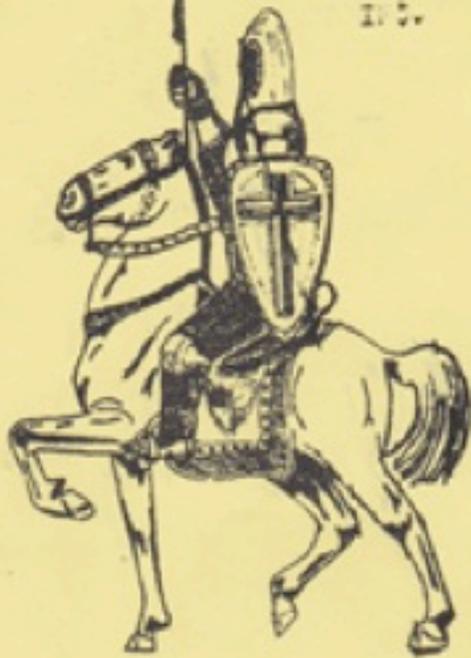


Christian Training Center



**CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTER, INC.
THE CHARISMATIC BIBLE INSTITUTE**

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BOOK EIGHT

THE SPIRIT WORLD

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SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

DEDICATION

These books are purposely written and dedicated to the Layman, who desires to enter into a Teaching Ministry. They are therefore written simply with the paragraphs broken up in order that teaching from these books can be made easy for the Teacher to read.

Our motto is stated in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou has heard from me, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also".

The questions at the end of each lesson can be used by the Teacher to give tests to the students. We recommend the writing out of answers in order that the material may be implanted into the minds of the students. Any other type of questioning does not accomplish this purpose.

May the Lord, therefore, bless the truths presented in these studies.

Dr. Albert Grimes

Book 8: The Spirit World
Lesson 1: Death
Romans 5:12, Hebrews 2:15, Psalm 116:15
By Dr. Albert Grimes

PREPARATION FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPIRIT WORLD

The thought of death brings dread and fear to those who do not understand its purpose. And it is not helped by some of the ideas which people have regarding it. They speak of going out into darkness, or crossing the river of death, and so forth. These are false, and based upon ignorance regarding death.

THE SCRIPTURAL VIEWS OF DEATH

Death is the result of sin. Before sin came into the human race, there was no such thing as death, but sin brought death, as the scripture states in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." The fact that all men die, proves the fact that all have sinned.

DEATH IS THREEFOLD

What we mean in this sense, is that there are three realms of death, three states of existence, and each one of these states are to be experienced by men. The child of God, before his regeneration, may only experience the first realm of Spiritual death, and if the Lord returns while he lives, he will not experience the realm of Physical death, for he will be changed upon the earth, glorified and caught up to meet Christ in the heavens. And being a glorified child of God, he will not enter into the third or final realm of death which is the second death, or being eternally separated from God. The unregenerated man will have to experience all these three realms of death as described in scripture.

SPIRITUAL DEATH

The unregenerated man who is alive upon the earth, is what the Bible calls Spiritually dead. In this realm of Spiritual death, he has no knowledge, or contact with God. He is cut off from the life of God. He is dead because of trespasses, because he has broken the law of God, and because of sins which he commits, Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." And being in that state, he cannot understand the things of God, being a natural man, 1 Corinthians 2:14, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." And because he lives to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, Ephesians 2:2,3, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." This condition will continue to exist, if the person is not regenerated by the power of God. Finally, the second state of death will take place.

PHYSICAL DEATH

When physical death takes place, the spirit and soul are separated, or leave the body. This experience is spoken of in different terms in the Bible, Luke 23:46, "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." The word "ghost" refers to the soul and spirit. Acts 7:59, "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." As the body dies the inner man, the soul and spirit, leave the body.

SECOND DEATH

In this state or realm of death, both the body, soul and spirit are eternally separated from God. This state is described in Revelation 20:14, “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” (Death referring to the body, and hell referring to the spirit. Death as a realm confines the body. Hell as a realm confines the spirit, and both body and spirit are cast into the lake of fire, and eternally separated from God.) This is further pointed out in Revelation 21:8, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” These are the three realms of death, but in this study we are only concerned with the one realm, that of Physical Death.

PHYSICAL DEATH

Before we can have any understanding of this realm of death, we must have some understanding of the threefold nature of man. Man, like God, is a triune being, composed of three separate parts of his being, that of body, soul, and spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:23, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Now at Physical Death, it is only the body that dies, the body that is formed out of the ground, as stated in Genesis 2:7, “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground...” The blood is the life of this body as the scripture points out, Leviticus 17:14, “For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.” The life of the Body then is the blood.

The body after it dies, returns to the ground, and to dust. The body being made from the ground, when it dies, returns to the ground, as stated in scripture, Genesis 3:19, “...for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

The body is only part of man. We can live without it, but we are not completed without it. The body, as we live in it, gives us consciousness of the material things of this earth, through the five senses of sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. So we have contact, because of our bodies, with the material world.

THE SOUL, OR THE SEAT OF OUR INTELLECT

The senses of the soul are imagination, conscience, memory, reason, affection which give us self-consciousness. The senses of the spirit are faith, hope, reverence, prayer, worship, which gives us God-consciousness.

The scripture points out these three parts of man, composing the one person. It speaks of the inner spiritual part of man as being clothed with skin, and flesh and bones, Job 10:11, “Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews.” And it also points out the fact that the soul is within the spirit, as in Job 14:22, “But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn.” The “him” spoken of in this verse is the spirit of man. Then in Zechariah 12:1, “...and formeth the spirit of man within him.”

At physical death only the body goes back to dust. The suggestion here is that it is only the body of the person that returns to the dust and passes away, Genesis 3:19, “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” The regenerated spirit returns to God, as pointed out in Ecclesiastes 12:7, “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” And as Paul also states, 2 Corinthians 5:8, “...and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

At death the spirit and soul leave the body. When the body dies, no man has the power to retain his spirit, as pointed out in Ecclesiastes 8:8, “There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death...” The reason is clear. The spirit and soul will not stay in a dead body, for in death all the organs that allowed the senses of the soul and spirit to reach out into the material

world are closed. The body is dead. The scripture describes the exodus of the soul and spirit. Genesis 25:8, "Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age..." Then Rachel it is said, Genesis 35:18, "And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died)..."

THOSE WHO WERE RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD TO THEIR MORTAL BODIES

In order for the body to live again, the cause of death must be overcome by the power of God, and the spirit and the soul must return back to the body, 1 Kings 17:21-22, "...O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. 22 And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived." And again in Luke 8:54,55, "And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. 55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway..."

DEATH DESCRIBED IN SCRIPTURE

There are statements of men who are about to die, who fully understood what kind of an experience it was, Luke 2:29, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word." To this person it was a departing in peace. Paul's description of death, 2 Corinthians 5:8, "...absent from the body...present with the Lord." Peter's description of death, 2 Peter 1:14, "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle..." The scripture explains just what will happen after the body has died in Luke 16:22, "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom..." The angels of God are there to carry us into his presence.

When we leave our bodies, we are fully conscious. The inner spirit never loses consciousness as the body is dying. The faculties of sight, hearing, smell and touch, are fully operative as we leave the body. They are not suspended, and we do not wake up to find ourselves elsewhere, or out of the body. We are fully conscious while leaving it, and fully conscious after we have left it, and we have all our faculties as before, only we no longer, because we are out of our bodies, have consciousness of this world. We become conscious of the spirit world. This fact is proven in Luke 16:22,23, "...the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes..." The organs of sight were left in his body on the earth, but the eyes of his spirit could see in the underworld. A close study of this section of scripture proves that he could see, talk, feel pain, remember, believe, understand, and repent. If this wicked man regained all his faculties, so those who are regenerated will too in the presence of God.

Jesus indicated this fact as he spoke to the dying thief, Luke 23:43, "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Jesus was speaking of the paradise in the heart of the earth, which the Jews called Abraham's bosom.

THE ABODE OF THE DEPARTED DEAD AFTER DEATH, BEFORE CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS

Every soul, redeemed, or lost in this period of time, after death, descended into the lower parts of the earth, into the underworld. But the righteous went into paradise as Jesus stated. Jacob speaks of going down unto his son whom he thought was already dead, Genesis 37:35, "...I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning..." It is to be noticed that "Sheol", which is used in this verse is wrongly translated "the grave". The Hebrew word for "grave", which is "Geber", is not used in this verse. The proper translation then of Genesis 37:35, is "I will go down into Sheol", or the underworld, "unto my son mourning."

David also makes the same statement in regards to his death in Psalm 16:10, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell..." The same word "Sheol" is again used, meaning the underworld.

When Samuel was brought back from the dead by God to speak to Saul, he made the statement that he came up from this same underworld, 1 Samuel 28:15, "And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?..."

CHRIST AFTER HIS DEATH DESCENDED FIRST INTO THIS UNDERWORLD

Salvation was not altogether completed upon the Cross. Christ Himself must descend into the underworld and overcome it. Satan ruled in the realm of hell, death and the grave. Christ overcame all these, as he descended into the underworld, as the Bible points out to us in Ephesians 4:9,10, "Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?..." While the body of Christ was in the grave, his spirit was in the underworld three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. And while he was in the underworld, he proclaimed liberty to those captives in the lower paradise. 1 Peter 3:18,19, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison." These in prison in the underworld are also referred to in Zechariah 9:11,12, "As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. 12 Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope..." They were prisoners of hope, knowing that Christ would release them, at his resurrection, as stated in Ephesians 4:8, "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

IT WAS BY HIS DEATH THAT CHRIST WAS ABLE TO GET INTO THIS UNDERWORLD TO OVERCOME SATAN, HELL, DEATH, AND THE GRAVE

Satan was overcome in the underworld by Christ's death, Hebrews 2:14,15, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil..." The word "power" suggests dominion. Satan ruled in the reign, or dominion, of death. Hebrews 2:15, "And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Christ returned from the underworld the complete victor over Satan, hell, death, and the grave, Revelation 1:18, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." And in his victory he transported those out of the lower paradise, and took them into the third heaven, Ephesians 4:10, "He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things."

