

THIS SERMON IS A REGULAR WEEKLY FEATURE

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

PASTOR RUSSELL'S DISCOURSE

The Overthrow of Satan's Empire

London, Eng., May 22.—Albert Memorial Hall was again crowded to hear Pastor Russell. The discourse, on "The Overthrow of Satan's Empire," was in the nature of a religious lecture. It was marked throughout by deepest reverence for the Bible, many of the passages of which shone out with a new meaning under the searchlight of his message. He asserted, and seemed to prove, the personality of Satan. But according to his showing it is a great mistake to suppose the Arch-enemy of mankind to be afar off stoking furnaces and torturing the dead. Instead, he is the cunning Deceiver who for centuries has been hoodwinking humanity, including the Church—putting darkness for light and light for darkness. God did not create him a devil. He became such by self-perversion through ambition. Originally his name was Lucifer—Morning Star. He beheld our first parents in Eden, noted their power to produce a race in their own likeness and coveted an empire with them as his subjects.

For six thousand years God has permitted Satan to exercise a measure of deceptive power over the race and to display to both angels and men the terrible results of sin, as exemplified in what the Apostle terms the "reign of sin and death," and the mental, moral and physical degradation resulting.

Satan has not been alone. Not only is he "the Prince of this world" or age, but additionally he is the "Prince of devils"—demons. The speaker showing from the Scriptures (Genesis vi; Jude 6) how these subordinate demons had once been holy angels, too—and when and where they sinned, and how.

"The Apostle Peter gives the key to the real solution of the matter when, in reciting the events connected with the flood, he tells us of the fall of the angels at that time, who 'in the days of Noah' kept not their first estate" (1 Peter iii, 19, 20). Those angels who were permitted to have a measure of control of the fallen race, with a view to helping them as much as they might be able, and who, for the purpose of rendering such assistance to mankind, were permitted to appear in human form, became enamored of the human female, and preferred the human form to their own state as spirit beings. They thus left their original estate, as Jude also explains (Jude 6). These angels are the ones denominated 'the sons of God,' none of the human family being given that name after the fall. The angels who fell from their noble work and condition, and became groveling and sensual, manifested clearly in their own course the downward tendency of all transgressions of the divine law.

"The Apostles Peter and Jude clearly mark out the punishment visited upon those 'sons of God' who thus betrayed their trust and fell into sin, 'leaving their own habitation,' their own nature, and affiliating with the human nature. Their punishment has been their deprivation of all such liberties, and their separation from God and from the holy angels; and this restraint is called, by the Apostle, 'chains of darkness,' while the restrained ones themselves, instead of being recognized as 'sons of God,' or angels of light, were thenceforth known as 'angels of darkness,' 'demons,' 'wicked spirits.' Incidentally we remark that these are the 'spirits in prison' mentioned by Peter (1 Peter iii, 19), and that although restricted as respects their powers of fellowship with the holy angels, and with mankind, being no longer privileged to appear as men, they still seek human fellowship, endeavoring to gain possession of human beings who yield up their wills, and who are then said to be possessed of devils or 'obsessed.' It is but a preliminary step toward thus getting possession of the individual that these wicked spirits appeal to humanity to become their mediums (spirit mediums), through whom they to some extent communicate. And they personate dead human beings, because they know well that humanity would shun them and fear them if their real identity were discovered.

"Satan and his subordinates have maintained a system of human deception," the speaker declared, and it must be confessed that he gave Biblical proofs for his every claim. He asserted that the communications believed by Spiritualists—Dr. Funk, Prof. Hyslop, Editor Stead and others—to be communications from the dead, are really deceptive communications from these fallen angels. So far from claiming that these professors and mediums practice deception, his claim is that they themselves are deceived and are unintentionally leading others onward into a terrible Spiritualistic maze, in which, he declares, we are nearing, according to the Bible. He warned against hypnotism, mind cures, etc., practiced by well-meaning but deceived physicians, ministers and others. He declared that all these tended to break down the human will, the God-given barrier and defense of mankind against the encroachments of these fallen angels, who seek continually to intrude themselves into the

mind, thoughts and will of men. He warned all against occult influences of every kind, urging that the human will should be preserved and should be submitted only to the Almighty, and to him only—intelligently in accordance with his instructions in the Bible.

