MODERN SPIRITUALISM

Its Character, Ancient Origin, and Recent Developments

OUIJA BOARD AND PLANCHETTE

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Home of the Fox Family, Hydesville, N. Y., Where Modern Spiritualism Originated Early in 1848
Modern Spiritualism

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BY G. B. THOMPSON

WHAT is Spiritualism? is a live question just now, when its manifestations are attracting serious attention everywhere. In fact, we are seeing at the present time a wonderful revival of the occult, and millions are looking to it for help and comfort. The *Sunday School Times* says that it is getting a "strangle-hold" on the world today.

One writer remarks that the thing is everywhere, filling our magazines and running riot in our newspapers. We are back again, he says, in the days of the astrologers.
A writer in the *Pilot* thinks that the sanity of numbers of persons is being threatened by the wave of Spiritualism that is sweeping over the world. What is it?

The Crowded Road to Endor

In the preface to her recent work, "The Case Against Spiritualism," Jane T. Stoddart quotes this stanza from Kipling:

"Oh, the road to Endor is the oldest road
And the craziest road of all,
Straight it runs to the witch's abode,
As it did in the days of Saul,
And nothing has changed of the sorrow in store
For such as go down on the road to Endor."

And then Mrs. Stoddart herself remarks, "That old road has never been more crowded than it is today."

Concerning the widespread belief in the claims and teaching of modern Spiritualism, the following quotations speak for themselves:

"That the number of adherents of modern Spiritualism is amazingly large is borne out by Dr. F. Maack, of Hamburg, writing so recently as 1910. As an antagonist of Spiritualism, he is not likely to overstate the numbers. In Berlin alone, he says, there are probably 10,000 Spiritualists, among them exalted and court personages; 400 mediums, and from fifteen to twenty societies. In North America there are said to be 16,000,000 adherents; while in the whole world it was computed that in 1894 there were 60,000,000 modern Spiritualists, with 200 journals exclusively devoted to the propaganda of this awful system. The number has grown considerably since. Add to these the demonized races of the heathen world; the millions of China, Japan, and India; the countless tribes of Africa; the savage hordes of the Sudan; the cannibal inhabitants of the South Sea Islands; and you complete roughly the picture of Spiritualism covering the earth."—Algernon J. Pollock, in "The Fundamentals," Vol. X, p. 111.

"Society women and shop girls, scientists and city clerks, clergymen in large numbers, and young men with a smattering of self-taught culture, are indulging in séances, crystal gazing, table turning, automatic writing, and the invocation of spirits by one means and another, to an extent which is incredible to those who, so far, have not come within this sphere of influence."—Lecture delivered in London by Mr. Rampert, English clergyman and psychic expert; reprinted in the New York Times.

Development of Modern Spiritualism

While not a new thing, as we shall see, that particular phase of the occult known as modern Spiritualism at-
tracted wide attention by manifestations, first, in Hydesville, near Rochester, N. Y., in the year 1848, in the family of John D. Fox. The phenomena manifested at that time have spread over the world, and millions today are investigating this matter. Ouija boards and mediums are consulted, and unmistakable evidence is given that there is an intelligence at work. While it is admitted even by Spiritualists themselves that there are spurious "spirit manifestations," it is now widely recognized that there are also many that are genuine, that is, they are supernatural, but not necessarily just what they profess to be. But we will not anticipate.

**Man's Natural Longing to Bridge the Chasm Between the Living and the Dead**

Man has long wished to look behind the veil which hides from view what lies beyond the tomb. Are those who have been torn from our midst by the remorseless hand of death asleep, awaiting the resurrection at the last day? or are they living in some other form or sphere, and able to communicate with the living? or, perchance, does death end all?

As a result of the World War, millions of family circles are broken, and as the living gather around the hearthstone and look upon the vacant chairs, there is an unutterable longing for some message from those who fell at the front. Modern Spiritualism sees an opportunity in these tender feelings to gain a foothold, and comes forward claiming to be able to bridge the chasm between the living and the dead. So today spirit mediums bring to us what purport to be messages of cheer and comfort from our departed loved ones.

**Are the Claims of Spiritualism True?**

Now the question is, Are the claims of Spiritualism true? Are these messages that come to us through mediums, the ouija board and planchette, really from our
dead friends and kindred; or is the world in the grip of some overmastering deception, being turned away from God and toward perdition? This is a question of tremendous and far-reaching importance, involving the nature of the life to come as well as the best use of this life, and demanding the most careful study.

