During our lives here on earth, we are constantly surrounded by unseen spirit beings. Which kind we relate to, and how we interact with them is determined for us by Scripture.

There are holy angels and fallen angels. God's angels protect us from demonic attack — Psa. 91:11, Jude 9. When we obey I Cor. 11:10, "Let a woman have a symbol of authority on her head," she does so "**BECAUSE OF THE ANGELS**". Can the fallen angels be prevented from attacking us, and can the holy angels legally continue to protect us if we ignore this ordinance, or the silence command of I Cor. 14:34-35? Of course, is our initial response, but let's look at what the Bible says in the same context:

37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.

38 If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored.

— I. Cor. 14:37-38 NIV, see footnote 5, Ch. III

That is sobering. Ignored by whom? Context implies that we will be ignored by him who gave the command . . . that is the Lord! Consequently, this would include our guardian angels, because we are not showing to them that we are under the headship of Christ. This is the law as the angels see it,

and the holy angels obey the law, even if we do not. Read I Cor. 11:10 one more time, and all this will start to fall into place.

If we take our eyes off Satan's toys long enough to look around at our spiritual realities today, we will see that the whole world is convulsed in a titanic spiritual battle involving the awesome forces of principalities and powers in heavenly places. Satan's time is short, and he is going forth with great fury to destroy — Rev. 12:12, 17.

If we allow ourselves to be led out from under the protection of the forces of God, we find ourselves spiritually undefended right smack in the middle of the enemy's field of fire. Only one angel, "The Destroyer" of Ex. 12:23, slew all the first-born of Egypt. What human can stand before that kind of malevolent power without holy angelic help? This is of extreme gravity. What has the Lord directed Christians to do to protect them from this possibility?

We, too, must show spiritually that we are behind the blood on the doorposts — Ex. 12:7-13. We, too, must display that we are behind the Lord's protecting hand. We dare not go out.

When a woman is silent in a church, and wears a head-covering, she, as a type of the church — Eph. 5:32 — is showing to the angelic majesties the salvation of the soul and that the church is in submission to the Lord Jesus — I Cor. 11:10. If she does not cover her head, speaks in church, or teaches or holds authority over a man — I Tim. 2:11-12 — she is showing those same angelic majesties that the church is in rebellion to the Lord.

We have come out from behind our invulnerable armor. That may not frighten some, but it scares me to death.

A woman may not teach a man, not for any shallow chauvenistic or cultural reason, but because the church is subject to God the Father, through His Son; and the church has neither the knowledge nor the authority to teach anything to the Lord Jesus.

A wife is submitted to her husband, not because he is any better than she is, as scripture plainly states — I Cor. 11:11-12, Gal. 3:28, but to show that the church is under the headship of Christ. Not to do so shows the church to be in rebellion against the Lord. The sin of Korah and associates is repeated — Nu. 16:1-35.

Since we are “an example unto all creation,” rest assured that the fallen angels have their eyes on the church. They are aware of the spiritual significance of these things, and take advantage of the commands we disregard. Ignoring God’s government, I Cor. 11:3, Eph. 3:9-10, opens the doors of the church to demonic attack. We have given them access by our disobedience.

Head-covering is an archaic idea, but so is Baptism and Communion. They are all 2,000 years old . . . the age of the church. If we wish to abandon the submission ordinances on the basis of antiquity (or the culture of the 1st century church) where shall we stop; idolatry, adultery? They are older by another 1,400 years, and a second culture older still.

By this time, many probably believe that I am some sort of a wierd-o prophet of head-covering. If you believe that, the central message of this book has been missed.

We have seen that true spiritual authority is delegated to God's servants most submitted to Him. Despite that, those churches which claim the authority to exhibit the gifts of the Spirit, are also the churches which refuse to obey any of the ordinances which show to the fallen angels that they are submitted to Jesus. Some of those churches which are the least submitted are claiming the most authority. Fascinating!

The whole church in America today is, to some degree, in rebellion to the submission ordinances and has become lukewarm just as the Bible declared we would be some day — Rev. 3:15-17, I John 2:15-16. We have shown this spiritual condition to demons, and they have attacked us forthwith.

Simple little things, head-covering and silence, but try to get a woman to obey them. She will not! Let's say that again . . . she will not! Why? Because the spirits of rebellion by which the church is being influenced will not let her. If you think that is a joke, or some kind of ritualistic hogwash . . . try. Try it with your wife, try it on your church. Scripture is plain, and regardless of excuses, if we believe the Bible to be the Word of God, doctrine cannot be the problem. No, the woman as a type of the church is giving an external sign of an inner spiritual condition.

To show the ultimate satanic result of disobeying this "little" command: out in the world, punk rock women are shaving their heads, showing absolute rebellion to the natural covering God gave to all women — I Cor. 11:15. Demonism, drugs, gross immorality, and Satanism are prevalent among them too. God's word stands. They have the most depraved kinds of deluding spirits.

Only if the Christian husband has the spiritual authority of the Lord through his personal submission to the Word, only if his wife sees this condition — his heart submissive to the headship of Jesus Christ in his own life, only then will she be willing to come under her husband's headship in this thing. Why? Because that is what this sign is all about. It is an external sign of an inner spiritual condition — the submission of the church to Jesus Christ.

Husbands, the wives have not done this on their own. It has been with man's approval and consent, just like the Israelite women who worshipped the queen of heaven.

"And," said the women, "when we were burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven, and were pouring out libations to her, was it without our husbands that we made for her sacrificial cakes in her image and poured out libations to her?"
— Jer. 44:19 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

Men have abandoned their spiritual headship of the home, and the chickens have come home to roost. Christian men today, by and large, are an indecisive lot, not meriting the respect or submis-

sion of their wives. Husbands must stand firm in the Lord, defending the authority of God's Word to their wives, but with gentleness and kindness, showing concern for their needs, as Abraham did with Sarah — I Pet. 3:7. To do so in a proper spirit shows symbolically that Christ holds His authority over the church in love.

Some men believe their headship of the home entitles them to lord it over their wives like some kind of feudal baron. Men are to lead their family as a shepherd leads the sheep. If men do not act as Christian husbands, in the full scriptural sense of the word, their behavior will come back to haunt them in the aversion, passive resistance, or open opposition of their wives. This is the way the Lord set up the system, and it works. Many brethren who observe these ordinances can affirm it.

A growing problem in the church today (even among the ministers of the gospel) is adultery and fornication whitewashed as divorce and re-marriage. Do we realize the spiritual implication of this — that Jesus would divorce the church and find another? Impossible! It is contrary to His nature, and to His Word "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Praise God, that in the face of our unfaithfulness, He is steadfast. He will not abandon those who are His — II Tim. 2:13. Jesus hates divorce, because it is contrary to all He died for — His church, His bride.

All this may sound as if we are getting away from the central issue, but not so. The interaction between a Christian husband and his wife is a

sign of the church's spiritual relationship to the Lord. The church is made up of people.

Yet, despite our spiritual condition and disregard of scripture, tongues, words of wisdom, and other "spirit" manifestations are sweeping the church. Proponents claim that this is the Holy Spirit combatting the increased demonism and satanism in the world.

A horrifying alternative to that view, however, is that the enemy is introducing false gifts into the church, and leading the brethren down a garden path which will end in the worship of angels and demons. Is that possible? If we do not show the enemy that we are submitted to Jesus . . . you bet it is!

It is hard to determine the correct order for the next five chapters. Disobedience has led to a faulty Christian walk, which has led to faulty doctrine, which has led to further disobedience, which has resulted in a more faulty walk, which has produced more false doctrine, which has led to further disobedience . . . and round and round . . . but from what vantage point should we view this merry-go-round that the enemy is now leading the church to ride?

FOOTNOTE
Chapter V

¹This point needs amplifying. It is one of the central reasons there is demonic activity in churches today. God's Word is the absolute authority and Christians are commanded to "submit to one another in love" — Eph.

5:21. This includes pastors, priests, teachers, elders, and deacons. God does give these offices in the church, to be sure, but not to lord it over the brethren — I Pet. 5:3. All are equal before the Throne of Grace. The authority is God's Word, we are merely conduits. If the least member of the body perceives a truth from God's Word, all must submit. Again, the Word is the authority. If a brother needs to be corrected or disciplined, it is the authority of God through the Word that must do so. We are only men. Moses knew this, and did not correct Korah himself. He let God do it. Moses understood that he had no authority. The only time he exhibited his own authority is when he struck the rock twice, an act he lived to regret.

When any man elevates himself in the church and becomes an "authority," above the Word, he is in rebellion to the Lord. The more autocratic the authority, the worse the rebellion. It is the Roman heresy. Satan will take advantage of this access to introduce further heresy.

A little word study of the sin of the Nicolaitans, and the Balaamites (within the seven churches) makes this quite plain — Rev. 2:6, 14-15.

Nicol = to conquer, Laos = the people

Bala = to conquer, Ha'am = the people

Today we have many men who have become puffed up and have "conquered the people." They think God has given them some special power over the church. God hates it. They usurp Jesus' headship of the body. God does raise up men in the church, to be sure; but, like the time of the judges in Israel, the church is a theocracy. When God raises people up, He does so that they may teach the gospel, shepherd, help, heal, prophesy and so on. These offices do not come with black boots and a whip. Sometimes "church leaders," under the guise of "protecting" the flock (translate that, agreeing with

denominational or personal opinions), prevent the Holy Spirit from reaching the flock. God's Word is the authority, not you, not me, not anyone. Jesus is the head, not Rome, not Constantinople, and surely not Missouri.

VI

Not By Their Gifts

At the outset, let me say that the author believes the gifts of the Spirit are for the whole church age. He sees no scriptural reason to deny it. He is not against the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit. However, if we are going to exercise these gifts, we must do so within the guidelines set by scripture to be sure that we are not under demonic influence.