Overthrow of Satan's Empire. "Satan, through false doctrines—'doctrines of devils,' has entrenched himself in the superstitions and prejudices, not only of the heathen, but also of the civilized. The creeds of the Dark Ages evidenced the fact that he had much to do with their formulation. His false doctrines, antagonistic to the Bible, have been palmed off upon us as veritable Bible truths—just as Satan endeavored to twist and misapply the Bible to Jesus in his wilderness temptation (Mark i, 13). Thus Satan has caused gross darkness to cover the heathen and considerable darkness to cover the civilized earth. But we are in the morning of the New Dispensation, which is to bring so much blessing to the world of mankind in the opening of the eyes of man's understanding, and in physical blessings and comforts. As a result we have the wonderful conveniences and appliances of steam and electricity, the printing press and the electric light, as instead of the tallow candle and quill pen of the past. 'Whatever doth make manifest is light,' and special light is due also at this time to God's consecrated people. The illumination now granted to the eyes of our understanding as Christians, through Bible study helps, is intended to be for the Christian what the arc-light is in nature.

"Man's subserviency to Satan is an unwilling captivity. Even those who realize their bondage do not generally recognize by whom they have been enslaved. But gradually the bonds are breaking as we near the time of Satan's overthrow. According to the Bible our Lord at his Second Advent will bind the Adversary for a thousand years that he may deceive mankind no more. Meantime all the blessing influences of light and Truth and grace will be let loose in the world and as a result, 'the knowledge of the glory of God shall fill the whole earth.' Instead of the darkness of the night of sin and death there will be the 'morning of joy,' and gladness and restitution and blessing. 'The sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his beams.' Of that glorious day Saint Peter spoke, saying, 'Times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord, and he shall send Jesus Christ, who before was preached unto you, whom the heavens must retain until the Times of Restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began' (Acts iii, 19-21). Satan's destruction, according to the Bible, will not be consummated until after the MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST shall have accomplished its glorious work of uplifting humanity out of sin and death conditions to full human perfection and the image of God. All the unwilling and disobedient will be counted as servants of Satan and will, with him, be destroyed in the Second Death—extinction—from which there will be no redemption or recovery.

Great Missionary Work. "The missionary work of blessing and uplifting 'all the families of the earth' is appointed of God for the Millennial Kingdom—and, thank God, the evidences are that it is very near, yea, in a sense, already beginning. Its blessings are intimated by the wonderful progress of our day. Everything waits until the predetermined number of Missionaries shall have been called and schooled and tested and found worthy of the great and honorable work. The qualification is that each must be a 'copy of God's dear Son'—so far as heart intention is concerned. Then these Missionaries will be glorified like their Lord, on the spirit plane and with him they will constitute the 'Kingdom of God's dear Son,' which for a thousand years will bless the world and bring to pass all that the Lord our God has spoken, and more than we could have asked or thought.

"Christian people have no need to upbraid themselves, on the score that the missionary efforts of eighteen centuries have accomplished comparatively little. They have no need to be discouraged with the fact that the census returns show that in the past century of the greatest missionary endeavor the proportionate numbers of the heathen have doubled (six hundred millions a century ago—twelve hundred millions today). This is all as God foreknew and intended. God did not purpose the conversion of the heathen during this age, but commissioned his people to preach his Gospel to every nation for a witness, that the Elect Missionaries for the future work might be gathered from every country, people and tongue. God's will has been done. The Adversary temporarily misled the Church into a misunderstanding of her mission. He sought to have us lower our standard of sainthood, in order to increase the Church far and near. He sought to oppose the Divine will by lowering the standards of sainthood so as to include the masses

of mankind. He thus worked against Divine arrangements. But he has not succeeded. God has merely allowed him to prove, test, separate and manifest the saints—the 'very elect.'