Paul saw the paradise in the third heaven, 2 Corinthians 12:2,4, "... caught up to the third heaven...4...caught up into paradise..."

This is referred to in Hebrews 12:23, "...and to the spirits of just men made perfect." Verse 22 refers to the heavenly Jerusalem where these spirits are, the third heaven. So at death the righteous souls are with the Lord in heaven, 2 Corinthians 5:8, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." In death we rid ourselves of this death-doomed body. In resurrection we receive a new and glorified body. The word of God has this statement to make regarding our death, Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Death is a change of existence. We pass into another state. There is nothing to dread. It is to be welcomed, for after it, we are with the Lord. Let us be ready.

The Spirit World
BOOK 8
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 1

1. Of what is death the result?
2. What are the three realms of death?
3. Explain what spiritual death is?
4. At physical death, what takes place?
5. Explain the second death.
6. What kind of a being is man? Give scripture.
7. What is the life of the body?
8. From where did the body come?
9. What are the senses of the soul?
10. What are the senses of the spirit?
11. What happens to the physical body at death?
12. Can man retain his spirit?
13. Why will the soul and spirit not stay in a dead body?
14. For a dead body to be raised, what must happen?
15. What will happen immediately when the body dies?
16. Are we fully conscious when we leave our bodies?
17. Where did the dead go before Christ's death? What part did the saved go in?
18. Explain why Christ had to go into the underworld.
19. How long was Christ in the underworld?
20. What kind of a victory did Christ have?
21. What change takes place when a Christian dies? And when he is resurrected?

Book 8: The Spirit World
Lesson 2: The Glorified Body
1 Corinthians 15:50-54
By Dr. Albert Grimes

In our day we are faced with the problems of outer space. We are projecting man with a natural body into outer space. Man's physical body was never meant to live in outer space. But God has revealed to us the secret that will some day enable us not only to live in outer space, but to return to this earth, and enjoy life upon it. The Body that we now live in cannot enter heaven, as we have already studied in our first lesson, that this body is going back to the dust, unless Jesus comes. Then it will be changed.

The Kingdom of God in its final state will be glorious. There will be no death, not sin, and anything that has death in it, as our bodies have, cannot go there. The Bible makes this very plain in 1 Corinthians 15:50, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." Our bodies are corrupt, death doomed.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF BODIES IN THIS UNIVERSE

All these different kinds of bodies live in their own realm. Some of these bodies live in the earth, some in the air, some in the sea, and others in outer space. These bodies are described in 1 Corinthians 15:39,40, "All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds..." All these bodies we find upon the earth, but there are bodies that live in outer space, called celestial bodies, 1 Corinthians 15:40, "There are also celestial bodies..." But these bodies, as well as being able to live in outer space, can, and do live upon this earth. This is pointed out to us in the fact that the Lord and two angels came and visited Abraham, Genesis 18:1,2, "And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre...2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him..." Verse 4, "...wash your feet..." Verse 8, "And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat." These three men, the Lord and two angels, came from the third heaven, down to this earth. But man now has a natural body, 1 Corinthians 15:44, "It is sown a natural body..." It's the physical body. Blood is the life of its earthy body. After being glorified, man will receive a spiritual body, 1 Corinthians 15:44, "...and there is a spiritual body." It's physical in the sense that it has flesh and bones, but it's not carnal. The Spirit is the life not blood.

HOW MAN'S BODY WAS MADE

Man's body was not created. It was formed out of the dust of the ground. When the Bible states that God created man in His own image, as in Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own image...", this is speaking about the creation of the spiritual part of man, not his body. His body was formed, Genesis 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." It is quite evident that because of the existence of the tree of life, God intended that man live forever in the body that he had formed for him.

MAN'S BODY BECAME MORTAL, DEATH-DOOMED, BECAUSE OF SIN

It was only after Adam sinned that the sentence of death was put upon him, Genesis 3:19, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." The body then in its present state is both mortal and vile, Romans 8:11, "...shall also quicken your mortal bodies..." Philippians 3:21, "Who shall change our vile body..." The word "mortal" means "death-doomed".

CHRIST'S REDEMPTION WAS FOR OUR BODIES, AS WELL AS OUR SOULS AND SPIRITS

1 Corinthians 6:20, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." But in the full, complete sense, we have not received the redemption of our bodies, and will not until the resurrection. Romans 8:23, "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

Whether we are alive or have died, we will be changed. When we suggest being alive, we mean being alive when Jesus comes. In that case we will not see death. But even if we are alive when he comes, or have died, dead or alive we will be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51, "... We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." The word "changed" suggests the fact that we shall all be glorified.

This change must first begin with the new birth. In order to be changed, which is a future experience, we must now in this life experience the "New Birth", for we will never be glorified without first having become regenerated, or born again. John 3:3, "... Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." This future change then must first begin with the change on the inside.

This change will be brought about by the Holy Spirit. After we are born again, and filled with the Spirit, the Spirit of God as a person will dwell in us. On that great resurrection day, when this change will take place, the indwelling Spirit of God will bring it to pass, as the Bible points out in Romans 8:11, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

ONLY THE BIBLE EXPLAINS THIS MYSTERY OF THE CHANGING OF OUR BODIES

To those who die, it is explained in this sense, as Job described it, Job 19:25,26, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." The body goes back to the dust, but from that body that has gone to dust, will arise a new glorified body, as stated in 1 Corinthians 15:37,38, "And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body." That which is planted in the ground is different from what is produced in the head of the wheat.

The glorified body will resemble the body that was put in the grave, but it will be an entirely new one, as it comes out of the grave, Matthew 27:52,53, "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection..." This even is further described in 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed..." Those who are alive are to be changed, as stated in 1 Corinthians 15:53, "... and this mortal must put on immortality." It is to be understood that we will be glorified just as we stand, or wherever we are.

What kind of change will take place? The scripture points out that in our change we are to be like Christ, like he was as he was glorified. We are to bare the image of the heavenly celestial beings. 1 Corinthians 15:49, "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." Philippians 3:21, "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body..." 1 John 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

IN SUBSTANCE, IT WILL BE LIKE THE BODY OF CHRIST

It will radiate the glory of God as Christ's body did upon the mount. Matthew 17:2, "And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light." And it was said of his garments, Mark 9:3, "... no fuller on earth can white them." In substance it will be flesh and bones, Luke 24:36-40, "... Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 37 But

they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit...39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have..."

THE CAPABILITIES OF THE GLORIFIED BODY

There will be carried over from this life the ability to eat and drink, not in order to live, but to enjoy, and as a means of fellowship, for Jesus ate before his disciples after his resurrection, Luke 24:42,43, "And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took it, and did eat before them." He further indicated this fact in Matthew 26:29, "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." There will be a resemblance of our former self, possibly in looks, and even tone of voice. This seems to be indicated in Luke 24:40, "...he shewed them his hands and his feet." (the marks of the former body).

And in regards to his voice, John 20:16, "Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master." She knew him because of his voice. But we shall also have that divine knowledge, which will make us know those who we meet, as Peter did upon the mount, Matthew 17:4, "...one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias." Peter had never met them, but he knew them. This knowledge is spoken of in 1 Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

The glorified body will be able to become visible or invisible before those in the flesh. Why this would be necessary, it is not understood, but even the angels of God have this ability, as the resurrected Christ had, Luke 24:31, "And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight." Luke 24:34, "...appeared to Simon." Luke 24:36, "...Jesus himself stood in the midst..." Then the resurrected bodies of men appeared to those in the city, Matthew 27:53, "And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

It will be able to ascend and descend between heaven and earth. The fact is brought out in the Bible of this possibility. During the thousand years reign the saints will travel between heaven and earth, in their rulership over the earth. Jesus ascended up into heaven, John 20:17, "...not yet ascended to my Father..." Acts 1:9,11, "...he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight 11...shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

The glorified body will never die. Celestial beings never die, and we shall be like them in that regard. Luke 20:36, "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection."

IN THE GLORIFIED BODY, PERFECTION WILL HAVE BEEN REACHED

The scripture states that we will be like him, 1 John 3:2, "...we shall be like him..." If this is to be accepted in a literal sense, it means that as Christ was a perfect man, at his glorification, 33 ½ years old, so will we be perfect men, and perfect women. In this perfect state there will be no children, no old, but as the angels of God and Christ we will be perfect, grown up into his image. For this is the purpose of our redemption, that we should be, Romans 8:29, "...to be conformed to the image of his Son..." The word "conformed" in this sense means "similar", "to render like". This is God's plan for all, a glorified body, that will enable us to explore the universe, a body that will live forever.

The possibility of this traveling the universe is to be seen in the fact that every glorified child of God will be marked with God's name and address. Revelation 3:12, "...and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God...and I will write upon him my new name."

We are to know God in a new way that we have never known him before in our glorified state. Death is to be swallowed up, in this garment of glorification.

The Spirit World
BOOK 8
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 2

1. What different kinds of bodies are there in the universe?
2. What is the life of our natural body and of our spiritual body?
3. How was man made?
4. Explain why man's body became mortal and death-doomed.
5. When will our redemption be complete?
6. When does the change start and who brings it about?
7. Name seven of the capabilities of the glorified body.
8. What about the graves?
9. When will we receive this?