“The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets,”

— I Cor. 14:32 NASB

Through the rest of this book, you are going to read some of the strongest statements you have ever seen in print. If you disagree, fine. Prove your contention from the Bible, the eternal Word of God. If not, the author is going to stand on what scripture states, even if God only said it once. After all, how many times did He have to say, "Let there be light"?

For the last three decades the church has been showing an unorthodox interest in spiritual manifestations. There is nothing wrong with interest in the work of the Holy Spirit. Our battle is spiritual — Eph. 5:11-12. But in some churches, this interest is bordering on an obsession, and the "seeking" for the filling of the Holy Spirit is exceeding the zeal to know the Lord Jesus. That is counter to God's Word. Jesus said, "Come unto me" and "I am the Way" — Matt. 11:28, John 14:6. Scriptures which affirm the centrality of the Lord Jesus are numberless. Jesus should be the center of our worship.

A falling away, however, starts with a tiny little heresy. Not a big, bad lie that everyone would recognize immediately, but a little bending of the truth like, "Let's seek after the fullness of the Holy Spirit." Now doesn't that sound sanctified? We all want to be filled with the Holy Spirit, don't we? Sure! But I don't find anywhere in scripture that I need to "seek" for Him. The Bible says that He is given to those who obey the Lord Jesus. Here are two of many verses which state this truth.

“And I will ask the Father, and He will **GIVE** you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

— John 14:156 NASB

“And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has **GIVEN** to those who obey Him.”

— Acts 5:31 NASB, see footnote 5 Ch. III

So the Holy Spirit is **given** to those who obey, not to those who **seek**! Subtle . . . but then we are dealing with a very cunning enemy.²

The Holy Spirit was not sent to lead us unto Himself, but unto the Lord Jesus. Any leading of a spirit, which takes our eyes off the Lord Jesus, is **not** of the Holy Spirit of God. Meditate on that a long time! Jesus said, “He will bear witness of Me” — John 15:26, and “He will **NOT** speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak” — John 16:13-15, John 14:26, Tit. 3:5-6, I John 4:2.

This is such an important point that it must be emphasized. Any spirit which influences us to take our eyes off the Lord Jesus, to worship a spirit, is not the Holy Spirit of God! That is not the Holy Spirit’s function. Jesus said, “He will bear witness of Me” — John 15:26. That is what the Bible says.

There are many lying spirits. Why should we believe them? Would you believe me if I said I was Julius Caesar? Of course not. Neither should we believe the “claims” of some spirit, no matter

how good he sounds, if what he says is not in accord with what scripture states. Satan was a liar from the beginning, and now he is trying to deceive the saints into believing that he is the Holy Spirit. He looks beautiful, just as the Bible warned us he would, II Cor. 11:14-15.

But no matter what a spirit "claims" to be, if a spirit leads people to worship a spirit, it is not the work of the Holy Spirit of God! It is a false spirit, with a false doctrine — Col. 2:18, John 16:13! Where then is that spirit from? It is from the enemy. It is a demon.

Many churches today have turned their eyes from the cross unto angels and spirits — Col. 2:18. That is not of God! Jesus is central, from the creation until the eternal kingdom of God the Father — Matt. 28:18, Col. 1:15-18, 2:9-10, Eph. 1:20-23. We are not directed to "seek" the Holy Spirit, but we are commanded to seek to know Jesus — Matt. 11:28, John 6:37, 12:46, 16:13-15, Acts 17:27, I Cor. 2:2, Phil. 3:7-12, Rev. 3:20. However, once we swallow the little lie, that we have to "seek" the filling of the Holy Spirit, then we can proceed to bigger and better untruths.

"Everyone who is baptized in the Holy Spirit will have the evidence of speaking in other tongues." There is not a single verse of scripture which says anything like this, and it is directly contrary to two. "All do not speak in tongues do they?" — I Cor. 12:30; and "For to one is given . . . gifts of healing . . . To another miracles . . . To another prophecy . . . To another various kinds of

tongues . . ." — I Cor. 12:8-9.¹ Obviously various people received different gifts, while only some received tongues.

To state then that all are to speak in tongues as a sign of the filling of the Spirit is a lie! It is directly contrary to the Word of God — I Cor. 12:7, 11.

Not only that, it is the wrong yardstick by which to measure the believer's spiritual condition. Jesus himself said, "By their fruits," (not by their gifts) "you shall know them" — Luke 6:44. Satan can and has faked the gifts. He is a past master at it. Anyone who believes that African witchcraft, Haitian voodoo, or Southeast Asian demon worship do not work, is uninformed. Here in America, satanic rock concerts even have altar calls and healing services. Sound familiar? It should. We have the same thing. But we are not commanded in scripture to have altar calls or healing services, so the source is the same. All result in the outward display of gifts or works . . . and do not show the inner spiritual condition.

God's yardstick is to look for spiritual fruit. Why? Because the fruit of the Spirit displays the Christian's new heart. Satan does not give his servants a new heart, and he doesn't imitate the fruits very well — Gal. 5:22-24. He is not in the love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, and mercy business. Satan is the destroyer — Rev. 9:11, and his methods are very crafty. Let's look at one. Though the example in the next chapter does not deal with the submission ordinances directly,

it does show that ignoring the authority that God has delegated to the elders of the local church can result in demonic activity.

FOOTNOTES

Chapter VI

¹Punctuation and emphasis added for clarity.

²In Luke 11:13 Jesus declares that God the Father will "give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." the key word is give. If we once ask the Father for the Holy Spirit we must then in faith believe that God will keep His word. If we continue to "seek" for the Holy Spirit after once (and just once) asking for Him, we suggest that God the Father has not kept His promise. Impossible — Nu. 23:19! Satan will take advantage of that obvious unbelief to introduce false spirits and counterfeit gifts into the church. Proveably, this has led us into heresy and the worship of angels and spirits — Col. 2:18.

As is true of all counterfeits, these spiritual manifestations imitate the truth very closely. It is the nature of counterfeiting to make the false as close to the true as is possible. That is why the proof of the bogus nature of these spiritual manifestations can only be determined by a very careful comparison with the genuine article, i.e. by employing the acid test provided for us in the infallible Word of God — I John 4:1-3.

VII

Medicine Show

Around the country today roam self-styled "Christian faith healers." They come steaming into town with flags waving, banners flying, and radios blaring the news of their arrival:

**"FROM THE HEARTS OF
ELMO & HEPZIBAH,
HEALING."**

(to coin fictitious names)

They sound oh so loving, but the arrogance of that statement is enough to make you shiver. When God heals, He does so to bring glory to His Son Jesus, not to Elmo & Hepzibah.

If the display of their mediumistic powers was all these healers did, it would be bad enough, but some of them preach. On occasion their messages contain such blasphemous doctrines as "Jesus died spiritually, and was subject to demons," contrary to John 18:10 and Luke 4:36 to cite only two refutations out of many. Jesus never was, and never will be subject to any demon! He is Almighty God. These so-called faith healers are in direct opposition to the Bible, and are like those reckless "wandering stars, for whom the black darkness is reserved" — Jude 13. Though some of them claim to love the Lord, if they perform any super-natural healings, these healings will be mediumistic and not of the Holy Spirit. I fear for their souls, and the future spiritual health of those they heal.

Those are strong statements to make, and a Christian must be on firm scriptural ground when he makes them. If he is wrong, it is blasphemy! How then can you know for sure when you speak out against some doctrine or work, that you are standing against the devil, and not some true servant of the Lord? The Lord does not want His sheep to be led astray, so He has made discernment simple, even for very young believers. If we read our Bible and put what it states above the interpretations of man, Satan will have a very hard time selling us false doctrine.

It is a terrible thing when a Bible teacher has to warn God's people against some of his so-called associates in the field; but if a teacher or some trumpet-toting faith healer is not observing the

commands in God's Word, he is **NOT** God's servant, even if he spouts "In Jesus' name" until the second coming — I John 3:9-10, 2:4, Jer. 23:25-32, Matt. 5:18-19, 7:15-22, Acts 20:29-30.

When we look at scriptural examples of healing, they all had one thing in common. They were subsidiary to the primary ministry of the prophet or evangelist. This gift, and other miracles, were given as authentication of the prophetic or preaching ministry. Even for the Lord Jesus, physical healing was not central, but showed God the Father's approval of His ministry — Ex. 19:9, Luke 8:50, John 10:38, Acts 8:6, 16:16-34. We see no scriptural example of a healing ministry as a primary ministry in itself, nor is there any textual support for one. Then, as now, healing is an authenticating adjunct to preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Throughout church history, there have been many stunning examples of miraculous healings, and God through His Holy Spirit performs healings still today; but the Bible is explicit about who gets that gift, so that no one person gets the glory. Note the plurals in the following quotation:

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

— James 5:14-15 NASB

That verse is so very simple that even a child can understand it. If we are sick we are to "call the elders!" If we go somewhere else for supernatural healing, we are in direct disobedience to that verse! It doesn't matter in the least, if a traveling "healer" has sparks coming out of his ears, or pulls elephants out of the pulpit, we are still commanded to "CALL THE ELDERS!" Any way you want to look at it, these traveling medicine shows do not represent the elders of a given church, and we have no scripture which would lead us to believe that the Lord would circumvent the authority to heal the sick which He has granted to His elders.

True spiritual authority is through the "still small voice," not the mighty wind, the earthquake or the fire — I Kings 19:11-12. God will never send some spectacular "anointed" healer around to lead you to disobey His command to "call the elders!" — James 1:13. Church history bears this out. Study the multitudes of healings through the elders of Charles Haddon Spurgeon's church in the late 19th century. The elders there later stopped healing, because of a fear that they were beginning to get the glory, rather than the Lord Jesus.

It is not some "name" up there in lights then, but the little unknown elders of our local church who receive the gift of healing. Little in man's eyes, but greatly honored in the eyes of God. Praise the Lord, even the smallest church has elders, and this way God gets all the glory as He should, because it's the Lord who does all the healing.