A Great Time of Trouble. "The coming of the light, the loosening of the fetters of ignorance and superstition from the minds that are not submitted to God, the Scriptures show us, will result in a great time of trouble, in which the passions of men but partially enlightened will do great violence to the entire social fabric. We see the preliminary steps already being taken, and, in the light of the Scriptures, we see the awful catastrophe which will result. The world is rapidly resolving itself into two mighty powers, selfishly and with semi-enlightenment, preparing for a headlong collision which will mean wreck and ruin, tribulation and anguish, to practically the whole world. The Bible, in calling attention to this great time of trouble, warns the people of God, so far as possible to avoid both sides of the controversy, saying, 'Seek meekness; seek righteousness, it may be that ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger' (Zephaniah ii, 3). With the wreck of present institutions comes the end of Satan's regime. So terrible will be the heat of passion and strife engendered at that time that the Scriptures declare that if it were not for the 'Elect' there would be no flesh saved (Mark xiii, 20). The interposition of the Elect as the Kingdom of God under Jesus, the great King and Head of the Elect, is the silver lining to that dark cloud. The moment of man's extremity will become the moment of God's opportunity.

"So terrible will be that time of trouble that the Scriptures symbolically represent it as a whirlwind; as a flood; and as a fire. Some have mis-interpreted these Scriptures and are expecting a literal burning of the earth, but the Lord denominated it the 'fire of his jealousy,' which will devour Society. And then he tells us that following the fire of trouble he 'will turn to the people a pure message that they may all call upon the name of the Lord to serve him with one consent' (Zephaniah iii, 9). Satan has had much to do with corrupting the message originally given to the Church by Jesus and the Apostles. The jarring creeds have made discordant sounds which have driven many noble and logical hearts away from the Bible. God's assurance is that the completion of the Church is near; that her change to the heavenly glory in 'the First Resurrection' will soon be accomplished and that then the reign of SIN and DEATH will end under the Kingdom of Jesus. Then the bondage of the world to ignorance, superstition, etc., will terminate; then 'all the blind eyes will be opened and all the deaf ears will be unstopped' and the Lord's pure message of Divine Justice, Divine Love, Divine Wisdom and Divine Power exerted on man's behalf shall be made known to every creature.

"Fellow-Christians, what an incentive to become more and more loyal and earnest as the servants of so great and gracious a Sovereign—that of our Father and our Redeemer! And what an incentive we have to seek first, in preference to all earthly interests, a share with our Savior in his Millennial Kingdom and its gracious work of human uplift—from the depths of sin and degradation to the heights of earthly perfection and eternal life! Let us, as the Apostle exhorts, 'lay aside every weight, and the sin that does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race set before us' (Hebrews xii, 1). This race is for the 'crown of glory,' as members of the Elect Missionary Church and for the glorious opportunities then to be afforded for the realization of the most glorious dreams of service for the King of kings and Lord of lords.

"We cannot suppose that Satan's Empire is entirely satisfactory to himself. Undoubtedly his original thought was the organization of a realm resembling that of the Almighty. But the course of sin is ever downward. To obtain control of our first parents they were misled into steps of disobedience—sin—and the Adversary himself, having started upon the wrong course, can maintain his own standing and kingdom only by determined opposition to Jehovah. This is the significance of the name given him in the Scriptures—'Adversary.'

"The Scriptures set forth that all humanity must, either now or some time, come to the point of decision between obedience to God and disobedience. The obedient will be guided back to ultimate harmony with the Creator and obtain the reward of life eternal. On the contrary, the disobedient, the willfully rebellious against God and his righteous arrangement, taking the course of Satan, will ultimately share his fate—destruction.