The Claims of Sir Oliver Lodge

Among the most prominent apostles of this form of occultism at the present time is Sir Oliver Lodge, English scholar and scientist. For many years Sir Oliver, with other noted scientists, has been investigating the mysteries of Spiritualism. After much patient research, these men tell the world that beyond doubt the dead can communicate with the living, that the gulf between the dead and the living has been bridged. Sir Oliver says the grief of himself and his wife is assuaged by messages "every few weeks" from their son, Raymond, who fell at the front in the Great War.

In the People’s Home Journal of February, 1920, an article appeared, entitled, "In Touch with the Other World," by Zoë Beckley, who went to England for the purpose of meeting Sir Oliver Lodge. She obtained an interview with that man of science, and reports the conversation thus:

"'So you have come all the way over the ocean to ask me—what?' This was his greeting to me. 'What message you can send to my people at home to assure them not only that their beloved dead still live, but that communication with them across the gulf of death is possible.'"

In reply Sir Oliver said:

"'When people ask me that, I show them first the records of the Society for Psychical Research, and then I point to the many recent and trustworthy accounts of communication with the dead—accounts published in magazine and book form by persons who, like myself, began in a gingerly fashion to look into this thing, and had their skepticism gradually dispelled by evidence they could not but believe.

"'As for myself, it was not until many years after the first messages came to me from my friends—Edmund Gurney, F. W. H. Myers, and many others—that I was convinced beyond doubt that
I had penetrated the veil that separates this world from the next. Today I know that I can talk to my son Raymond, to Myers, to Gurney, to Archbishop Wilberforce, to Cardinal Newman, and to a host of others whenever I wish to do so! It is no longer a novelty. We talk with Raymond every few weeks—oftener when we have special cause. This is to us an inexpressible comfort which I am trying to bring to others.

"Come into my study, and I will show you hundreds of letters from bereaved men and women who in their anguish have turned to me for help."

The article goes on to say:

"As he led me toward the study, Sir Oliver told me that he received these letters at the rate of about a dozen a day. Although the bulk come from England, since scarcely an English home has remained unsaddened by the loss of some relative in the war, large numbers come from America, too, and from all parts of the world. 

"From my own knowledge," continued Sir Oliver, "I give my correspondents all this message:

"The amount of mourning and suffering throughout the world at the present time is something terrible to contemplate. The loss to those who have gone over is not to be minimized. Violent death, while young, is a serious calamity—a man-made tragedy with dire consequences—and lamentation is natural and inevitable.

"But it must be remembered that from the viewpoint of those who have gone over, there are many mitigating circumstances. They have done their duty. They have sacrificed useful careers here. They have given all they possessed; and it will be requited to them. Good friends are waiting for them. Their help can be utilized and is much wanted for their fellows who are coming over, and they themselves will continue in the joy of service.

"They want their friends here to recognize that, and not mourn them unduly. Above all, do not consider them as gone out of existence, as extinguished or no longer real. Sorrow at their departure is inevitable, but excessive grief causes them pain.

"They did their work here, they will do it there, and in good time reunion may confidently be looked forward to. If the truth of these matters was only clearly and widely realized, the mourning would not only be more resigned, but actually more hopeful."

This same correspondent also interviewed Lady Lodge on this question. Concerning her son Raymond she says:

"I talk to him, and he hears. In times of need I appeal to him, and what I ask is done. Yes, this is literally true. My boy is not dead. I never think of him as dead. He is only invisible to me. Often I feel his presence.

"Oh, if you knew what this communion means to me! If other mothers whose sons have passed through bodily death would only realize that it is possible to do as I have done, they would not lose an instant in trying to get in touch. What happiness it would bring to them, and to their dear ones over there!"
"But it does sadden me that apparently so few people attempt to get in touch with their beloved dead. They persist in mourning them, in thinking of them as in the grave and gone forever. Oh, it does make those in the spirit world so happy to be thought of as alive and keen and active! And they are so glad to respond to the call.

"Bishop Wilberforce, who died quite a while ago, is forever asking me to do things for him here—to go upon errands, to call on this person and that among his parishioners. Why, once he made me lend my flat in London to a woman he told me about."

"And you actually do these things?" I gasped.

"Of course I do. He was a dear man and such a friend of ours! I know that whatever he asks is for some good purpose. I often have proofs of it afterward."—People's Home Journal, March, 1920.

Other Distinguished Apostles of Spiritualism

There are many other distinguished persons who are ardent supporters of this new religion. A writer in the Saturday Evening Post of Jan. 17, 1920, mentions "Sir Oliver Lodge and Sir William Crookes and Russel Wallace and Professor Hyslop and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and 'at least fifty professors in various seats of learning,'" who "affirm that our dead communicate with us through raps and automatic writing."