Once we understand this, we can find no scriptural loopholes, or excuse to seek for supernatural healing through any human agency other than the elders of the local church. King Saul sought a prophetic message from Samuel, through a method condemned by the Lord. The outcome was disastrous. Carefully read I Sam. 28:7-20 paying special attention to verses 15 and 16. God has not changed. If the Lord does not will to heal us through the elders, seeking supernatural healing through another channel can also be disastrous! It is not of God, and there is only one other source! A demon.

These so-called "Christian healers," even using the name of Jesus, are presumptuously grasping for more glory, and more spiritual authority than the Bible grants. They are like the sons of Sceva — Acts 19:13-15, and are in the sin of Korah — Nu. 16:1-35. King Uzziah exceeded his authority and recklessly went into the temple to offer incense and worship God. He got leprosy for his efforts — II Chron. 16:16-20. What God's judgment will be on these modern-day mediumistic spiritists, only He knows. But when it comes, it will surely be terrible and violent, just as the Black Plague was on the eve of the reformation, when all Europe was in dark idolatry.

You see where all this is leading, don't you? Satan is training the churches to accept their final leaders on the basis of the works they perform, rather than on what the Word of God tells us about the doctrines they teach. That is very important. Think on it a while.

In childlike simplicity, the Lord's poor little wandering sheep say "Amen, Amen," to these false healer-prophets. Their shepherds have not nurtured them in the Word, and Satan leads them astray. In writing these things, I perceive that the Lord's hand will be heavy upon the careless shepherds very soon, and my heart is deeply grieved. My soul longs for them to return unto God, but they will not — "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets, and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling" — Matt. 23:37.

Woe to you shepherds, if you annul even the least of God's commands unto these little ones, and by so doing, you cause Jesus' precious sheep to stumble. I would rather be flayed alive, than be in your shoes when Jesus returns . . . as He will shortly. Through you the foolish shepherd of Zechariah 11:16-17 is fulfilled:

For behold . . . a shepherd in the land who . . . devour the fat sheep and tear off their hoofs." The shepherds have torn away the pure Word of God, and Jesus' lambs are so crippled they can no longer walk the Christian walk.

"A sword will be on his arm . . . and his arm will be totally withered." The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God is no longer taught with power, for there is little conviction.

“And his right eye will be blind . . .” Spiritual insight has been lost, and the eye of the heart has become dimmed. The doctrines of God have been replaced with traditions of men.

And if you say that you didn't know that you were doing wrong . . . that you were just following orders . . . your denominational view, that is no excuse. You sound just like Goering, and Himmler, and Albert Eichmann, and all they could do was kill the body. You are responsible to God for the immortal souls of the sheep He has placed in your care.

VIII

Witchcraft

By now, the delusions recorded in the previous chapters have taken the brethren so far from the Word that they are ready to swallow a really big lie, like: "If you don't speak in tongues, you're not saved." If your stated intent was to rob the glory from the cross of our Savior Jesus Christ, and give it to some false spirit, this doctrine would be the way to do it! Besides, it is Satan's old "faith plus something" ploy. There is so much scripture to refute this idiocy that the author is tempted to say, just go read the Bible.

But additionally, let's take a little look at nineteen centuries of church history.

Fox's Book of Martyrs records hundreds of accounts of the giants of the faith, who died for the Lord in tortures beyond imagining. While being burned at the stake, saint after dear, suffering saint, with faces charred beyond recognition, kept committing themselves "unto Him who is able," asking for the forgiveness of their sins, and the sins of their tormentors. Oh, those blessed, steadfast brethren. While their own smoking fat fueled the flames, they were holding burning arms toward heaven, praising God.

To suggest that they were not filled with the Spirit is absurd . . . but not one of them is recorded as having "sought" for the Holy Spirit, or spoken in "tongues." Read the book of martyrs yourself. Strangely enough, very few of those saints suffered any pain. Is that not the gift of miracles, or mayhap the gift of faith?

Can you imagine some arrogant, so-called "filled with the Spirit" zealot, with his hands in his pockets, presumptuously sauntering up to one of those precious burning brethren and sneering, "you aren't saved, you aren't speaking in tongues." Farfetched? Today, there are evangelists with their hands in your pockets, presumptuously sauntering up to a microphone and making similiar inane statements on nationwide television. The only difference is 400 years. There are still saints out there who are suffering for the Lord and one would be hard pressed to

come up with a doctrine that would weaken their faith more.

These same television "prophets" are recklessly advising Christians to leave sound Bible-teaching churches if the "fullness" and "tongues" doctrines are not taught. They need a history lesson. No one told that to the estimated 4,000,000 saints killed by the Roman empire or the countless millions martyred since. These brethren just put their trust in Jesus. They didn't know they needed "fullness" or "tongues." If faith only was sufficient to keep them walking in the Lord, even at the cost of their lives; faith only should still be enough to keep the church standing against the terrible persecutions and "trials" we have today, like staying out of topless bars, overeating, and too much sun at the beach. We are tragically spoiled babies, and God's discipline will be upon us shortly. Past, present, and future, "The just shall live by faith," — Rom. 1:17.

While teaching, I myself have been aware of the blessing and guidance of the Holy Spirit (because of its misuse, I don't use the term "full" or "filling" much anymore). What true Bible teacher hasn't? The issue here should not be whether we can be saved without "tongues," or filled with the Spirit subsequent to salvation. The question is whether the Holy Spirit's ministry will continue unhampered when we openly display to the fallen angelic majesties that the church is not in submission to the Lord.

For instance, will the Holy Spirit give a spirit-

ual manifestation to a woman who does not have her head covered, is teaching or holding authority over a man, or is speaking out in church? If He does so, He is going against His own inspired Word, which He also tells us is unchanging and everlasting — Is. 40:8, Psa. 119:160, II Tim. 3:16, II Pet. 3:2, 15-16.

If we conclude that the Holy Spirit will not go against His own Word, where then are these spiritual manifestations coming from, where the charismatic sense of euphoria? A very good question. If it is not the Holy Spirit, the only option left is the enemy. A demon.

Some will ask, "Well, what about some poor woman who doesn't know these submission commands, and doesn't realize that they could be binding to her?"

God forgives our ignorance, to be sure, but this is something that we claim that God the Holy Spirit is doing, and the Holy Spirit knows the Bible backwards and forwards. He inspired it! If He were to guide someone to speak out in opposition to what scripture states, He would be leading someone to sin and that is impossible — James 1:13.

Somehow, false doctrine feeds on itself. Churches rarely repent of their error. Instead, new false rituals are added to support existing fables. In some congregations, there are all kinds of mediumistic procedures to help one "receive" the gift of "tongues"; anointings, and special teachings on how to form tongue "words"; special spirit worshipping seances

called "fullness" conferences. You realize that all religious rituals not commanded by scripture border on the practice of magic, don't you? — I Sam. 15:21-23.

The Holy Spirit is not a performing puppet, giving gifts on command at some Sunday evening service. We forget that fire came forth from the Lord, and slew Nadab and Abihu for worshipping in a false spirit. We worship a Holy and awesome God who is greatly to be feared. Moses, one of the most sanctified men who ever lived, was in fear when he beheld Him. The Holy Spirit gives a gift to whom and when He wishes, not when we (without even the fear or wisdom to spiritually cast our shoes from off our feet) ring the Sunday evening "come and get your tongues" bell — I Cor. 12:7, 11.

Sometimes in these meetings, special invocation songs are sung, "Come Holy Spirit, I need you," followed by a period of silence, during which spiritual manifestations are sometimes observed from the congregation. You glance around and see women with their hands raised, and you hear people praying in "tongues" all over the place; counter to scriptures which state, "I want men in every place . . . to pray, lifting up holy hands . . . let women receive instruction with entire submissiveness," and, "tongues . . . should be by two, or at most three" — I Tim. 2:8, 11, and I Cor. 14:27.

On the surface, the service looks so godly that the doctrinal error is not readily apparent. However, asking the Holy Spirit to come denies His

presence — it denies the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the individual believer — it denies that He has been given to the believer by God the Father — it denies that we are sealed by Him unto the day of redemption. Let me re-emphasize. Asking Him to come is an out-and-out denial of His omnipresence. This is calling God a liar, and totally disregarding a basic attribute of His divine nature. Asking Him to come is an incantation, and that is witchcraft! It is calling up a spirit like the witch of Endor did. All we need to add is a five pointed star on the floor, and a burning candle or two.¹

In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, calling for Him is directly counter to how the Bible says we receive the Spirit — Neh. 9:20, Is. 44:3, John 14:16, 26, 16:7, Acts 5:32, Rom. 14:17, 15:13-16, I Cor. 2:12, Eph. 2:18, 1:13. There are many more proof texts, but these should be enough to satisfy all but the most hardened skeptic. Praise God, the Holy Spirit is always in the heart of the Christian. How do we know for sure? The Bible tells us so — John 14:16, Hebrews 13:5.

As if the foregoing were not sufficiently heretical, also claimed by most Pentecostals is a "secret" prayer language. This doctrine is an astonishing fabrication. There isn't even a scriptural allusion which suggests that believers might receive such a thing. This fable is probably inferred from, "If I speak with the tongues . . . of angels" — I Cor. 13:1. Note the "if." Paul did not state that he spoke in the tongues of angels, only

what "if" he were to. A hyperbole. This is an example of a widespread spiritual deception based on a faulty interpretation of scripture. The only New Testament tongues defined for us in the Bible, were composed of known languages of man, understood by one or more of the hearers — Acts 2:6-11. Are "secret" prayer languages genuine? That is not the question. Since they are not authorized by scripture, can they be of God? Nadab and Abihu did something not authorized by scripture too. Fire consumed them.