Book 8: The Spirit World
Lesson 3: The Underworld
Luke 16:19-31
By Dr. Albert Grimes

To have a correct view of the underworld and of the different departments located in the underworld, it is necessary that we have a proper understanding of the Hebrew and Greek words used in connection with the underworld. The Hebrew word “Sheol” is found sixty-five times in the Old Testament. Now, this word means “the unseen state”, or place to which the soul and spirit of the dead go between the death and resurrection of the body. The corresponding word in the Greek in the New Testament is “Hades”, meaning the same. The Hebrew word in the Old Testament is translated in the “King James Version” thirty-one times “Hell”, thirty-one times the “Grave”, and three times the “Pit”. It is from this wrong translation that the Jehovah Witnesses try to prove that Hell is the Grave. An example of this wrongly translated word “Sheol” can be found in Genesis 37:35, “...For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning...” The word used in the original writings is “Sheol”, the unseen world, the spirit world, the underworld, not “Geber”, which is the Hebrew word for “Grave”.

Jacob is saying that at his own death, he would go down into “Sheol” or the underworld and there meet his son, not in the grave. So an understanding of these things will clear away any confusion, by the false teaching regarding this underworld.

THE UNDERWORLD IS A PRISONHOUSE

It was God who brought the system we have into being in the dealing with criminals, and God’s own system of dealing with those who reject Christ, and His salvation, is much the same as we have in our own land. The criminal is first put in the local prison. The court sits, judges the case, and the sentence is given. The term or sentence is served in the Federal prison. Who would want to live in a world where all the criminals were loosed? It’s demanded that we imprison criminals.

The Universe is peopled with beings who live eternally, men, angels, and demons. Among these beings certain have sinned and rebelled against God, and they must be placed in confinement. For if they were not placed in confinement they would contaminate the New Earth. Is God unreasonable then when He, the judge of all the earth, puts eternal criminals in an eternal prison?

The Bible speaks of this prisonhouse. It is to be understood from former studies that both the righteous, and the wicked in the Old Testament times before the Death of Christ, descended into this underworld, and that they are both described as prisoners, Isaiah 24:22, “And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.” Zechariah 9:11,12, “As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. 12 Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee.” They were prisoners of hope, in the sense that they would be released from the lower paradise, after Christ descended into the underworld.

This prisonhouse is located in the heart of the earth. When persons are said to go into it, they are said to go down. Psalm 55:15, “Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell...” This word “hell” is Sheol, the underworld. The same thought is brought out in the wrongly translated word “Sheol” for “Grave” in Genesis 37:35, “I will go down into the “grave”. Here we have the word “Sheol” wrongly translated “Grave”. Its location is in the heart of our earth, as stated in Psalm 63:9, “But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.”

Christ descended into the underworld, and further points out that it is in the heart of the earth, Matthew 12:40, “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Then again in Ephesians 4:9, “...but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?” The word “Sheol” also means “a hollow subterranean place”. This meaning

describes the heart of our earth. It is described as having gates by Christ, Matthew 16:18, "...the gates of hell..." or Hades "shall not prevail against" the church. And after His resurrection, after He had been in this underworld, He further said, Revelation 1:18, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell ("Hades") and of death ("the grave")."

In this underworld, in the heart of our earth, there are different departments or prisons. The Hebrew word "Sheol", and the Greek word, "Hades", only speak of the underworld, the unseen world, the world of departed spirits, and describe it as a hollow subterranean place, located in the heart of the earth. But the Word of God further describes the fact that there are different prisonhouses in this unseen world.

The Word of God describes to us five places, or prisons.

1. The prisonhouse called Hell. This is the prison that the wicked dead are sent to after death. This is made plain from the Greek word "Hades" in Luke 16:23, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments..."
2. The prisonhouse called paradise. The word is translated from the Greek word "paradeisos", Luke 23:43, "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." This was the prisonhouse to which the righteous went in the Old Testament before the Cross, awaiting their release by Christ Himself.
3. The prisonhouse called the "bottomless pit". From the Greek word "Abussos", Revelation 20:1,3, "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit...3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." It is quite evident that it has also a door for keys are spoken of. This prisonhouse is the place where spirits are imprisoned.
4. The prisonhouse called "Tartaras", from the Greek word "tartaras". 2 Peter 2:4, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." Into this prisonhouse the angels whose sin caused the flood are kept, until the White Throne Judgment.
5. The prisonhouse called the Lake of Fire, from the word, "gehenna" in the Greek. Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." This is the final prisonhouse, where all wicked angels and men, and spirits will be imprisoned.

The fact that these are all different places is proved by the five different words in the Greek. All these places are located in "Sheol" or "Hades", and altogether compose what is known as the underworld, which is located in the heart of the earth.

WHY ARE THERE FIVE PRISONHOUSES IN THE UNDERWORLD, AND WHAT KIND OF PRISONERS ARE KEPT IN THESE DIFFERENT PLACES?

The prisonhouse called Hell: A study of the word points out that hell is the place where the spirits of the wicked are confined, between death and the resurrection, Psalm 9:17, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God..." Luke 16:22,23, "...the rich man also died, and was buried...23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments..." They will remain in hell, until one thousand years after the righteous have been resurrected, Revelation 20:5, "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished..."

The rest of the dead spoken of are the wicked dead, and after they are resurrected they will be judged at the "White Throne" judgment, Revelation 20:12-15, after which they will be cast into the Lake of Fire, the final prison.

So Hell is the local, prisonhouse where the prisoners are kept until the court sits. After being sentenced they will be imprisoned in the final prison to serve their eternal sentence.

The Prisonhouse of Paradise: We have stated in other studies that before the Cross, or the death of Christ, all the souls of the righteous dead descended into the lower paradise in the underworld. The righteous

Jacob expected to go there, Genesis 37:35, "...For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning..." David expected to go there also, Psalm 16:10, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell", or "Sheol".

Samuel the prophet was allowed of God to return to this earth to speak to Saul. He was brought up from the underworld, 1 Samuel 28:15, "...Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up..." It was this place that Jesus first went to after his death. This is stated in Ephesians 4:9, "Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?"

The thief on the Cross met Christ in that lower paradise, Luke 23:43, "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Jesus descended in His spirit into the lower paradise and proclaimed deliverance to the captives, 1 Peter 3:19, "By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison." After which he release them and transported them into the third heaven, into the heavenly paradise, Ephesians 4:8, "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

David connected his release from the lower paradise, with the resurrection of Christ, Psalm 16:10, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

Jesus in His descent into the underworld overcame death, hell, and the grave, as He Himself states in Revelation 1:18, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

The place of Paradise in the lower parts of the earth is now empty, for the righteous now go into the presence of God in the heavens, 2 Corinthians 5:8, "...to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

The Prisonhouse called Hell: The prisoners in hell could see the prisoners in Paradise. This proves that the underworld is made up of subterranean, hollow caves in the heart of our earth, Luke 16:23, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." But hell and paradise, although those in these prisons could see one another, yet they were separated by a great gulf, Luke 16:26, "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

In hell there is torment, as pointed out in scripture, Luke 16:23, "...being in torments...", verse 25, "...and thou are tormented."

After the wicked dead are resurrected from the prisonhouse of hell, hell as a place of confinement will be done away with, as stated in Revelation 20:14, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire..." But before this takes place, all the wicked dead, from Old Testament and New Testament times, will continue to descend into hell, which is located in the underworld.

The Prisonhouse of the Bottomless Pit: A close study of the Word in regards to this place reveals the fact that it is the prisonhouse of demon spirits, proving that all demons are not free, but that at certain times they are let out of this pit in order that they might torment and even kill men. This is revealed in Revelation 9:1-5, "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit..."

These verses teach us that this bottomless pit as it is opened, opens up on the surface of the earth, as a volcano does. Then he describes what comes out of this bottomless pit, Revelation 9:3-5, "And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man."

After the first horde of demon spirits are released from the pit, 200,000,000 more are freed to slay the third part of men, Revelation 9:16,18, "And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand...18 By these three was the third part of men killed..." These demons kill men by the means of plagues, Revelation 9:20, "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk." This takes place during the first part of the tribulation

period.

When praying for those who are bound by evil spirits, the believer can send them back again into the pit. This is suggested in the ministry of Jesus, Luke 8:31, "And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep," or "abussos", or "bottomless pit". Satan will be bound in this same pit during Christ's reign upon the earth for one thousand years, Revelation 20:1-3, "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him..."

The bottomless pit is still the prisonhouse of fallen spirits, and nothing is revealed as regards what will happen to this prisonhouse. But after Satan is loosed out of this pit after the thousand years are finished, he is then, after his last rebellion against God, cast into the "Lake of Fire", Revelation 20:10, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are..."

It is possible then that the bottomless pit as a prisonhouse, will be done away with and perhaps all evil spirits who are under the rulership of Satan will be also cast into the lake of fire with Satan.

The prisonhouse of Tartarus: This prisonhouse has in it a certain kind of angel, a fallen angel whose sin brought the flood upon the earth. They are described as having left their own habitation, to go after strange flesh, other or different flesh, as suggested from the Greek. These angels are spoken of in 2 Peter 2:4, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."

The word "Tartarus", which is translated as hell, is a different place from hell as we have already described. The sin which these angels committed is spoken of in Jude 1:6,7, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh..." The time of this sin is pointed out in the order of events, 2 Peter 2:4,6, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned...And spared not the old world, but saved Noah...6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes..." Verse 7, "And delivered just Lot..."

These events place the sin of these angels before the flood, and the Bible describes such an event in Genesis 6:1-4, "And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose..."

Of the five times the term "Sons of God" is mentioned in the Old Testament, in every case it refers to angels. It does not refer to men as such in the Old Testament, as it does in the New Testament. Genesis 6:4, "There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

The strange flesh spoken of in Jude 7, "going after strange flesh", proves the fact of the difference between celestial and terrestrial bodies, 1 Corinthians 15:40, "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial..." One is human and the other angelic. It was this union of the Sons of God and the daughters of men that brought the flood to destroy the contaminated human race. These angels which participated in this sin are confined in "Tartarus", in prison.