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle says:

"The lowly manifestations of Hydesville have ripened into results which have engaged the finest group of intellects in this country during the last twenty years, and which are destined, in my opinion, to bring about far the greatest development of human experience which the world has ever seen. It has been asserted by men for whose opinion I have a deep regard, . . . that psychical research is quite distinct from religion. Certainly it is so, in the sense that a man might be a very good psychical researcher, but a very bad man. But the results of psychical research, the deductions which we may draw, and the lessons we may learn, teach us of the continued life of the soul, of the nature of that life, and of how it is influenced by our conduct here. . . . To me it is religion—the very essence of it."—The Metropolitan Magazine (N. Y.), January, 1918, p. 69.

Condemned by the Scriptures

But while some may regard Spiritualism as religion, it is not the Christian religion. The Jewish and Christian Scriptures alike condemn and forbid all efforts to communicate with the dead. It is eminently true, as Mrs. Stoddart says, that—
"Modern Spiritualism has its roots in necromancy, a practice hated in all ages by sober and reverent minds. It was only the worst type of sorcerer, according to Mr. Waite, who attempted to communicate with the spirits of departed men and women. Medieval magic had a by-path leading toward the abyss, 'an abhorrent and detested branch, belonging exclusively to the domain of black magic.'"—"The Case Against Spiritualism," p. 31.

Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in his book, "The New Revelation," admits that, as Mrs. Stoddart puts it,

"The opponents of Spiritualism are guided in part by that strange instinct which warns men and women to keep off forbidden ground."—Id., p. 34.

Only in name is Spiritualism a new thing. The worship of demigods, or in other words, dead human heroes, has always been a prominent feature of paganism. It is to this that the apostle Paul refers when, in 1 Corinthians 10:20, he says: "The things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils." Spiritualism, as will appear more clearly as we proceed in this examination, is only intercourse with, and worship of, evil spirits posing as the spirits of the dead.

The Vital Question

It seems quite unnecessary to quote further from believers in spirit phenomena, as the foregoing excerpts sufficiently set before us the real claims of modern Spiritualism. The vital question which we wish to consider is, Is it true, as these noted scientists tell us, that the dead are able to communicate with the living? Do Sir Oliver and Lady Lodge receive messages from their son Raymond; or are they, with millions of others, deceived by spirits other than the spirits of the dead? Is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the great "detective," correct in his views, or is he being deceived by a mind stronger than his own?

Two Mighty Facts

In raising this question, we realize that we are confronted by two mighty facts: First, the almost universal
belief, in some form or other, in the doctrine of natural and inherent immortality; and second, the large amount of trickery and fraud that is practised in the name of Spiritualism. The first of these, namely, belief in the continued life and consciousness of the soul after death, powerfully predisposes toward belief in the possibility of spirit communication; while the element of fraud gives opportunity to attribute to trickery genuine phenomena, thus leading many to refuse any serious study of the subject at all, and leaving them without defense when once they are convinced of the supernatural character of spirit phenomena.

The Word of God vs. the Ouija Board

As already intimated, belief in natural immortality and consequent consciousness in death, lies at the very foundation of Spiritualism. We shall find, however, that not a few who believe that the soul is immortal, and that it not only survives the death of the body, but enters upon a wider state of existence when "freed from cumbersome clay," utterly reject the claims of Spiritualism; for example, Dr. Wallace Radcliffe, as reported in the Washington Post of March 1, 1920, said:

"I think Jesus Christ knew more about the world than Conan Doyle or Oliver Lodge do, and I would rather listen to the word of God than to a ouija board. The Spiritualists of today are trying to tell us that Spiritualism proves that the soul is immortal. Christianity has been teaching this for nineteen hundred years, and we don't need any table rapping or ouija boards to corroborate it."

It is, however, because "Christianity" has been teaching through the centuries the unscriptural doctrine of the soul's natural immortality that the world is today being swept by a veritable wave of Spiritualism.

The Character of Spiritualism

It is true that many of these spirit phenomena are not of a high character. Some of the communications are even frivolous, some are obscure, others profane and
blasphemous; in fact, the whole influence of spiritism is to lead away from the Bible and Christianity. Nevertheless there is in it something that grips the attention and in a measure satisfies certain longings of the human heart. And because of this, that is, because Spiritualism offers genuine phenomena and professes to bridge the gulf between the living and the dead, it has great attractive power. And even though his faith in the Bible and in the Christ of the Bible is at stake, the Christian who believes in natural immortality and consciousness in death, has absolutely no defense against the claims of the mediums. Happily, however, the same Sacred Writings which forbid pretended intercourse with the dead, cut the whole ground from under Spiritualism by declaring that God only has inherent immortality and that "the dead know not anything," and by revealing the origin and nature of the spirits, namely, that they are fallen angels, at once the enemies of God and of mankind.