Further claimed by some, is that this "secret" prayer language is a direct "Hot Line" to God in heaven with which Satan cannot interfere. An unbelievable myth, with no scriptural support whatever. This again denies the indwelling Holy Spirit, or suggests that He is deaf, or that He has no communication with the rest of the Godhead, or that God does not know the thoughts of our hearts, or that Jesus and God the Father have not made their abode with us as John 14:23 states . . . Blasphemy! But here are some scriptures anyway — Psa. 94:11, 139:23, Is. 66:18, Matt. 9:4, Luke 11:17, Heb. 4:2. How many do we need?

The prayer language "Hot Line" doctrine again denies the omnipresence of God which is directly against Job 38:4-33, Psa. 139:7-16. Additionally, there are only two ways mentioned in scripture by which our prayers can be hindered, "If I regard sin in my heart" — Psa. 66:18, or if a man mistreats his wife — I Pet. 3:7.

It never seems to stop. New heresies continue to crop up. Those so-called "fullness" conferences are held, ostensibly for one to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Not by God's Word we don't! There is no instance of such a conclave, for such a purpose, anywhere in the Bible. If we ought to have such a meeting, we would have a scriptural record of one as an example. Furthermore, the Word states that the Holy Spirit was poured out when Jesus was glorified — Acts 2:33, and when we receive Jesus as our Savior, we are complete in Him — Col. 2:9-10. Again, God the Father has already given us the Holy Spirit — John 14:16, Acts 5:32, II Cor. 1:22, I Thess. 4:8. I'm beginning to sound like a broken record, I know, but that is what the Bible says.

What is the outcome then of striving after the Spirit, counter to what scripture directs, while also in disobedience to the ordinances which show to the fallen angels that the church is in submission to the Lord Jesus? The result is obvious. We have opened the church to direct satanic attack, and the judgment will fit the sin perfectly. We will get a "spirit" alright — lots of them!

FOOTNOTE
Chapter VIII

¹Saul wished to contact Samuel, the prophet of the Lord, not some evil spirit. So it is the incantation itself, the calling up of a spirit (not the kind of spirit we wish to contact), which is sin — Lev. 19:31, 20:6, 27, Deut. 18:11, I Sam. 28:8-25, Is. 8:19, 19:3. If we obey God's Word, the

Holy Spirit will be given to us in full measure. We don't need to go looking for Him — John 14:16-24, 16:7-15, Acts 5:32. He is the Spirit of God, and He will come to us.

IX

Prophets of Futility

I am troubled by the accounts recorded here. Some of these brothers and sisters are personal friends. Their churches and these pastors are not unknown to me, and I love them all in the Lord. Some will never speak to me again. Folks don't take kindly to the suggestion that they are being influenced by an evil spirit, but in each of the cited illustrations, that conclusion is inescapable. If we continue to openly disobey the precepts which protect us from demonic influence, particularly after we have had them brought to our attention,

then we are false prophets. We have become wolves in sheep's clothing, teachers of futility, from whom God's people can derive no benefit — Acts 20:29-30.

The Lord will not be glorified by citing a litany of all the errors coming out of the "seeking" for the Spirit movement. Sufficient are examples of each of the three most prevalent deceptions: a false tongue and interpretation, a false teacher, and a false prophet.

The vast majority of "tongues" spoken in churches today are uttered by women in disobedience to "let a woman cover her head . . . keep silent . . . not teach or hold authority over a man." Recognizing that some of these "tongues" are genuine spiritual manifestations, and knowing that the Lord will not tempt us to sin — James 1:13, we have to ask, whose spirits would influence a woman to directly disobey God's Word? Look at an example.

In a local church a woman spoke a "tongue." It was interpreted by the church's pastor as, "I was with you in darkness . . ." That is very interesting. Who is the angel of the abyss — Rev. 20:2-3; the prince of darkness — Eph. 6:12? Certainly not the Lord Jesus; He is the light of the world — John 1:1-9, Eph. 5:14. With the Lord there is no darkness at all — Psa. 18:28, Mic. 7:8. Just the entry of God's Word brings light — Psa. 119:130. Who was it then that was with this woman while darkness remained?

This is very serious, and no game. There is no such thing as a "little" false tongue. It is either of

God the Holy Spirit, or of Satan. Jesus is not in darkness, because the Bible tells me so. That "tongue," therefore, was demonic!

Now for the bottom line. Saints with a ministry in deliverance will uniformly attest to one truth. Play with satanic spiritual manifestations, and you will end up demonized! You say it couldn't happen to you? It happened to that poor woman whose story is recorded in Chapter I. Nor is that an isolated incident. A Baptist pastor's wife was seriously demonized after she "sought" the filling, and spoke in "tongues."¹

Pentecostal churches are not noted for making their doctrinal errors or spiritual problems public. One is left to wonder, therefore, how many poor women are there in those congregations who are now in bondage to an evil spirit for the same reason? Since none of these churches observe the submission ordinances, who among them can discern that what is happening is demonic, or how to stop it.

There is an additional sad little delusion here. When some tongue is perceived (because of its blatant error) as not being of the Lord, it is deemed "out of order." That cute little phrase "out of order" is a spiritually blinding aspirin tablet which — like calling refuse a rose — prevents one from recognizing that any supernatural manifestation not of the Holy Spirit must be satanic.² Heartbreaking! They are like sheep being led to the slaughter.

There is another woman going into local churches with head uncovered, who stands before

mixed congregations and "teaches" the gift of healing. First, a gift of the Spirit is His gift. He decides when and who gets what — I Cor. 12:7, 11. To state that it can be taught is to imply that we have some sort of power over the Holy Spirit to give us, on command, the gift we want. The grossness of that presumptuous heresy defies imagining. Second, the Holy Spirit still, again, and forever will not guide anyone to disobey the Word. The Bible says "Let a woman cover her head . . . keep silent . . . not teach or hold authority over a man."

Since that is what the Word states, and the Lord will not empower us to disobey it — James 1:13, if any supernatural healings are taking place, it is not the Holy Spirit of God who is doing them. The only other source is demonic, through a Christian, who is behaving as a medium! This while being deluded into believing she has a ministry for the Lord Jesus.

At a local "fullness" conference, a pastor stood and gave a "word of knowledge" . . . that another pastor who was there needed to go kneel at the altar. This, to have the women of the church come forward, lay hands on him, and pray over him. Some humble, but spiritually unenlightened pastor did so. Now, with an understanding that a man is a type of Christ, and women a type of the church, the implication of that "word" is clear — that the church has authority over, and needs to pray for Jesus. Blasphemy! If that were so, we are without any hope at all. Was that "word" of the

Holy Spirit? The answer is tragically obvious. It was demonic.

That so-called "word" spiritually stated that Satan had won, that the church was in rebellion to God, and to His delegated authority, our precious Lord Jesus. Do you realize how sick it makes me to write of these things? Praise God, Satan cannot win! Jesus is victorious. But why is there no spirit of discernment?

Very simply, we have shown to the fallen angels that we are not submitted to God's government, which takes us out from under His governmental protection. We have become a kingdom divided against itself — I Cor. 14:37-38, Mark 3:24, James 4:7, II John 9, and we have opened our minds to deceiving spirits, even invoking them to come. We worship God in a false spirit, just as Nadab and Abihu; we thumb our noses at His government, just like Korah.

Satan's goal today is to demonize the whole church. As we play with these spirits, we are playing into his hands. It will not be long before he demands payment for the tunes he is fiddling for us, the tunes to which we are so rapturously dancing. Our heads (our minds) are uncovered in Satan's full view. We have put a bullseye on top of our skulls, like a fluorescent target which he can bombard with his evil thoughts. The wonder is that we are not more demonized than we are. Praise God for His covering hand, His loving kindness, and His mercy.

These three accounts are just the tip of the iceberg. As our land gets further away from the Lord,

demonic forces usually associated with Africa or the Far East, are now taking up their abode here. We have imported them, just like AIDS, Asian flu, and the Indian guru.

This is no longer a Christian nation. Our media, economy and government are now in the enemy's hands. The flood of anti-Christian rhetoric, interest rates, and laws, attest to this. These same demonic powers have also invaded the church, and many of them sit in high places. I found a few.

FOOTNOTES
Chapter IX

¹What Demons Can Do to Saints; Merrill Unger, Moody Press 1977, pp 81-84.

²The method used by most to determine whether a spirit is from God is how one "feels" about it. Knowing that our feelings are deceptive, the Lord mandated an acid test in Scripture. Test the spirits, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world." — I John 4:1-3 NASB

X

Spirit of Antichrist

While driving around the countryside, I visited a charismatic church leader at his home. After our talk, we stood for prayer. The man asked me to lead, and then took hold of my hands and started to pray in "tongues." My mind was suddenly filled with all kinds of perverted, vile and lustful thoughts. I immediately placed myself under the blood of Jesus, and "brought every thought into captivity to Christ." Still, it was very hard to concentrate on my prayer to the Lord.

I didn't understand what was happening then, but I believe the Lord allowed me to perceive what that tongue was saying, and where that spirit was from. I didn't "seek" for discernment of spirits, God just gave it, when needed, for His child's protection and edification. Why then? Because there was no way, in the natural man, that anyone could have perceived that he was dealing with the enemy. The man sounded and looked just great, and one could think of his charismatic manifestation as a true gift of the Holy Spirit — the gift of tongues.

Feel sorry for that man. He teaches the gospel, somewhat watered down, but he has gone far astray. He might be horrified if he knew what the Lord had permitted me to see. But if he were made aware, would he give up his familiar spirit, and repent? Not likely. Most Pentecostals will not give up their spirits, regardless of where those spirits are from, or what the Bible says. It is a kind of spiritual narcotic; deadly, but it feels so good that the addicting bondage cannot be perceived until too late. Many charismatics know in their hearts the truth of this statement. The Holy Spirit warns them, as He did me after I started speaking in "tongues."