The Prisonhouse of the Lake of Fire: The Word of God brings out the fact that this place is the final place of punishment, and that wicked men, demons, and fallen angels, and the beast and false prophet and Satan will all finally go into it. It would appear that as the present time no one is in this final place of torment. It is now empty. The first two beings to be cast into it will be the beast and false prophet, at the end of the tribulation, Revelation 19:20, "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet... These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." One thousand years after this event, the devil will be cast into this prisonhouse, Revelation 20:10, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Then after the wicked have been resurrected, and judged at the White Throne Judgment, they too will be cast into the lake of fire.

The Final Prisonhouse: This "gehenna" or "final hell" in the first place, was only prepared for Satan and

his angels, after they rebelled against God, Matthew 25:41, “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

But if men are going to follow the devil in this life, they must also go where he finally will go after they die. It is described as having seven different places of judgment, where different kinds of people are to be confined. These are spoken of in Revelation 21:8, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part (section or allotment), in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

The word “part” speaks in the sense of place, section or allotment. It is quite evident that different people are confined to different places in the “Lake of Fire”. All other places spoken of will be done away with, and then there will be one final place of punishment. All these places studied make up what is known as the “underworld”.

Little do people understand that under their feet, in the very earth upon which they tread, in its heart is the prisonhouse of fallen spirits, angels, and men.

The Spirit World
BOOK 8
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 3

1. Explain what the underworld is.
2. Who brought about our system for dealing with criminals?
3. What is the universe peopled with?
4. Where is the underworld located?
5. Name the five compartments in the underworld.
6. Where did the righteous dead go before the cross?
7. What is imprisoned in the bottomless pit?
8. What are imprisoned in Tartarus?
9. What is the lake of fire for?
10. Why are there five different prisonhouses in the underworld?
11. What kind of prisoners are kept in them?
12. Explain what happened to paradise, at Jesus' resurrection.
13. What did Jesus overcome at His death and resurrection?
14. Where will the wicked go when resurrected?
15. Where do evil spirits go when cast out?
16. What sin did the angels in Tartarus commit?
17. What is the lake of fire for?
18. Who will be the first ones in the lake of fire?
19. Explain how a God of love can send men to hell?

Book 8: The Spirit World
Lesson 4: Is Heaven a Real Place?
John 14:1-3
By Dr. Albert Grimes

Heaven is not just some mystic, imaginary place as some would have us believe. It is a real place, as real and more so than the world in which we live. This heaven we talk about was the abode of God even before the universe was created, and in a sense this world in which we live was created after the pattern of that heavenly abode. This is suggested in Hebrews 11:3, “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Are we to understand that as meaning that the things we now see, in regards to the worlds, were not patterned from visible things, but from the unseen things in the heavens?

THE BEGINNING OF THE HEAVENS

Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” It is possible that this word “heaven” relates to the whole expanse of space. Then after judgment fell upon this first creation as is described in Genesis 1:2, “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

God made the first heaven, in the reconditioning of the ruined earth. This is stated in Genesis 1:6-8, “And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so...” The word “firmament” means an expanse of space, a heaven. The waters in fluid form upon the earth were divided from the waters in vapour form by a heaven, or expanse of space. And it is today, the first heaven or atmosphere divides the waters upon the earth from the waters in cloud formation in the heavens. Thus the statement in Genesis 2:1, “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.” This verse would seem to suggest that our earth and its related heaven was the last of God’s creations in the universe.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT HEAVENS

This fact has already been pointed out in Genesis 2:1, “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished...” But other scriptures indicate the same facts, Deuteronomy 10:14, “Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord’s...” It also suggests that the heavens are made like stories upon one another, as in Amos 9:6, “It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven...” And then the Apostle Paul’s statement in 2 Corinthians 12:2, “...caught up into the third heaven”.

There are three heavens. These three heavens cover all the expanse of space, from the earth right to the third heaven, where God dwells.

The atmospheric heaven: This heaven extends from our earth to the clouds. It is called the “air” in the Word of God, Ephesians 2:2, “...the prince of the power of the air...” Then again in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, “...to meet the Lord in the air...”

The heaven of stars: This second heaven extends from the clouds to the outer rim of the stars. How far, or how high this heaven is, no one knows. This was one of the questions God asked Job, Job 22:12, “Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!” Dr. Bancroft, in his Elementary Theology on the Doctrine of Angels relates these facts regarding the heaven of stars. “The moon is 240,000 miles from our earth. Our next-door neighbor in our solar system is the planet Mars. Mars is 37,000,000 miles from mans’ habitation. Next we reach the planet Saturn at a distance of 750,000,000 miles from us. Saturn’s diameter is nine and one-half times larger than our own, and this planet is surrounded by immense rings measuring nearly 200,000 miles across. 2,793,000 miles from the Sun is the planet Neptune. There are other

planets still unknown, beyond Neptune, which belong to the outermost regions of our solar system, and beyond are the almost infinite heavens. There, almost 25,000,000,000 miles from our earth, every star is a shining sun.”

“The nearest sun, our nearest star in space, is removed 276,000 times the distance which separates from the sun. That is, 25,000,000,000 miles from the earth. Traveling at the rate of forty miles an hour, it would take us 75,000,000 years to reach it. But even this inconceivable space dwindles in view of the fact that in a distance of 60,000 billion miles there are other wonderful suns, yes, whole galaxies of planetary systems”.

This is the second heaven, the heaven of stars.

The third heaven: This is the place where God manifests Himself. It is described by Christ as a place of glory, that existed before the world did, John 17:24, “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.” Christ is here speaking of the time when all those whom the Father has given him will be with him, to enjoy the glories of this heavenly abode.

PROOF OF THE EXISTENCE OF HEAVEN

After, in a small way, we have described the expanse of these heavens, and we understand that there are three heavens, and that the third heaven is where God Himself dwells, is there anything in God’s Word that would suggest its location? There are scriptures which point out to us the location of heaven, as a place where God dwells. In a prophetic Psalm, the location of the Holy City is given to us, Psalm 48:1,2, “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. 2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north...”, and it is also noted that the location of the heavenly abode of God is in the same place. For Satan in his rebellion against God ascended into the sides of the north in order to carry out his plan. It is evident that Satan was not in the heavens, but upon this earth as he began his rebellion. Isaiah 14:13,14, “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God” (these stars are ruling angels). “I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”

Heaven is then located in the sides of the north, or in the north part of the heavens. Job describes to us this same fact as he describes the fact that in this north part of the heavens, there is an empty place, Job 26:7, “He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” Heaven is located in the north part of the heavens.

HEAVEN IS REAL BECAUSE GOD AND ALL THE HEAVENLY HOSTS DWELL THERE

The Word of God gives abundant evidence of the fact that God is in heaven, Job 22:12, “Is not God in the height of heaven?” (or in the highest heaven). It also suggests the fact that God dwells in a temple in heaven, Psalm 11:4, “The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven...” Revelation 15:8, “And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God...” Revelation 16:1, “And I heard a great voice out of the temple...” God’s throne is in heaven, as stated in Psalm 11:4, “The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven...” Revelation 4:2, “And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.” Christ stated that His Father was in heaven, Matthew 5:16, “...your Father which is in heaven.” John 20:17, “Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”

God manifests Himself in Heaven. God as a person is seen in heaven. This fact is evident in scripture. He is seen by the angels of God. Luke 1:19, “And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God...” Matthew 18:10, “Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.” Psalm 139:8, “If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there...”

GOD HAS GRANTED REVELATION OF THIS MANIFESTATION TO HUMAN BEINGS

God, through the Holy Spirit, has granted to men revelation of the great truth that God does dwell in heaven. As a person, he sits on His throne ruling the whole universe. The Prophet Micaiah saw a vision of God in heaven, 1 Kings 22:19, "And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left."

Isaiah the Prophet also saw this same vision of God in heaven, Isaiah 6:1, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."

John the Apostle, was caught up to heaven in the spirit and saw the God of heaven, Revelation 4:2,3, "And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald."

THERE IS ALREADY IN HEAVEN, A REPRESENTATION OF THE CHURCH

Elders are always representative, and the glorified church has in these Elders a representation in heaven, Revelation 4:4, "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold."

That they represent all of those who are redeemed is evident by the song which they sing, Revelation 5:9,10, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

THERE ARE ANGELS IN HEAVEN

Deathless celestial beings, messengers of God created by God, their dwelling place is also in heaven, Revelation 5:11, "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." These angels come from heaven down to earth and become ministers to us who are the children of God, Hebrews 1:14, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

CHRIST CAME FROM HEAVEN

It is quite evident that Christ, before earth's time began, dwelt with the Father in heaven, John 1:2, "The same was in the beginning with God." John 17:24, "...for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." Christ Himself declares that He came from heaven, John 3:13, "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." Verse 31, "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all." John 6:38, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."

After His resurrection he returned to heaven, taking those from the underworld with Him. The first reference to this returning to heaven is given in John 20:17, "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God." Also he took with him all those righteous souls from the underworld, as stated in Ephesians 4:8-10, "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things." All these saints, with Christ, are now in heaven. After Christ had presented Himself before the Father in heaven, He then returned to this earth.

He returned from heaven. It is not made clear to us from scripture where Christ was during the forty days which he appeared to men upon the earth. But it is evident that he did return from heaven, 1 Corinthians 15:5,6, "And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once..."

He then returned back to heaven and is there now at God's right hand. Christ was actually seen by His disciples ascending into heaven, Acts 1:9-11, "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

He at the present time, is in heaven, Hebrews 9:24, "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." God allows one of his saints to actually see the Lord in heaven, Acts 7:55,56, "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God."