"Responsibility and the decision as to life eternal and death eternal, come to each member of Adam's race as soon as he is brought into a clear knowledge of the Truth. This privilege of coming to a knowledge of the Truth, the opportunity of eternal salvation, is secured to all the families of the earth, to Adam and every member of his race, through the great Redeemer's sacrifice finished at Calvary. While thanking God for the length and breadth and height and depth of his glorious provision for the world in general, we who now hear this message and heed it have the special blessing and opportunity of joint-heirship with Jesus the Redeemer in his great work of the Millennial Age. Let us not only accept the Divine favor, but let us run with patience the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and the one who shall be the Finisher of our faith, seeking for needed aid to make our calling and election sure!"



"LET GEORGE DO IT"

WHEN IN NEED OF FINE WATCH OR JEWELRY



Repairing, Engraving or Manufacturing

(LET GEORGE DO IT)

MY SPECIALTY is manufacturing, engraving and repairing of fine watches and jewelry.

I can manufacture anything in the jewelry line and have the knowledge and materials necessary to accomplish quick results. A trial will prove to your entire satisfaction that anything entrusted to my care will receive expert attention and be absolutely satisfactory.

Complete Jewelry Stock

It would be utterly impossible to find a more complete stock of jewelry in southern Oregon. DIAMONDS, Watches, Clocks, Fancy Jewelry Novelties of all descriptions and styles (the very latest ideas just received), Silverware, Cut Glass, etc., etc. A call will convince you that this is the place to find the largest assortments of first-class Jewelry, while our prices may not be the lowest, we guarantee quality second to none for the price asked.

A VISIT IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED.

George A. Butt

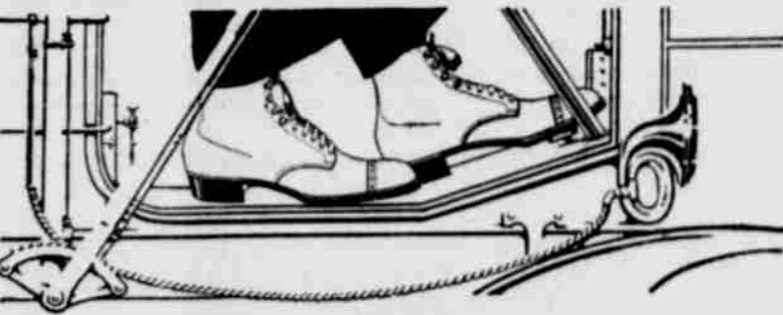
FRUITGROWERS' BANK BLDG., WEST MAIN ST.



WEDDING SILVERWARE



JEWELRY



THE HANAN SHOE accommodates itself to the foot

It is made with the foot as a pattern; made so skillfully that style and comfort struggle for first place in your favor; made so well that their shape is the last thing to wear out.

C. M. KIDD

The Footfitter

Phone 4351 112 W Main

GO TO HUMPHREY'S GUN STORE

for

FISHING TACKLE

RODS the flexible kind with the right amount of backbone

FLIES Kewell flies, the best that money can buy.

REELS Hardy reels, the best on earth.

LEADERS the best imported gut the kind that held.

Lines, Reels, Fly Books, Etc.

Colgate's....

VASELINE PREPARATIONS TALCUM, SOAP, ETC.

Just received, a most complete assortment of Colgate's Vaseline Preparations, Cold Cream, Soap, etc. Colgate has a world reputation for producing the finest goods in the lines bearing his name. You are never disappointed when you buy Colgate's preparations.

TOILET ARTICLES AND SUNDRIES

Our stock of Toilet articles is the largest in the city. A very fine assortment, including bath brushes, towels, etc., etc. Bring us your prescriptions.

ALL NIGHT PHONE SERVICE PHONE MAIN 3641

Medford Pharmacy

CENTRAL AVENUE NEAR POSTOFFICE

High In Caste Low In Cost

There may be as much character to SHOES as there is to the man who wears them. WALK-OVER Shoes have well defined characteristics that stand up and out. Let us show you that this is true.

Edmeades Bros

THE MOORE BUILDING PRICES \$4.00, \$4.50 AND \$5.00