Were my "tongues" of the Lord? All I know is that they were accompanied with a disquiet of spirit, and a sense of oppression. It was interesting, but I had lost the sweetness of my prayer life. I then began to study the Word and realized that these manifestations were "received" while

worshipping in a church which was in total disregard of the submission ordinances; and that I was "seeking" for an experience not commanded in scripture. Now I am in fear. It was a narrow escape. I repudiate the sin of Nadab and Abihu in my life, and ask the Lord to cleanse me with His blood, that I give the enemy no access. I now say out loud in English for all to hear, "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh . . ." — I John 4:2-3.

I thank the Lord with all my heart that I listened to His still small voice. God's Word on this subject is very plain, so as always, it is not a matter of doctrine, but one of submission. Will we humbly obey what the Bible tells us to do? Sometimes it states something we don't want to hear . . . that runs afoul to our doctrinal position, or that corrects our behavior. When that happens and we don't submit, the Lord will give us no further insight in some other direction more to our liking. We can't make an end run around the lesson God wants us to learn. If we try, the Lord's discipline will shortly be upon us.

Several years ago, I was sharing the scripture on a different subject with another Pentecostal pastor. We disagreed. I asked to go before the Lord with him on the matter. He refused, and suddenly he asked, "How come my spirit doesn't witness to that?" That question totally confused me until years later, when the Holy Spirit turned on the light.

If a spirit does not witness to the Word of God, it is not the Holy Spirit of God! Thus, the spirit by

which this pastor was being influenced was a demon. God's Spirit will witness to His Word!

That poor, deluded man was a great believer in "seeking" the filling of the Holy Spirit, and a firm proponent of tongues. He even made this statement, "Unless one was filled with the Spirit" (translate that, spoke in tongues), "he could not stand against sin . . ." a view which is directly counter to Ephesians 6:13-18. The result of his heresy is that he later went off into adultery himself, and was cast out of the church. To my knowledge, during all that time, he never stopped speaking in tongues. Are we now to believe that, while in adultery, one can be "filled" with the Holy Spirit, and receive a tongue from Him?

Since then, this man has not kept his word to many brethren, so he might not have a repentant heart. He is now preaching again, and many flock to hear him. He is a dynamic speaker, and a charismatic leader in both senses of the word. But, if he preaches while in rebellion, it is rebellion he will preach — for what man can preach against the sin by which he himself is bound? His "tongue" deceives him still.

Because churches do not purge themselves of pastors in rebellion to the Lord, heresy, worldliness, and open sin enter the assembly. Now, his "tongue" deceives them, and by him will many be deceived!

But his denomination loves him. He builds big churches which generate big revenues, and how can that be bad, they ask? His "tongue" deceives them also, a lying tongue leading God's people.

Who could be influencing him? Who else but Satan was a liar from the beginning? — John 8:44. My heart has cried out many times over this. “But how long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel?” — I Sam. 16:1 — a scripture which shows that earthly power can remain long after the Spiritual blessing of the Lord has departed. Saul was king for years after God had chosen David.

How can this have happened? In many cases men who started out to be servants of God have allowed the enemy to make them servants of “the system.” Satan wages one of his most subtle attacks in the environment of struggling to “get ahead” in the church world. All such striving is counter-scriptural and cannot escape demonic energization. This is how it works.

To get a bigger church, a pastor desperately needs his congregation to speak well of him, so he forgets that first and foremost he is answerable to the Lord God for what he teaches. He knows that church authorities are eyeing his every move, and that sooner or later they are going to take a “popularity poll.” His whole future with the denomination is on the line. He has a wife and a child, with another one on the way and he needs his job. He shades a little truth here, or bends his commitment to the Lord there. After all, he can't afford to rock the boat.

As if pressure from denominational headquarters were not enough, the local church gets in the act, and the poor pastor gets it from both directions. If a pastor is so foolish as to preach

that Christians are not to love the world or need to abstain from fleshly lusts, why then, contributions dry up. If he does it enough Sundays in a row, he will be replaced by a more "understanding" pastor. This is the only specialty in the world where the better a job the doctor does, the less he gets paid. And if he really walks with the Lord, it is almost impossible to find a church that wants him.

If he empties the church by teaching about sin, and repentance, and the Christian walk, he'll never "get ahead." So, with a very few, rare, godly exceptions, he learns how to honey up all these things. He attempts to make God acceptable to man, rather than teaching man, if he does not become acceptable to God, that he will spend an eternity in Hellfire.

His submission to the Lord is traded in for submission to a church system, or tradition — Is. 29:13 — and each step of compromise is one step further away from the Lord. But now he starts to "get ahead." The higher he rises, the more compromises he has to make to get there.

Finally, he gets a huge church with several associate pastors, or he goes to denominational headquarters. Now he has "power." Earthly power to be sure, and from his exalted position he passes down his personal views as doctrines and edicts to which other young pastors who want to "get ahead" have to submit. He now keeps his eagle eye on them, and their jobs are on the line. Satan loves it. Before you know it, the church or denomination has so much heresy

in it, or is so demon influenced that its power to lead the lost to Jesus is gone. As each new leader rises in the system he adds his own wrinkles to the earthly doctrines with which he is already saddled. Eventually, God rejects them, too, from being kings over Israel, and a new David is anointed . . . but not this time. Now there are too few who care. This Jerusalem, too, is falling . . . this temple, too, is burning and new Jeremiahs throughout the land lament:

*Three thousand years have passed,
since God to Samuel said,
"They do not you reject,
they turn from me instead."*

*Now earthly kings God's children rule,
and His return awaits the day,
when dying saints in anguish pray,
"We have no king, but Jesus."*

Finally, there is a dear, stalwart sister who worships in a Black charismatic church. She is silent in the assembly and wears a hat. She stands alone for Jesus. Get this: the "tongue" speaking ladies of the church gang up on her and pressure her with, "You are resisting the spirit."

What spirit do you suppose she is resisting by wearing her hat? Not the Holy Spirit of God, surely. So, again, it is a demon. Pray for her, and a precious handful like her in other congregations, that the Lord will give these besieged sisters the strength to stand against the persecutions of the enemy from within the very churches where they worship.

All of this would still be of little consequence if these were isolated incidents. But this "seeking" and "fullness" craze is sweeping the church. Not understanding God's Word on these matters, and being busy with worldly concerns, the shepherds are not standing, and the sheep are confused. Younger brethren don't know whether or not they are missing out on some great blessing which the Lord may have in store for them.

Brethren, let's say it straight out. A demon is no blessing! To date I have heard well over 300 "tongues," and no less than 50 words of knowledge and prophecies. I can not remember a single interpreted "tongue," word of knowledge, or prophecy, which has declared that "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh." Not one! You would think that out of 350 spiritual manifestations at least one would have done so.

This is of monumental importance! If a spirit does not declare right up front, that "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh," he is not of God! Instead he is the spirit of antichrist. How can we be so sure? That is what the Bible says.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is from God;

3 **and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God;** and this is the spirit of the anti-christ, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now is already in the world.

— I John 4:2-3 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

Consequently, who are these spirits speaking forth in "tongues" and prophecies, who do not conform to this scripture? They are demons!

That is not all. Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. These familiar spirits are entering saints and declaring themselves to be God the Holy Spirit. How can we know? Read the following astonishing verse.

4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that **he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.**

— II Thess. 2:4 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

Again, that is exactly what these familiar spirits are doing. They are entering Christians and claiming to be the Holy Spirit of God. May the Eternal God, the Father of Spirits, open our hearts to understand the true meaning of this passage in II Thessalonians 2. Antichrist is not whom we suppose. We don't need to go to Rome, or Jerusalem, or listen to some clicking computer to find him. The spirit of antichrist is speaking in tongues, right now, in our own churches. Are our spiritual ears open to hear this? Not a chance! We

would rather stand on dead tradition, or listen to our familiar spirits.

There are some who probably still maintain that the spiritual manifestation he personally is displaying is of the Holy Spirit of God. Fine! Put it to the test as God commands — I John 4:2-3. Command that spirit to declare “Jesus Christ is come in the flesh,” and then submit to the ordinances of God. See if your “gift” continues! If you don’t want to obey these commands, guess whose spirit is influencing you not to.

1. Let women cover their heads when praying or prophesying — I Cor. 11:5-6, 10.
2. Let women remain silent in the churches¹ — I Cor. 14:34-35. Let women receive instruction with quiet submissiveness — I Tim. 2:11.
3. Women may not teach or hold authority over a man — I Tim. 2:12.

Lead your family, your friends, your church into obedience to God’s word, and see if these spiritual manifestations continue. If a church is unwilling to submit to the ordinances of I Cor. 11 and 14, while claiming the gifts of I Cor. 12-14; do not be deluded as to whose spirits influence them. If they continue in rebellion after understanding these truths, do not be confused about which side controls their thinking, either. Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice” — John 10:27.

Can we claim to be God’s servants, and love Jesus, if we are unwilling to take so small a stand — just obedience to three little commands which

cost us nothing. They are not going to burn you at the stake for it! Not yet anyway. Think of the martyrs who died by burning to get God's Word to us in our own language. Then get down on your knees and explain to Jesus all your reasons for not wanting to obey it. Tell Him how you can interpret it away. God help us, many will!

And do not be puffed up, oh egotistical man, if your wife does cover her head. Get down on your knees and humbly thank God with all your heart. Husbands are one flesh with their wives — Eph. 5:31 — and in that she submits, she shows the husband's submission also. She protects her husband, too, from demonic influence. Suddenly the Bible will start opening like a beautiful flower to both of you as the Holy Spirit quickens your minds to new truths from God's Word. Why? Because if we want new truths from the scripture, we have to be willing to submit to what we learn. Terrible things happen in our spirits if we hold the truth in unrighteousness. Many of the powerful among us do, and look at what happens to them.