Christ is there in the heavens, as an advocate for the saints of God, as stated in 1 John 2:1,2, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous..." And he is the mediator for the sinner, 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." So we have a high Priest now in the heavens, and he will remain there until the Second Coming of Christ.

CHRIST WILL COME BACK FROM HEAVEN

He is in heaven, a glorified God-man, but soon He will return again from heaven, as stated in Acts 1:11, "...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." It is further described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout...", after which the glorified saints will be caught up to meet Christ, and they will all return back to heaven with Him, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." While in heaven, the saints will go before the judgment seat of Christ as pointed out in 2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad". After which we will become married to the Lord Himself, Revelation 19:7,8, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready..." This all takes place in the third heaven during the time we are there with the Lord, after which we will return from heaven with the Lord to this earth.

CHRIST'S RETURN IN HIS REVELATION

Christ will again return to this earth with all His saints to set up His kingdom upon the earth, Revelation 1:7, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him..." Jude 14, "...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints".

The Holy Spirit came from Heaven. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament dispensation came from heaven upon men. But after Christ's resurrection the Holy Spirit came to abide in the church in the individual members of the church. And as He came to dwell in the church He came from heaven, Acts 2:2, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind..." 1 Peter 1:12, "...have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven".

These facts are all proving the reality of heaven as a place, and it is so real it is called a country.

The Word of God declares that heaven, the heaven where God dwells, is a country, which those who believe seek, Hebrews 11:14-16, "For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." In this heavenly country God has prepared for those who are His, a city.

The biggest city in the universe is already in heaven. This city is already in heaven, built by God

Himself. It's the place where God dwells. Jesus calls it His Father's house. John 14:1-3, "...2 In my Father's house are many mansions..." It is a place prepared by God Himself as stated in Hebrews 11:16, "...for he hath prepared for them a city." It also states that Abraham himself looked for this same city in Hebrews 11:10, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." It is further described in Hebrews 12:22-24, "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant..."

As wonderful as heaven is, it is not the final state. It is possible that heaven will always remain, as a place to abide in. But the Bible teaches us that this great city which is now in heaven, will some day come down from heaven, and become God's dwelling place upon the New Earth. Revelation 21:2, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Revelation 21:10, "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." This city is without a doubt the greatest city in the Universe. It is in size 1,500 miles on every side, Revelation 21:16, "And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal." It would occupy more than one half of the United States.

If the rooms or mansions were 19 feet square and 16 feet high, there would be 21 quadrillion, 502 trillion, 471 billion rooms. If you used one hour visiting each mansion, and you had begun your visiting from the creation of Adam, and you had continued visiting right up to the present time, you would still have left to visit, 3 quadrillion, 583 trillion, 741 billion, 742 million mansions. Heaven must be a real place to hold a city such as the one described.

Paul saw this heaven. God allowed Paul to see heaven, and Paul describes it in these words, 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, "It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."

Then further in another place, Paul speaks in regards to these things in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Paul, because of these wonderful things that he saw, was so taken up with them, that we could say of him, "he became so heavenly-minded, he became no earthly good". This was the reason why God had to send a messenger of Satan, a spirit, to buffet him, in order to keep his mind off those heavenly things, 2 Corinthians 12:7, "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me..."

The sense of this verse is the word "messenger", which in the Greek means an "angel, or evil spirit". The word "buffet" means "to rap with the fist". There is no suggestion that this was some kind of a sickness. It was a Satanic torment sent to keep his mind off what he himself had personally seen in the heavens. We need a perfect understanding of these things, not only to help us, but also to help those outside of Christ, those with no future hope.

NO PERFECTION IN THIS WORLD

After we have studied this subject, it can now be seen that all we live in, in this world, are only shadows of things to come. Everything in this world is corrupted with death and sin. There is nothing perfect, and it is therefore fruitless to try and seek perfection here. But perfection will come to those who know God. Then those shadows, the things in part will be done away with as pointed out in 1 Corinthians 13:10, "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." Then we shall dwell forever upon the New Earth with God, Revelation 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

I suppose in that glorified state, we will ascend, and descend between heaven and earth, but our abode

will be upon the New Earth.

The Spirit World
BOOK 8
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 4

1. Is heaven just a mystic, imaginary place?
2. Explain the word “firmament”.
3. How many heavens are there and how are they formed and what is in them?
4. Give scripture to prove the location of God and heaven.
5. To whom in the Word, has God revealed this and give scriptures?
6. Explain where the angels dwell and what they do and what they are like.
7. Where did Christ come from and give scripture?
8. Where did Jesus go after his resurrection and who did he take with him?
9. Will Christ ever come back from heaven? Give scriptures.
10. Where did the Holy Spirit come from? Give scriptures.
11. Describe the city in heaven.
12. What did Paul see and what effect did it have on him?
13. Why did God send a spirit to buffet him?
14. What do we live in here, the real thing or shadows?

Book 8: The Spirit World

Lesson 5: Angels

Revelation 5:11

By Dr. Albert Grimes

For centuries a question has occupied some of the greatest minds, and that question is, “Is man the only creature of God in this vast space amid these millions and millions of planets?”

The Bible is not a book of science but on what subject it speaks, it speaks with authority. And the Bible reveals the fact that this vast universe is peopled with beings, some of a higher order than man, and some of a lower order.

God created all things. Everything in this universe was created by God. This is the statement of scriptures, Colossians 1:16, “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.” We know that God create everything good, and whatever is evil now has become so, afterwards.

THE SPIRIT WORLD

The scriptures are full of the supernatural. The only cure for the materialism of this present day is to discover what the scripture reveals as to the spirit world. There is but a step from the natural world to the spirit world. The dividing veil is our bodies. This vast space we have discussed in a former study of Heaven is peopled with spirit beings. There are two classes, good and evil.

They are classified as Seraphims, Cherubims, Angels, Principalities, Powers, Rulers of the Darkness, Wicked Spirits, Thrones, Dominions, Fallen Angels, Spirits in Prison. All these together include what is known as the Spirit world. We live in the midst of it, for it is under our earth in its heart, in the underworld.

So you and I as human beings are in some way affected by this unseen spirit world. For we are not separated, but part of this great host of universal beings.

Our study in this lesson is related to angels, but in order to classify them, we must mention the fact that there are other beings of perhaps a higher order than angels which first we must deal with. Then we are only dealing with the beings in God’s Kingdom. We will deal with them in order of position.

THE SERAPHIMS

It is possible that these beings are the highest type of being in the Kingdom of God. In their high, exalted position before the throne of God, they wait upon the one who sits upon the throne. They acclaim the Holiness of God, and are forever in the presence of God. They will not allow sin to come into the presence of the throne, protectors of the Holiness of God. This is suggested by the scripture in Isaiah 6:1-7, “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory...” Verse 5, “Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. 6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.”

It is quite possible that these creatures never leave the throne but protect it with their presence.

THE CHERUBIMS, OR LIVING CREATURES

These beings are much the same as the Seraphims, but in their high position they seem to represent before the throne of God, all God's created creatures. They are first revealed in the Word of God as keeping the way of the tree of life from sinful man, Genesis 3:24, "So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." This points out the fact that these creatures leave the throne of God, and do come down to this earth. Then they are again described to us as descending from the throne to earth in Ezekiel 1:4-28. The description is given, verse 5, "...they had the likeness of a man." Verse 6, "And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings." Verse 7, "the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot..." Verse 8, "And they had the hands of a man under their wings..."

It is to be noticed that the Seraphims had six wings. These creatures have four. The name "Cherubims" given these creatures comes from the statement which is describing these same creatures in Ezekiel 10:1, "Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims..." Verse 3, "Now the cherubims stood on the right side of the house..." The fact that they represent, or are responsible for all God's created creatures is pointed out by their appearance, Ezekiel 1:10, "As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle."

The fact that they come to earth, speaks of the fact that they have something to do with the working out of God's plans and purposes in the earth.

ARCHANGELS

These beings are manlike, celestial beings and not in any way like the other creatures we have studied. In the scriptures there are two classes of angels. This is pointed out in Job 38:7, "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" These stars of God are also spoken of in Isaiah 14:23, "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...", referring to Satan's desire to rule over the host of God. Then again in Revelation 9:1, "...and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit."

It is quite evident that these stars are beings which are a higher order than the sons of God or angels. It is possible that these star angels are the Princes spoken of in the Bible.

THE CHIEF OF THE PRINCES IN GOD'S KINGDOM

This person is spoken of much in the Bible. He is spoken of as the one who standeth for Israel. He also has to do with the resurrection, and he also is the Head of the armies of the heavens. Michael is his name. He fights against the Satanic princes who hinder the other angels of God from carrying out their commands, as in Daniel 10:12,13, "Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia." Gabriel the angel, sent to Daniel, was held in the heavens by the Satanic Prince until Michael came and delivered him.

Michael will also bring deliverance to Israel just before the great tribulation begins, Daniel 12:1, "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." That he has something to do with resurrection is also pointed out in his dispute with Satan over Moses' body, Jude 9, "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses..." Then he shall be there to give the command when the rapture takes place, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel..."

It is Michael and his angels that will cast Satan and his angels out of heaven, Revelation 12:7-9, "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast

out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

And it is quite possible that he is the angel that will bind Satan in the bottomless pit, Revelation 20:1-3, “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him...”

GABRIEL, THE ANGEL OF REVELATION

This angel Gabriel is mentioned much in the Word of God. He seems to bring to men, and those chosen of God, the revelation of God. The statement that he himself makes is this, Luke 1:19, “...I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God...” We first hear of him bringing revelation to Daniel concerning his people in Daniel 8:16, “...Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.” And also he brought knowledge of gifts that God gave to Daniel in Daniel 9:21-22, “Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.”