Within our ranks are the servants of the enemy. Some of them are highly exalted, with vast television audiences. They don't go around with demon names, frightening everybody half to death. Instead, they are known as pastor or evangelist so and so, and are respected by all. Why don't we discern them? Because they are pretty "close" to the truth, and we ourselves are not clinging singleheartedly to the Bible as our only infallible source for doctrine — Hos. 4:6.

Many of these false prophets claim private interviews with Jesus, and other signs and wonders — Col. 2:18 — walking by sight, rather than by faith. They probably do so to authenticate what would otherwise be a financially bankrupt ministry. Spiritually bankrupt it already is.

That would be a reckless statement, if many of their sermons did not contain gross heresies. One of these visionary pundits has even declared that demons are not subject to Jesus. (His name and reference upon request.) How blasphemous can you get? If Jesus were to grant one of these dignitaries a private fireside chat today, would He not direct them to get their doctrine in line with the Written Word, before He disclosed to them some special revelation?

Satan today is not coming in with horns and a tail, looking like some big, bad spirit, giving us horrible spiritual experiences. That's not his style now, and never has been. We would repent of that in a hurry. The doctrine of demons, and turning aside to myths predicted for the last days sounds so good — and we're feeling so good, because scripture says:

1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, — I Tim. 4:1 NASB

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

— II Tim. 4:3-4 NASB

24 For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

— Matthew 24:24 NASB

14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

— II Cor. 11:14-15 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

FOOTNOTES

Chapter X

¹That a woman may pray and prophesy is obvious from I Cor. 11:5-6. She may, of course, do so any time it does not break a type of Christ, i.e., any time a Christian man is not present in the gathering. Since scripture mandates that a woman cover her head only when "praying or prophesying," if she cannot pray or prophesy with men present, why does she have to cover her head in church? I Cor. 11:10 states "because of the angels" and, as a type of the church, v. 15, to hide her glory in the presence of the Lord. As far as prayer is concerned, when in church, women silently pray as do the rest of us. Remember, head covering is a visible sign of the salvation of the soul. When is there a better opportunity to display this sign than when we assemble?

XI

The Shepherds

I perceive that some are asking, "This is so plain in scripture, why haven't we heard it before?" You now know the answer to that, and I'm truly sorry. The sheep cannot follow where the shepherds do not lead.

Knowing that time is short, over the last few months I have driven thousands of miles, knocking on the doors of about three hundred churches of all denominations. Most have no one there during the day, and the doors are locked.

I had a simpler message then: "The Lord is coming soon. Strengthen your hearts, and those

things which remain. If the Lord so guides, I will be glad to share a new opening of Bible prophecy with your congregation." I did not ask for money.

I left a book on Bible prophecy at every church, even at those where I could find no one, calling on some of the pastors at home. If memory serves me, just a few thanked me for the visit, and only three or four offered to pay for the cost of the book. Four asked me to return and share the Word of God with them, and one of these changed his mind when I taught that we should "not be just hearers of the Word, but doers also."

In the last 90 days, I have now seen well over a hundred and fifty pastors, priests, and ministers (I didn't count) going back to some churches several times to find them. A pitiful handful extended the right hand of fellowship. Some bid me Godspeed . . . and the Lord bless your ministry way over there in the next county. One was too busy to talk, he was buying a new house. Another couldn't return my call, he was watching football on television. Another was talking to his secretary, and was too occupied. Another said that they had their own prophetess. Another was working on a newsletter, and didn't have the time. In another, the pastor's wife met me at the door declaring, "we had tested the spirits" and "be gone." Since I declare that "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh," I knew whose spirits were tested, and that one broke my heart. I wept; "Oh, help me Father, is

this really worth doing — will anyone hear?" Others had secretarial watchdogs at the front desk, who were quick to inform you that their pastor was a very busy man, and "did you have an appointment, please?" You walk away, head down, realizing that it is just like Jesus said it would be in this day — Luke 14:15-23.

If the shepherds treat the sheep this way, what chance has a poor sinner who comes for help? "If I have not love, I am nothing" — I Cor. 13:2.

You can now tell if the pastors are at some churches by whether there is a late model Cadillac in the parking lot (hardly the "clothed in sackcloth" of Rev. 11:5). Believe it or not this is of some benefit. It saves you time. you don't need to go banging around on the doors of an empty building.

Want to know what's interesting? If you can get past the "church leaders," God's people will hear you with gladness. Many want to hear a word from the Lord, but the shepherds will stop you if they can, claiming denominational or doctrinal differences, or lack of time. They tear the hoofs off Jesus' sheep, and thus, scripture is fulfilled "Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge: You did not enter yourselves, and those who were entering you hindered." — Luke 11:52. And because of this, "My people perish for lack of knowledge." — Hosea 4:6.

Last year I asked if a book the Lord had guided me to write could be sold in a Bible college bookstore. "No," I was told, "doctrinal differences."

And yet that same Bible college has textbooks which deny the inspiration and historicity of scripture.

“Lord God please pardon! How can Jacob stand for he is small” — Amos 7:2. When that prophet penned those lines, Israel was at the height of her economic and military power, just like we are. She was also in great idolatry and false worship, just like we are, and the Lord had held back His hand, just as long as He could. But, will the shepherds read Amos? Some do, to be sure, but get nervous when you walk into a pastor’s study, find him reading a work of man, and he stares at you sheepishly blank when you quote some scripture. II Peter 2 is fulfilled before your eyes.

As the Lord’s sheep begin to realize the truth of where the shepherds are, the little trickle of today will become a vast Exodus from the churches, unparalleled in history.

Church leaders of every denomination will cry, “Wait, wait, I see you were right, I’ll change my doctrines and my way,” but Jesus’ sheep will listen to them no longer. The days of feeding on the fat sheep, and lording it over them are quickly passing, because the Bible says:

8 “As I live,” declares the Lord God, “surely because My flock has become a prey, My flock has even become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My shepherds did not search for My flock, but rather the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock;

9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord:

10 Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I shall demand My sheep from them and make them cease from feeding sheep. So the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore, but I shall deliver My flock from their mouth, that they may not be food for them."

— Ezekiel 34:8-10 NASB

In the dusty plains of the sub-Sahara, barefoot women stumble on, mile after mile, clutching starving children to wizened breasts. Oh for a cup of water, a handful of grain. Here at home, a half-eaten bologna sandwich lies rotting under a discarded beer can, in a once crystal stream now clouded with mercuric oxide and keytones. There are no fish.

The once vast forests of North Africa have been burned in the cooking fires of countless generations. Here, at home, trees are poisoned with airborne lead and sulphur dioxide, gaunt skeletons replacing once rustling leaves. There are no birds anymore.

Deep in the South Pacific, a Polynesian stands with wife and child. He watches with empty eyes as bulldozers growl through long-houses that were homes to the fathers of his people.

The white man who brought his fathers Jesus, has just destroyed his heritage, and stolen his land. The palms he climbed for drinking nuts

have been hewn into the benches for the bar by the condominium. The reef has been destroyed to make channels for the massive power boats which belong to the "beautiful" people on vacation. The coconut crabs are gone, and fishing is not so good anymore.

In his mind, the echo of the hymns the missionary taught him are forgotten, drowned out by a boom-box screaming out the harsh, metallic wail of "Kiss" and the "Grateful Dead." He cannot understand how this white man, who brought his fathers Jesus, "has become worse than the nations round about them."

But no matter . . . the church is watching Dallas, Dynasty and Miami Vice. On Sunday, we lay hands on one another and say "Be filled with the Spirit," and on Wednesday we are in bed with our neighbor's wife. But we're filled with the Spirit we say, because we speak in an unknown tongue. God laughs. How long before the fury of the Lord breaks out?

In China, a missionary at the risk of imprisonment, gives out gospels of John. The people are afraid to be seen taking them. He then smuggles a translation of part of the New Testament into Turkestan, a province of Russia. It is in Uzbek, and that fragment of the scripture is all those people now have in their own language. In both countries the church suffers great persecution. The men are in prison, and some saints are being put to death.

But yet, those persecuted Brethren pray for us here in America, as they also do in Korea,

because the Holy Spirit has shown them all that the church is dying here. "Lord God, please pardon!" Despite our many translations of the whole Bible, we don't bother to read it.

"But no matter," we say, "When the going gets really rough, we're going to be raptured out." If we complacently believe that a Holy God will not judge between their suffering righteousness, and our careless indifference, we know little of Him.

I don't even know how to pray for this people any more. We have gone too far for revival, and that "talking image," the television set, that purveyor of every kind of lust, greed, and murder, is worshipped by most, for two to four hours a night. We are looking for an "image of the beast that might even speak" to appear in Rome, or Brussels, or Jerusalem, as the tradition of man tells us; and we do not perceive that we have hugged it to our bosoms, right here in our own homes. And where are the shepherds? Dancing around their own talking idols, in their own living rooms, in living color, probably in stereo — Rev. 13:15.

Could God heal? Of course! But each will say in his own heart, "This message is not for me, but for that cold-hearted fellow down the street," and fire will again consume. This time though, the fire will probably be atomic, and it comes for us — II Pet. 3:7, 10.

There are those who will find convoluted, counter-scriptural ways around what is written here, and they will find multitudes to agree with them. Some false prophet will pipe (this time

most likely via satellite) and all will dance —
Matt. 11:17.

God's Word will stand, however, despite those efforts. Keeping our heads in the sand will not delay the coming storm. The Lord predicted judgment on an unrighteous Israel in too many scriptures to count. All they had was the Old Testament. The church has the whole Bible, the whole counsel of God, and we shall not escape. God's Word will stand . . .