And 800 years afterward, to Zacharias the priest, the Father of John the Baptist, to bring him news of his birth, Luke 1:11,19, “And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense...19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.” Because the priest would not believe him, he was struck dumb by the angel of the Lord, and was unable to speak until after his son’s birth. This reveals the power that these angels have.

He was also sent from God to Mary to further reveal the plan of God to the one whom God had chosen, Luke 1:26,27 “And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth. 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph...” The whole revelation of the virgin birth was revealed by this angel in Luke 1:26-36. It is not true, as some teach, that the angels do not understand the plan of God in Redemption. This angel revealed it.

ANGELS OF LESSER RANK

It has been suggested that only two-thirds of all the angels still follow and obey God. There is only one scripture upon which this teaching is based, Revelation 12:4, “And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth...” This verse is describing Satan, the dragon, and could refer to his rebellion against God, and the fact that he did have one-third of the angels that joined in his rebellion. In Revelation 12:7, “...and the dragon fought and his angels”, points out the fact that he does have angels who are under his command.

THE NUMBER OF ANGELS

God must have created a vast host of angels, for it is stated in Revelation 5:11, “And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.” They are described in the Bible as being mighty angels, 2 Thessalonians 1:7, “...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.” This can be understood, when we see their might in the fact that one angel was able to kill 185,000 men in one night, as pointed out in 2 Kings 19:35, “And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.”

THEY ARE SPIRIT BEINGS

When it is stated that angels are spirit beings, we do not mean that they are spirit beings in the sense that spirits or demons are. A devil, or spirit, is a being without a body. An angel is a spirit being, but he does have, and can appear in a celestial body. Hebrews 1:14, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" So as spirit beings they are invisible to human eyes. Only those with Discerning of Spirits can discern them. But they can, and do appear in human form as the scripture points out. They appeared to Abraham in his day, Genesis 18:1-8, "...2...three men stood by him...8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat." They, two angels, and the Lord Himself, partook of Abraham's food, and the same two angels stayed with Lot and ate with him also in Genesis 19:1-13, "And there came two angels to Sodom at even...2...wash your feet...3...and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat." He made them a meal. Their purpose in coming to Sodom is clearly understood in their words, Genesis 19:13, "For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it."

The fact that they come to earth in the appearance of men, and mingle with us, is the reason for this warning in Hebrews 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

There is no marriage among angels. This is to be understood in this sense, not that they are unable to perform the functions that would enable them to marry, but because all angels are males. There are no female angels. If they can eat, and drink, and perform all the functions of males, they can, and some of them have, married, as a close study of the Word of God reveals, Matthew 22:30, "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." This verse is speaking of our condition after the resurrection. We will be like angels. We will not marry.

They are deathless beings. This perhaps is one of the reasons why marriage is not needed, for they never die. Marriage is needed in the human race because of the fact of death, Luke 20:35-36, "But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels..."

ANGELS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THIS EARTH

We have already seen that angels do come down to this earth. They walk to and fro through the earth, because they are sent upon different missions by God, Zechariah 1:10,11, "And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These are they whom the Lord hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth. 11 And they answered the angel of the Lord that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest." After these missions upon the earth, they return to God's throne in heaven to report to Him of their activity. This fact is revealed in Job 1:6, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them."

They are at constant war with the kingdom of Satan. This warfare is carried on, not only in the heavens, but also upon this earth. Gabriel, the Angel of the Lord, was sent to Daniel, but was held in the heavens by Satanic Princes, until Michael came and liberated him, Daniel 10:13, "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia." Then Gabriel suggests that on his return to heaven he would have to again fight with them, Daniel 10:20, "Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come." These Satanic Princes represent the different nations in the earth. That is the reason why the Prince is called after the nation he represents. This battle has gone on since Satan's rebellion against God. Sometimes we enter into this warfare, as we move in the spirit, and pull down Satan's kingdom. In this we also have angelic help.

Just as Satan deceives the nations of the earth, driving them to war upon one another, so the angels of God help nations in time of war. War changes conditions, in nations, and behind, in the unseen world, these wars are Satanic and are inspired by Satan. But God controls the nations, and all these conditions which are brought about by wars, are for the bringing forth of the plan and purposes of God. The angelic forces are the

main factor in bringing these things to pass. Israel's victories were brought about by these angelic forces. Joshua 5:13,14, "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come..." To see, and understand, that we are protected in this sense, can become a great comfort in the time of trouble. 2 Kings 6:15-17, "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." If it was not for the protecting hand of these unseen forces, we would be destroyed from off the earth.

THEY GUIDE AND GUARD BELIEVERS

The Bible does teach that these angels are here to protect, and even sometimes guide us in our activity for God. Hebrews 1:14, "...minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." They give attendance to give aid, relief, and service to the children of God, and it is an accepted fact that every believer has his own personal angel, Psalm 91:11, "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Acts 12:15, "...16 Then said they, It is his angel." How they guide believers is suggested in the Word of God, Acts 8:26, "And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert."

How they sometimes minister to God's people: Elijah, fleeing from Jezebel, becomes tired and falls asleep, and awakened by an angel of the Lord, 1 Kings 19:5-8, "And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. 6 And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. 7 And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. 8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God."

Jesus is ministered to by angels after the temptations by the devil, perhaps in a similar way, Matthew 4:11, "Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him." Then after he prayed in the garden, and came so near to death in his struggle against the forces of darkness, Luke 22:43, "And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him." Jesus Himself speaks of this protection, which he could have had, but did not call. Matthew 26:53, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"

They defend and deliver God's servants. Lot was saved from Sodom by angels, Genesis 19:15, "And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city." Daniel and his friends are saved from the furnace by the angel, Daniel 3:28, "...who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God." Daniel himself was protected from the lions by an angel, Daniel 6:22, "My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me..."

In the New Testament church, believers were loosed from prison by angels, Acts 5:19, "But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth..." Peter himself was released from prison by an angel, Acts 12:7,8, "And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. 8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me."

Angels bring to Paul God's will, Acts 27:23,24, "For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee."

They guard the elect dead. The angel that we have ministering to us in our life, will be the first being we will see in death, Luke 16:22, “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom...” The angel of God rolled the stone from the empty tomb in order that people might see, Matthew 28:2, “And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.”

THEY WILL BRING DOWN JUDGMENTS UPON THE EARTH

This fact is evident by their own words in Genesis 19:13, “For we will destroy this place...” Our judgments that sometimes come upon cities, and so forth, are brought about by angels of God and even plague is suggested in 2 Samuel 24:15,16, “So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. 16 And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand...”

During the first and second part of the Great Tribulation Period angels will be active in bringing judgments upon the earth, Revelation 8:2, “And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.” Each one of these angels as they blow their trumpets will bring a judgment some kind upon the earth. Revelation 15:1, “And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.”

They also will warn the inhabitants of the earth during the tribulation period, Revelation 8:13, “And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!”

During the last half of the tribulation, an angel will warn those who are on the earth, even preaching the gospel to them as they fly in the midst of heaven. Revelation 14:6,7, “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Another angel will fly, announcing the downfall of Babylon, Revelation 14:8, and another angel will follow warning those who take the mark of the beast, Revelation 14:10-11.

THEY HAVE AUTHORITY OVER THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

It is possible that it is the angels of God that take the devils back to the pit at the command of believers, as they release those tormented by spirits. One angel will open up this bottomless pit in order to let devils loose upon the earth, during the tribulation, Revelation 9:1-3, “And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth...” These locust devils torment men.

One angel will bind Satan and cast him into this same pit, Revelation 20:1-3, “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit...”

They will aid in the separation of the righteous from the wicked. It is quite possible that this refers to the Throne of His Glory in Matthew 25:31,32, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.”

The other reference to this is made in Matthew 13:49, “So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just.”

They will form the armies that will come to earth with Christ in the Revelation. This will take place at the end of the tribulation, 2 Thessalonians 1:7,8, “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord

Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

THEY DWELL NOW IN HEAVEN

Their abode is in heaven, as stated in Hebrews 12:22, “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.”

THEY ARE PRESENT IN OUR MIDST AND WATCH OVER THE CHURCHES

The fact that angels attend our services, is pointed out in 1 Corinthians 11:10, “For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels,” (a veil, that is, a token of control). Then in 1 Timothy 5:21, “I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.” They observe what we do.

THE COURT OF THE WATCHERS

A close study of the Bible reveals the fact that in heaven there is a court that sits, and according to what is revealed by angel messengers as they travel to and fro throughout this earth, this court makes decrees regarding nations and men. Daniel 4:17, “This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will...” Thus our whole life is carefully watched and weighed by these celestial beings from heaven.

We are not separate, but only a part of this unseen spirit world. To believe it would bring us more in contact with it.

The reason why we do not experience what the Bible teaches us is because we do not believe it, Hebrews 1:14, “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

The Spirit World
BOOK 8
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 5

1. In what condition did God create all things?
2. What separates us from the spirit world?
3. What two classes of spirit beings are there?
4. What are “Seraphims” and what do they do?
5. What are “Cherubims” and their main purpose?
6. What are the two classes of angels called?
7. What are some of the things Michael has done and will do?
8. How is Gabriel described? Give scripture.
9. What happened when Satan rebelled against God, in regards to the angels?
10. How strong is an angel?
11. What kind of a body do angels have?
12. Why is marriage not necessary among the angels, nor possible?
13. How did angels help Israel win victories?
14. Do angels ever minister to us? How?
15. Who will be the first one we see in the spirit world at death?
16. What will angels do during the tribulation?
17. Where do the angels dwell now?
18. Do angels ever attend our classes and services?
19. Why do we not see angels today?