- 16 Thus says the Lord of hosts,
 "Do not listen to the words of the
 prophets who are prophesying to you.
 They are leading you into futility;
 They speak a vision of their own
 imagination, Not from the mouth of
 the Lord.
- 17 "They keep saying to those who despise
 Me, 'The Lord has said, "You will
 have peace" '; And as for everyone
 who walks in the stubbornness of his
 own heart, They say, 'Calamity will
 not come upon you.'
- 18 "But who has stood in the council of the
 Lord, That he should see and hear
 His word? Who has given heed to
 His word and listened?
- 19 "Behold, the storm of the Lord has gone forth
 in wrath, Even a whirling tempest; It will
 swirl down on the head of the wicked.
- 20 "The anger of the Lord will not turn back
 Until He has performed and carried out
 the purposes of His heart;

**In the last days you will clearly
understand it.**

- 21 "I did not send these prophets,
But they ran.
I did not speak to them,
But they prophesied.
- 22 "But if they had stood in My council,
Then they would have announced My
words to My people,
And would have turned them back from
their evil way
And from the evil of their deeds.

— Jeremiah 23:16-22 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

XII

Sons of Sceva

My heart really aches for the shepherds and teachers. I know many of them who truly love the Lord. Some do not realize that their denominations have led them astray by counter-scriptural dogma. They are unaware that doctrinal error has permitted demon influences in their churches. They have been taught to cling to the positions of their home office, rather than God's Word.

Nonetheless, I went back to that tormented Pentecostal woman, and by the guidance of the

Holy Spirit, directed her to cover her head when praying or prophesying, as scripture dictates, that it would be a protection unto her. She almost became a new person before my eyes, as the scripture was opened to her on this truth.

I haven't been back to that church now for several years. From what I hear, they are still not submitted to the Word, and women are still speaking in "tongues," with heads uncovered. No doubt by now, some well meaning soul has convinced that poor lady that head-covering is not for today. I wonder how she is, and how many more there are like her in those churches. I wish I knew what to do for them; but if they disregard what the Lord Himself has said in His Word, what can anyone do? If they cannot hear Moses and the prophets, they will not hear the words of this puny book.

Some of you dear sisters have not yet spoken in "tongues," and are wondering what sin you are in, or what "i" you haven't dotted, or "t" you haven't crossed. The Lord knows your heart, and that what you were doing, you were doing unknowingly. He has been protecting you. Get down on your knees and thank and praise God for His covering hand. If you wish to speak in "tongues," that's all right, but show your submission to the Lord Jesus, in accordance with His Word, so you'll know who is speaking through you. Many tongues will cease.

We have seen how not to be filled with the Spirit, so how do we obey "be filled with the Spirit" — Eph. 5:18? Because of its simplicity,

it is unbelievable that there are saints who don't know how to be.

Let the Holy Spirit fulfill in your life the functions that He was sent here to perform! Jesus told us plainly what they were in John 14 through 16. Simply stated, and without getting into a lengthy theological debate, the Holy Spirit will:

1. **Teach you all things: Read your Bible!**
2. **Reprove the world of sin: Witness!**
3. **Lead saints to righteousness:
Clean up your act!**

When we receive power, that power is to glorify and witness for Jesus. If we allow the Holy Spirit to perform His stated offices through us, then we will suddenly and unexpectedly find ourselves filled with the Holy Spirit! You see why, don't you? The Holy Spirit will fill those who are engaged in the activities He was sent here to perform. That is so elementary, how do we miss it? If we are obedient, if we let him function in the way the Bible tells He was sent to function; maybe then, He might give us one of the "greater" gifts. However, if He does so that gift will still be to assist us to fulfill the functions He came here to perform, and to bring glory to God's Son. It is up to Him. He knows our hearts.

It is impossible to see how the enemy has led so many so far astray. When we go rushing down to the altar to be "filled" and get our gift,

we don't do so to fulfill the Holy Spirit's stated functions, but to bring glory to ourselves, so that we can display to the less fortunate, "I speak in tongues." Guess what? The Holy Spirit of God abhors pride, and one brother lifting himself up above another — I Cor. 4:6, 8:2, or abasing himself ritualistically before his brethren so they can see how "sanctified" he is, or how earnestly he is "seeking." — I Col. 2:18. We may be fooling everyone, but Jesus knows our hearts.

I am a Daniel and Revelation teacher. To date, that is the ministry to which the Lord has called me. I know nothing of deliverance, and had no idea why the Lord sent that little demonized woman my way. When I looked into her poor, troubled face, I knew how inadequate I was to be of any real help to her. I realize now, that this little book is the reason for that confrontation. It is for you, whoever you are that read it. This will not be a popular work, but I would rather teach the Words of God in a vacuum, than speak the words of man before ten million.

I implore you in the Lord, please stand. Stand for the Lord Jesus. Make Him central in your life. There are very few left today who will. Compromise is everywhere, and there are many who will try to lead you away from what is written here. Please, for Jesus' sake, don't let them.

When this book was begun, it appeared that just a few of the Pentecostal manifestations were demonic. But in every example noted here, and in many more not recorded in this book, the persons involved were in some way giving Satan

access to their lives through some open sin, or the submission ordinances were being ignored. That is sin, too.

Sometimes, a foothold had been granted by knowing and understanding these commands, but continuing to worship and fellowship in churches which disobey them. That is just like Saul holding the cloaks of those who stoned Stephen — Acts 7:58. The enemy is not blind. Even by man's law that makes one an accomplice. Satan doesn't need a super-highway. A little chink in the armor is just plenty, thank you.

We can continue to play with these spirits if we want to, but the end thereof is death, not only in this world, but for some, in the world to come. If we are not frightened by these things, it shows a heart condition almost beyond help — "the sin unto death!" — I John 5:16.

As one looks out over the churches, we see many poor souls who have turned aside to myths. They run around incanting, "Praise you Jesus," with hands uplifted, while disobedience is in their hearts — Is. 29:13.

We don't need to go to some witches' coven, in a major city, to find demonic activity. Women of the local churches are flitting from bunions to cancer, laying on hands, and saying in a fit of mediumistic fervor, "Be healed in the name of Jesus!" Saying "in the name of Jesus" does not sanctify sinful behavior — I Tim. 2:11, James 5:14. We have scriptural examples of what happened to people who tried for more spiritual authority than God granted them by law. In addi-

tion to Korah — Nu. 16, the sons of Sceva tried exorcism, in Jesus name, without themselves being submitted to the Lord. The demons attacked them.

13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, **attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus**, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."

14 And seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

— Acts 19:13-16 NASB, see footnote 5, Ch. III

Let us not mince words or play games. With their husbands' approval, these local women are also in **open and direct disobedience** to the submission ordinances, "keep silent — receive instruction in all quiet submissiveness — cover her head — not exercise authority . . ." Yesterday, today, and always, sick Christians are commanded to **call the elders!** That a woman may not be an elder is apparent from I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

These are the laws, and Satan knows it. In ignoring them, these women have given the enemy access to demonize what they do. Why would Satan help someone heal in Jesus' name? To break down the authority of God's delegated elders, and thus

discredit the Bible — and suddenly the great apostasy is upon us.

The elders have been given Biblical authority to heal. God will not short-circuit His own delegated authorities. If God healed through one of these women, He would be giving His stamp of approval to their disobedience of His Word. That He will not do! Thus, if any supernatural healings are performed through these women, they are demonic.

We should be in earnest prayer for the church. The exercise of spiritual phenomenon, outside the Biblical precepts which protect us is mushrooming, and enjoys the gleeful participation of Satan and His angels. They will try to influence, and then control, any soul who lets them, and an attack by evil spirits is no "gift."

If someone claims that I am against the gifts of the Spirit he would be wrong. Scripture forbids me to be — I Cor. 14:39. However, as stated several times before, I am against false gifts and demonic tongues. If what I have said here is incorrect, show me from the Bible, God's eternal Word. If you cannot, the author is just simple enough to affirm what he said in Chapter VI and still stand on what God's Word states, even if he stands alone. With the exception of a very few stalwart brothers and sisters, he has had to stand alone so far, so it won't come as any shock. Blow the trumpet as you will, but few will don their armor.

Some have questioned whether head covering, and women under authority, is an ordinance of the

same importance as Baptism and Communion? A fair question. Let me first ask, is Baptism as important as Communion? Who knows. Neither are referred to in more scriptures than are the governmental and sovereignty type and ordinances.

Baptism is a symbol of our burial and resurrection with Christ Jesus.

Communion is a symbol of our identification with the cross of Christ.

Head-covering and women under authority are symbols of the sovereignty of God, His government, the defeat of Satan, the salvation of the soul, and the headship of Christ over the church.

You tell me which is most important? I don't know.

There are other questions which need to be addressed. How big and what should a head-covering be? The Greek word implies a veil, something "coming down over" the head. In any case, it should be visible. Remember what you are wearing it for. It is a spiritual "No Trespassing" sign to the fallen angels, and a rallying banner to the holy ones. Surely you would want both sides to know where your heart is, that your soul, and the souls of the family you represent, belong to Jesus!

What then can women do in the church? They can perform any function that does not break a type of Christ and the church. This includes teaching other women and children. Notice in II Tim. 1:5, that Paul credits Timothy's mother and

grandmother for the faith within his beloved young co-worker.

Christian wife, do you have an unsaved husband? Obey I Pet. 3:1-2. Note, "they may be won without a word." Many unsaved husbands are not led to the Lord because some wife, believing she is doing God's will by beating her husband over the head with the Bible, has instead turned him away.

The author's wife won him back to the Lord by being subject to this scripture. He could find no fault in her. His now being in full-time Christian work is in great part a fruit of that woman's selfless service. As is true for us all, if women today would do exactly what God's Word says, their efforts for Him would bear the most fruit. God knows exactly what He is doing, or are we wiser than He?

How silent is silence? Women not speaking or holding forth on any doctrinal truth (while the church is assembled as a mixed congregation) is mandated by scripture. Neither may they question what is taught while in church — I Cor. 14:34-35. If this scripture is interpreted in the strictest sense, silence would include singing, and being members of the choir. The author's wife sings; but he deeply respects those churches which prohibit it, and suspects deep in his heart that they may be right. These are very strict and exact codes, but we did not write the rules, and it is not up to the clay to tell the potter what He should do.