Book 8: The Spirit World

Lesson 6: Satan

1 Peter 5:8

By Dr. Albert Grimes

Multitudes of scholars and intellectuals deny the existence of Satan. But world conditions, and the conditions of the human race in regards to wars, social troubles, political troubles, religious troubles, sickness, and disease all show evidence of some sinister intellect seeking to destroy the human race.

The Bible teaches us that what we have said in our introduction is true. Satan deceiveth the whole world. Revelation 12:9, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

The Lord Himself speaks of Satan as the "thief", and describes just what he is doing in this earth. John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..."

It is without a doubt that Satan is the author of sickness and disease. Luke 13:16, "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" That Satan is a real person, is evident from scripture.

SCRIPTURAL PROOF OF THE EXISTENCE OF SATAN AS A PERSON

That Jesus was tempted of the devil, is clear from Matthew 4:1-11, "...to be tempted of the devil." Verse 5, "Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city..." Verse 8, "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain..." Verse 10, "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan..." Verse 11, "Then the devil leaveth him..." He is just as real a person as Jesus was.

As a person he has conversation with God Himself in Job 1:6, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them," to present himself before the Lord. Verse 7, "And the Lord said unto Satan..." verse 8, "And the Lord said unto Satan..." Verse 9, "Then Satan answered the Lord..." Verse 12, "...So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord." These scriptures are evidence enough of his existence as a person.

In the Old Testament Satan is referred to in seven books under different names. In the New Testament all the writers mention him.

IN THE SCRIPTURES WE HAVE REFERENCE MADE TO HIS FORMER POSITION WITH GOD, AND HIS FALL FROM THAT POSITION

In his exalted position in the kingdom of God, he dwelled in the heavenly Eden. His garments were covered with precious stones. He was the master of heaven's music, an anointed cherub, Ezekiel 28:13,14, "Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering...14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth..."

He was a perfect being from his creation, but pride came into his heart because of his beauty, Ezekiel 28:15-17, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee...17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty..." His pride caused him to rebel against God. It is suggested that before his rebellion he was given the rulership over this first original earth in Genesis 1:1. He had a throne, and his throne was upon this earth. Isaiah 14:13-14, "...I will exalt my throne..." "I will ascend into heaven", "14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds...". These statements suggest that he was upon this earth. His ambition is stated in Isaiah 14:14, "I will be like the most High." And his judgment is also suggested in Isaiah 14:15, "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell..." Ezekiel 28:16, "...I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub..."

IN HIS FALL, HIS WHOLE PERSONALITY WAS CHANGED

His perfection was corrupted, as stated in Ezekiel 28:15, “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.” He became filled with violence, and he had corrupted his wisdom, Ezekiel 28:16-17, “...have filled the midst of thee with violence...17...thou hast corrupted thy wisdom...”

He became a murderer, and a liar, John 8:44, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

Jesus further described him as a person who comes to steal, kill, and destroy, John 10:10, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...”

Because of Adam’s fall, Satan became the God of this world, and the Prince of the air, and his spirit activates all unbelievers. He is the god of this world, taking Adam’s place, 2 Corinthians 4:4, “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

He is the prince of the power of the air, Ephesians 2:2, “...prince of the power of the air...” And his spirit activates all those who are not God’s children, Ephesians 2:2, “...the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”

It is quite evident that Satan received from Adam his dominion over this world, and the human race, as the devil himself states in Luke 4:6, “And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.”

Because he is the prince of the power of the air, he has an organized kingdom in the first heaven. The air speaks of our atmosphere, the first heaven, Ephesians 2:2, “...prince of the power of the air...” The word “power” suggests the fact that Satan has a force, or control, or influence in the air. This control is taken in the form of an organized kingdom, and the system of this organization is given to us in Ephesians 6:12, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” It is from this heavenly organized kingdom that Satan and his angels oppose the angelic forces from God’s kingdom. This is pointed out in Revelation 12:7, “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.”

This warfare is further described in Daniel, Chapter 10, and it points out the fact that in this Satanic kingdom there are princes who represent the nations of the world, and are named as princes of those nations, Daniel 10:13,20, “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia...” This Satanic prince hindered the angel of the Lord from going down to earth to give forth his revelation to Daniel. And even after Michael, the chief prince in the kingdom of God, had helped him to break through these Satanic forces, on his return he would have to fight his way back, Daniel 10:20, “Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.”

Here two Satanic princes are mentioned as representing Persia, and Grecia. These princes are responsible to the Satanic throne, to keep these nations, whom they represent, in darkness, keeping out, or hindering the light of the gospel from entering into these nations. So in the heavenlies he is at war with the angelic forces from God’s kingdom.

SATAN IS ALSO ACTIVE UPON THE EARTH

It must be understood that he is the ruler over a kingdom composed of fallen angels and spirits. The fallen angels oppose the angels of God. The spirits torment men upon the earth. But Satan is the overseer of all the activity of this kingdom. Job 2:2, “And the Lord said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” 1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

He originated sin, and brought it into the human race, and brings upon them sickness, disease and death. It was through Satan that sin first came into the universe, and then into the human race, 1 John 3:8, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning..." It was through the devil in the serpent that Eve was made to sin, Genesis 3:13, "And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

He oppresses the human race through sickness and disease, Job 2:7, "So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown." Luke 13:16, "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" Acts 10:38, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." It was through Satan that death came upon the human race, Hebrews 2:14, "...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

SATAN TEMPTS THE CHILDREN OF GOD

Satan tries to persuade, to entice the children of God to sin, 1 Thessalonians 3:5, "For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain." These temptations are described as being "snares". The meaning of the word is "trap". So it's understood that these temptations are traps that Satan sets in order to snare the children of God. 2 Timothy 2:26, "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." Sometimes these snares are set for us because Satan knows of some inherent weakness in us, and he tries to entice us through it to sin, James 1:14,15, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed..." It must be understood that Satan himself does not do this, but one of the millions of evil spirits that are under his control.

Satan also inspires wicked thoughts and purposes. We must understand that Satan or wicked spirits, can speak to us. This is how they inspire us to do these things. John 13:2, "And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him." The word "heart" refers to the mind, the intellect. He put a suggestion in the mind of Judas, which he accepted, and acted upon. These suggestions bring about different results, as seen in Acts 5:3, "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?"

It's because of this method, that Satan uses, that we are exhorted to control what comes into our minds, 2 Corinthians 10:5, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

We are also exhorted in regards to what we should think about in Philippians 4:7,8, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." By this means our minds will not be open to Satan's evil suggestions.

Another was suggested in the Word to control our minds is brought out in Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

SATAN HIMSELF TAKES POSSESSION OF MEN ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS

When there is some special work to do, he does it himself. This is evident from the scripture, John 13:27, "And after the sop Satan entered into him..." It is to be noticed that Satan first gained Judas' permission, John 13:2, "...the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him." This is evidently a fact in all cases of possession.

In the same sense he enters into people in order to speak through them, to lead others astray, as he used Peter to try and turn Jesus from the cross. Matthew 16:22,23, "Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee

behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me...”

Satan has his own children, and he takes the word out of their hearts, in order that they may not understand their condition. The Bible teaches us that all unregenerated men are children of the devil, and have his nature in them. John 8:44, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do...” We are all by nature children of wrath, or children of Satan, Ephesians 2:3, “...and were by nature the children of wrath...”, or children of the devil. These same children of the devil sometimes deceive the church by imitation true ministers of the gospel, 2 Corinthians 11:13,14, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

Satan, not wanting any of his children to understand the Word of God, in some cases takes it out of their hearts or minds before they can understand it. Matthew 13:19, “When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart...” This is further explained in 2 Corinthians 4:4, “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

SATAN OPPOSES THE SERVANTS OF GOD IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS

Satan if possible, by all means possible, will hinder God’s children in regards to God’s work. 1 Thessalonians 2:18, “Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.” He will resist the children of God, withstand against him, oppose, actively and otherwise. When we look into the Word of God we begin to understand just what is possible, as Satan moves against us to hinder and resist us. He has power over the elements, and men, to turn them against us. Job 1:12, “And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.”

The result of this is seen in the following verses. Verse 15, “And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; (oxen and asses) yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword...” Verse 16, “The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them...” Verse 17, “The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword...” Verse 19, “And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead...”

Not only does he use men, and the elements, but he does bring sickness and disease upon us to hinder and resist us. Job 2:7, “So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown,” proving disease germs are Satanic.

He even used the elements against Christ, but Jesus rebuke the wind, understanding who was behind it. Mark 4:39, “And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.” Zechariah 3:1, “And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.”

Satan will also buffet the children of the Lord. This buffeting may come in the form of persecution. Paul suffered much this way, in certain cities and towns where he ministered. 2 Corinthians 12:7, “...there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me...”

Satan also sifts or test believers, and God uses the same, and sometimes allows it in order that we may be able to understand how much flesh we have controlling us. Luke 22:31, “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.”

Satan also accuses believers, before God, Revelation 12:10, “...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

Satan has access into the presence of God, because he has Adam’s rights, received from Adam, when he sinned. He can go into God’s presence, and bring an accusation, or charge, against the child of God. The charge may be false, but God according to the Word of God, will allow Satan to prove it. When Satan desires to prove the children of God, he goes into God’s presence and receives permission from God to do so. This was the reason for Job’s testing.

Satan accused Job, and said that the only reason he served God was because of the blessing which he received. Job 1:10,11, "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. 11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face." After Satan had been allowed to strip Job, yet Job sinned not. Again Satan accuses him in Job 2:4,5, "And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. 5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face."