What about women pastors or church leaders who do take authority over men? God sometimes

seems to bless their ministry, and it looks like souls are saved. That is easy enough to explain.

I knew a Bible teacher, several years ago, who was a knee-walking, commode-hugging, drunk. He was bound by all the immorality and worldliness which sometimes accompanies that condition, "things which are hidden because of shame." — II Cor. 4:2. Though the Lord purified his life later on, not by the wildest stretch of our imagination could we claim that he was in God's will while he was in such abominable sin. Souls were still led to the Lord. How come?

It is never the messenger, always the message! It is God's Word that is "quick and powerful," not His woefully sinful servants. If the gospel is truly preached, it will not return to Him void — Isaiah 55:11. Even in horrible examples like those above, God upholds His Word. Praise the Lord, He is a God of law! — Isaiah 40:8, Psa. 119:89. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit will work through God's eternal Word, regardless. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, sayeth the Lord," — Zech. 4:6.

Nonetheless, governmental judgement will fall on those churches with women in authority. They will have a deluding spirit, a conclusion which is now scripturally and historically inescapable.

Many sects and splinter groups were either begun or strongly influenced by women: Christian Science, The Shakers, The Seventh Day Adventists, the Methodists, and others. The greatest heresy of them all being the deification of the Virgin Mary. In some protestant denominations,

both men and women "pastors" are teaching precepts so humanistic that people can not come to a saving knowledge of the Lord by what they preach. Women "theologians" today are even re-translating the scripture to eliminate any reference to the masculine nature of God. In their liberality they blaspheme. Jesus said, "I and my Father" (not I and my mother) "are One." Just one more example of the strange contortions that Satan leads the church to take when we depart from God's Word and ignore His governmental order.

Strangely enough, since the Lord cleansed the previously mentioned immoral brother, he is one of the few men I know in Christian service today, who is standing without compromise on the Word of God. He has been forgiven much, and loves much — Luke 7:47. But, if that ex-libertine is any example of the few willing warriors the Lord has left, then surely there is little hope.

There is a point to telling his story. If God can forgive and still use him despite his horrible past, what is your excuse? What is there in your life that you think God cannot forgive, or cannot cleanse through the blood of the Lord Jesus, His perfect sacrifice, His blessed Son? Come to Him this minute, my friend. Come to Him who died for you. Rededicate your life to Him. Get on your face before God and ask forgiveness for your sin. Learn of Him from His wonderful and eternal Word, and go forth in the power of His might. Maybe the Lord would still withhold the evil that He has decreed upon this place.

The end is almost upon us now. We are only prophetic seconds from Armageddon and the clock is ticking . . . ticking. Bible prophecy is now open for us to understand, if anybody still cares, or is looking.¹ But the church today is neither hot nor cold, just lukewarm, and spiritually blind, and poor, and naked, just like Jesus said it would be. He shall surely spit it out of His mouth just as He declared He would — Rev. 3:16.

In Europe today, less than 5% of the population is Christian, and that is dwindling. The great cathedrals are empty now. The flame flickers there. "Night is coming, when no man can work" — John 9:4. In our own country, the church is so worldly that saint cannot be told from sinner. Night is coming here, too, but we'll keep dancing.

Some cry for revival, but it won't come. Too few are willing to pay the price for it — a broken-hearted repentance before the Lord, and submission to His Word. It might cramp our lifestyle.

"Come quickly Lord Jesus"
"How can Jacob stand, for he is small."

FOOTNOTE
Chapter XII

¹"Daniel Is Out of Order" Skolfield, Fish House, 1984.

Epilogue

- 9 Be delayed and wait.
Blind yourselves and be blind.
They become drunk, but not with wine;
They stagger, but not with strong drink.
- 10 For the Lord has poured over you a spirit of
deep sleep,
He has shut your eyes, the prophets;
And He has covered your heads, the seers.
- 11 And the entire vision shall be to you like the
words of a sealed book, which when they
give it to the one who is literate, saying,
"Please read this," he will say, "I cannot,
for it is sealed."

- 12 Then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying, "Please read this." And he will say, "I cannot read."
- 13 Then the Lord said,
"Because this people draw near with their words
And honor Me with their lip service,
But they remove their hearts far from Me,
And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*,
- 14 Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous;
And the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,
And the discernment of their discerning men shall be concealed.'

4 **Woe to us, for the day declines,
For the shadows of the evening lengthen!**

- 10 To whom shall I speak and give warning,
That they may hear?
Behold, their ears are closed,
And they cannot listen.
- 13 "For from the least of them even to the greatest of them,
Every one is greedy for gain,
And from the prophet even to the priest
Every one deals falsely.
- 14 "And they have healed the wound of My people slightly,
Saying, 'Peace, peace,'
But there is no peace.

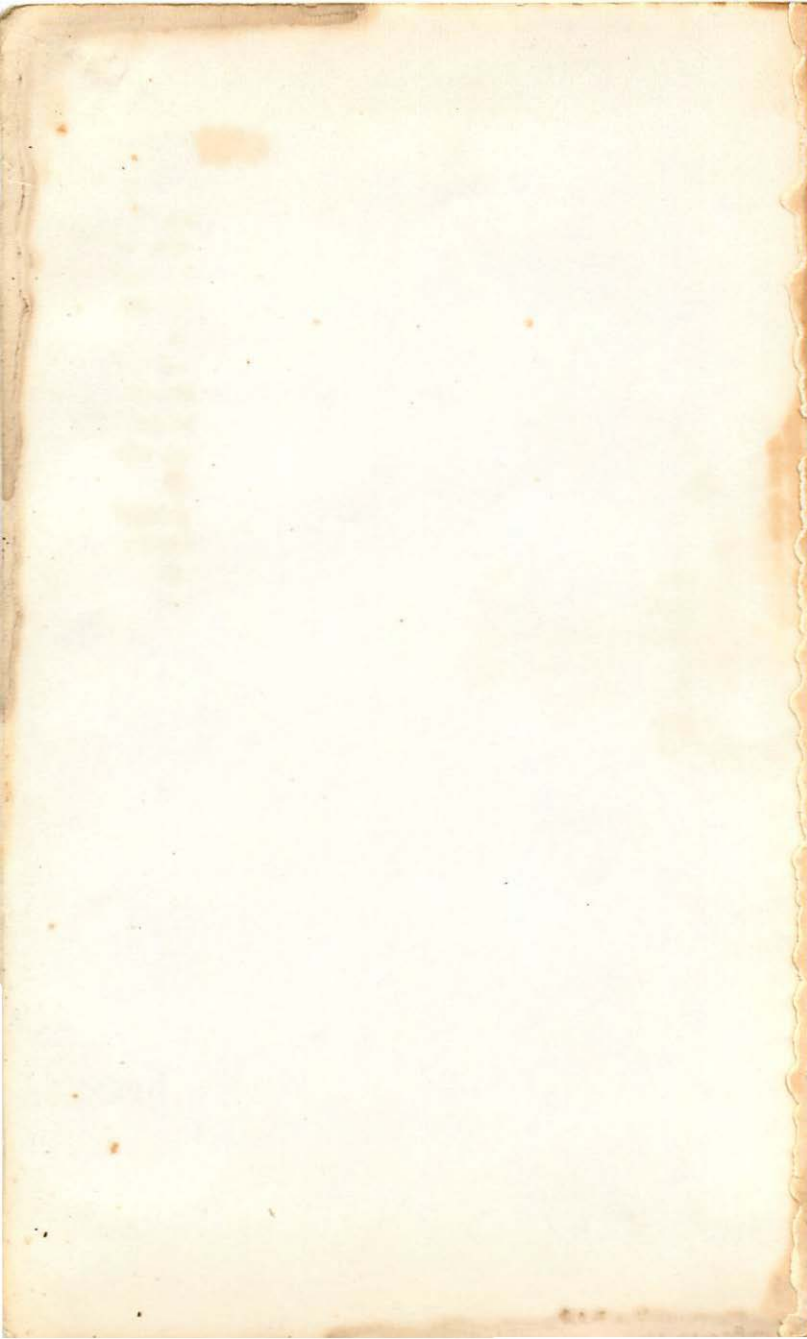
- 15 "Were they ashamed because of the
abomination they have done?
They were not even ashamed at all;
They did not even know how to blush.
Therefore they shall fall among those who
fall;
At the time that I punish them,
They shall be cast down," says the Lord.
- 16 Thus says the Lord,
"Stand by the ways and see and ask for the
ancient paths,
Where the good way is, and walk in it;
And you shall find rest for your souls.
But they said, 'We will not walk *in it.*'
- 17 "And I set watchmen over you, *saying,*
'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!'
But they said, 'We will not listen.'
- 18 "Therefore hear, O nations,
And know, O congregation, what is
among them.
- 19 "Hear, O earth: behold, I am bringing
disaster on this people,
The fruit of their plans,
Because they have not listened to
My words,
And as for My law, they have rejected it
also.
- 20 "For what purpose does frankincense come
to Me from Sheba,
And the sweet cane from a distant land?
Your burnt offerings are not acceptable,
And your sacrifices are not pleasing
to Me."

- 21 Therefore, thus says the Lord,
"Behold, I am laying stumbling blocks
before this people.
And they will stumble against them,
Fathers and sons together;
Neighbor and friend will perish."²
- 16 And they gathered them together to the
place which in Hebrew is called Har-
Magedon.³
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¹ From Isaiah 29, NASB

² From Jeremiah 6, NASB

³ From Revelation 16, NASB



A LITTLE LIGHT THEN DARKEST NIGHT

Of satanic activity and false doctrines, of demon influenced leaders in high church offices and bewildered Christians: This is not an easy book to read, harder yet to forget.

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FISH HOUSE
P.O. Box 453
Ft. Myers, FL 33902
(813) 656-0130