It is evident that Satan accused Peter in the same sense, Luke 22:31, "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat." The same could be said of those saints in the church of Smyrna, Revelation 2:10, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Thus, as the accuser of the brethren, he is day and night accusing the saints of God. This he will continue to do until the resurrection of the saints. Then he will finally be cast out of heaven, after which he will energize the Antichrist, Revelation 13:2, "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

SATAN'S DESTINY

After Satan brought man's downfall, God put a perpetual curse upon him, and the production of the seed of the woman which was Christ, would finally bruise his head, Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." This prophecy was fulfilled at the Cross of Christ.

Satan, after the Cross, was to be treated as a conquered enemy. Jesus refers to this in John 12:31, "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." Then refers to this same judgment in John 16:11, "Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." This judgment was also pronounced against the organized Satanic kingdom, as stated in Colossians 2:15, "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

The Lord Jesus Christ, by His death, and resurrection, destroyed the works of the devil. Sin as a power was destroyed. Sickness and disease were destroyed as a power, 1 John 3:8, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." Not only are his works destroyed, but he is rendered useless by the victory of Christ's death, as stated in Hebrews 2:14, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." The word "destroy" in this sense means "to render useless".

In the middle of the seven years of tribulation, he will be cast out of the heaven, into the earth, after which he will incarnate himself in the beast, Revelation 12:7-9, "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." After the tribulation is ended, and Christ returns back to this earth to set up his kingdom for one thousand years, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit, Revelation 20:1-3, "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

Satan will be loosed again out of the bottomless pit, after the kingdom has come to an end, after which he will once again rebel against God, Revelation 20:7-9, "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire

came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”

After this last rebellion against God, Satan will be cast forever into the Lake of Fire, Revelation 20:10, “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

THE BELIEVER’S COURSE IN RELATION TO SATAN

As sons of God we must claim redemption rights. Christ’s death and resurrection bruised the head of Satan, Genesis 3:15, his kingdom was spoiled, Colossians 2:15, Christ’s death broke the power of death, and rendered useless Satan as a power, Hebrews 2:14. Christ destroyed his works, 1 John 3:8, and we can overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of our testimony, Revelation 12:11.

In order to overcome Satan, we must overcome through the Spirit the old nature, for it is through this old Adamic nature that Satan is able to get a bridge-head into my life. I can overcome by the power of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:3,4,13, “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit...13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: (Satan will get an entrance into our lives) but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.” Also, in order to overcome Satan, the full armour of God must be put on, Ephesians 6:11,13, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” When we have on the whole armour of God, we can “withstand”. We can stand against, and oppose and resist him, and having done this we can stand, or be established with the victory over him.

The armour described: Ephesians 6:14-17, “...having your loins girt about with truth...” We must be supported by the truth, firmly established in the truth. It is easy to understand how Satan can take advantage over us if we are not supported, or strengthened by the truth. This truth can only come by having a knowledge of God’s Word. It’s our support. Ephesians 6:14, “...And having on the breastplate of righteousness...” This righteousness spoken of here is not referring to the righteousness which is put down to my account because of what Christ has done for me. That brings me into God’s presence, but this is referring to a righteousness that is a protection from Satan. It’s a protection that I have when I am walking in the light, and in the Spirit. It’s a holy life without which Satan can enter into my life. I have to put it on as a breastplate, a protection against Satan. Ephesians 6:16, “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked...” Satan will attack us, in regards to our experience, what we believe, how we walk, what we do, what we say, through circumstances, conditions. He will use others, every possible means. But if we have faith in what God has done for us, if we know his will for us, if we have faith in His keeping power, if we have faith in His ability to bring us through every trial, if we have faith that nothing can separate us from God, then we will have the shield of faith to protect us against all the fiery darts of the wicked. Ephesians 6:15, “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace...” This is referring to our readiness to scatter the seed of the gospel. Whether we reap, or we sow, we must be prepared to do what God has ordained us for. Ephesians 6:17, “And take the helmet of salvation...” Salvation, or regeneration, translates us out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son. It gives us a renewed mind, a renewed heart, a renewed life, and as a helmet, protects our head. So salvation is a protection against Satan. Ephesians 6:17, “...And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” It’s not enough that we know the truth. We must also learn to use it. And when Satan comes against us, we reply as Jesus did in his temptation, “It is written...”

All these things speak of the Christian’s armour, what he needs upon the field of battle in active Christian warfare. Not only do we fight in open conflict with Satan, but we also fight his forces by prayer, supplication, and intercession. Ephesians 6:18, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...” We will never be able to have the victory in open conflict with Satan, until we have learned to get alone, and wrestle with the powers of darkness in prayer, and supplication, and in the Spirit. Prayer may be worship of God, supplication, the making of request before God. But praying in the Spirit could mean praying in the will of God, praying in tongues before God, intercession in the Spirit, “...and watching thereunto with all

perseverance...” This method of coming into the presence of God must become a daily experience, because it is a part of the battle we fight against Satan. If we fail here we will never make it in open conflict. This must become a habit, part of our lives as Christians, “and supplication for all saints.” We are not only to pray for ourselves, but we must pray, supplicate, intercede for others, that they too may overcome in this conflict with Satan.

STRICT SELF-CONTROL TO BE MAINTAINED

This self-control must be in regards to where we go, what we do, what we say, in regards to our lives, habits. We must not give place to the devil. Ephesians 4:27, “Neither give place to the devil.” Never give him an opportunity to get a bridgehead in our lives. There must be a putting off of the old man, the Adamic nature, as suggested in Ephesians 4:22-32, “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath...”

In other words, do not harbor it. Get rid of it. This is how people lay themselves open for the spirit of bitterness.

Ephesians 4:28, “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers...31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

Any one of these things, if not dealt with and put away, will allow Satan a bridgehead into my life.

Unceasing vigilance to be exercised: We have an enemy that never sleeps, never gives up. He is constantly planning ways and means to destroy us. He is a murderer, a liar, and he comes to steal, and kill and destroy. He has millions of spirits at his command. We are not to live in mortal fear, but we are to be vigilant, 1 Peter 5:8-9, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

We are told to learn as much as possible about Satan in order that we might not be ignorant of his devices. 2 Corinthians 2:11, “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

We who are born of God, are to guard ourselves against the wicked one, and when we do, he will not be able to touch us, 1 John 5:18, “We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.”

Trustful resistance to be made: The way to victory over Satan, is an absolute submissiveness to God, and a resistance to Satan, James 4:7, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

The Spirit World
BOOK 8
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 6

1. Describe the kind of being Satan was when first created and give scripture?
2. When Satan fell what was changed?
3. Where did Satan get his power from?
4. Where is Satan's kingdom now? Give scripture.
5. Give a scripture to show how organized Satan's kingdom is.
6. Explain some of the ways Satan works on the children of God.
7. Describe Satan's destiny.
8. What is the believer's course now in relation to Satan? Why?
9. Describe the value of the armour and how it works.
10. What must we maintain and exercise in this victorious battle?

Book 8: The Spirit World
Lesson 7: The Organized Satanic Kingdom
Ephesians 6:12
By Dr. Albert Grimes

Ephesians 6:12, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

This verse presents to us the organized order of the Satanic Kingdom, and the principles of how this organization works its work of destruction within the world.

1. **Principalities:** This word, relates to ruling Satanic princes, who rule over territories, and nations. They are named after the nation over which they rule according to Daniel 10:13, “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.” This prince of Persia was one of these Satanic princes, ruling over the Persian empire.

Another is mentioned in Daniel 10:20, “Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.”

These Satanic Princes control under the direction of Satan himself, all the Satanic activity in those nations over which they rule. Satan rules as the prince of this organized kingdom from the air, according to Ephesians 2:2, “...according to the prince of the power of the air...”

2. **Powers:** The word refers to ruling powers, governments, law and order. Under the control of these type of fallen angels who themselves control millions of evil spirits. They work to break down all law and order in a nation, and produce lawless conditions in that nation.

Producing resistance to authority: breaking down the principles of society, producing crime, murder, rape, homosexuality, Lesbianism, new sex morality, dope, drinking, new principles of rock and roll, music to produce all that is mentioned.

Liberation movements, the breaking down of the principles in schools, colleges, universities, law courts, governments, the producing a state of rebellion throughout a whole nation, from the homes to every part of the nation, a completeness of disorder is produced.

3. **Rulers of the Darkness of this world:** When all law and order is broken down in any nation, that nation is now made ready for the operation of this third destructive force. The Rulers of the Darkness: This darkness spoken of is occult darkness.

So when all law and order is broken down, this third order moves in, and introduces cults, and occult operation, and that same nation now comes under the power of the occult. 1 Timothy 4:1, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits...”

These seducing spirits produce cults. So every cult has an evil spirit that produces and propagates that cult. He is the master spirit of that cult.

Then every doctrine that is taught by that cult will be produced, as stated in 1 Timothy 4:1, “...and doctrines of devils.” So each doctrine in the cult will be produced by a certain spirit also.

In dealing with cult controlled people, we must understand all of the doctrinal principles of that cult, for as we have stated, the master spirit heads the cult, but many different spirits control the doctrines of that same cult.

Thus the nation comes under cult control, under the powers of darkness. The Principalities, Powers, Rulers of Darkness, are all fallen angels, with millions of evil spirits under their command, Revelation 12:7-9.

It is evident according to scripture, that spirits work in the world, 1 John 4:1, “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” They work every conceivable evil in order to destroy men. They constantly harass the church with counterfeit operations and error and heresy. The Church and its spirit filled members need to have strong Discerning of Spirits, and power to deliver those who are constantly coming under Satanic bondage.

The Spirit World
BOOK 8
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 7

1. Does Satan have his own kingdom? If so where?
2. What is Satan's main purpose?
3. Describe "Principalities".
4. To what do "Powers" relate and how do they work?
5. In what way do the rulers of darkness operate?
6. How do wicked spirits from heavenlies work?
7. What gift has God given us for our protection from these things?
8. Explain why people fear the very thing that will help them.
9. How do we detect error and false prophecy?