The Condition of Man in Death

It is then from the viewpoint of the Bible that we enter upon this analysis of Spiritualism. Here we shall find it plainly taught that man in death is not conscious, and that immortality is the gift of God to the righteous, to be given only at the resurrection. God's word is true; and any claim which contradicts it may be stamped as false and deceptive.

Concerning the inability of the dead to return and to converse with the living, the patriarch Job says:

"Thou prevalest forever against him [man], and he passeth: thou changest his countenance, and sendest him away. His sons come to honor, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them." Job 14: 20, 21.

This statement is direct and unequivocal; and being true, Spiritualism must be false. Both cannot be true.

Death is represented by the Bible as a sleep:

"Consider and hear me, O Lord my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death." Ps. 13: 3.
The Scriptures further show that the hope for the dead is not in inherent immortality, but in the resurrection at the last great day.

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5: 28, 29.

"If the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." 1 Cor. 15: 16-18.

Satan Contradicts Jehovah

Upon these positive statements of God's word, and many more of like character, we take our stand. We know from the Scriptures that the medium in the twilight zone of the séance does not bring forth the living, thinking souls of the dead. This claim is the final effort of Satan to prove that his statement made in Eden, "Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3: 4), in which he contradicted Jehovah, is the truth.

With all due respect to the noted men who think they have vindicated the claims of Spiritualism, we do not believe that the dead do or can communicate with the living. No messages are received from those who have fallen asleep, whether they died in battle or fell victims to death in some other way. Those who believe this are under the most terrible and fatal delusion that has ever taken hold upon the mind of man. The comfort received from the other side of the grave through spirit mediums is a phantom hope.

The Holy Scriptures the True Source of Appeal

Again we appeal to the Scriptures of Truth, the word of the most high God. We turn from the statements of man, from the conclusions of scientists, from the mutterings of forms that appear in the séance, to the word of the eternal God, the one who knows the end from the beginning, and before whom the past, present, and future
THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS
The Bible Answer to the Claims of Modern Spiritualism Is the Fact of the Resurrection of the Dead.
are alike outspread. And upon this question the word of God is very clear and explicit. Let us listen to a few divinely inspired statements from the sacred Scriptures:

“To him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.” Eccl. 9: 4, 5.

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” Eccl. 9: 10.

“Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” Ps. 146: 3, 4.

How could departed friends, whose thoughts have perished, communicate information to any one? They can not and do not. The claim is false.

Life Dependent upon the Resurrection at the Second Advent of Christ

In the séance, the living do not talk to the dead, for the dead are asleep in the tomb, awaiting the resurrection. They are not now with Christ. He promises to come the second time to receive to himself the purchase of his blood. We do not go to him; he comes for his people.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.” John 14: 1-4.

“I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thess. 4: 13-18.

In the séance, father, mother, brothers, sisters, and fiancée do not talk with the loved one who fell on the battlefield or sank in the depths of the sea. The loved one
is not there; he is dead, and the word of God says, "In death there is no remembrance of thee." Ps. 6:5.

The doctrine of natural immortality is that all men have eternal life, are endowed at conception, or quickening, or birth, with a deathless, immortal spirit. But the Scriptures teach that man, apart from Christ, does not have eternal life. Jesus said:

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36.

The Christian has this everlasting life now by faith. It will become his by actual possession when the Lord comes the second time. Says the apostle:

"Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Col. 3:2, 3.

Again the Life-giver himself says:

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10.

The beloved apostle tells us:

"This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5:11, 12.

**Eternal Life the Gift of God**

Eternal life is not inherent in man. It is the gift of God, and is given only to those who believe. John 3:36.

The teachings of modern Spiritualism are in direct contradiction to the plain statements of the word of God. Spiritualism teaches that life in the world beyond does not depend upon belief in Christ; in fact, it sets Christ aside altogether, and teaches that some of the most profane and wicked characters that ever lived in this world are now living in another sphere higher even than Jesus himself. Thus the whole system sets aside Christ, and gives to man eternal life from another source altogether. No teaching that does this can be of God, nor can it give to man a true hope.
No Moral Standard in Spiritualism

Furthermore, while some very worthy and exemplary people are Spiritualists, they are such not because of Spiritualism but in spite of it. Any Christian minister, or even any professor of Christianity, who is immoral belies his profession, and is properly an object of scorn, not only to his fellow Christians, but to the nonprofessing world as well. But no man or woman need even profess to be moral to be a Spiritualist or even a medium. Indeed, many mediums have been persons of very questionable morals. The system not only rejects and scouts the Biblical standard, but erects absolutely no high moral standard of its own.

How Account for the Supernatural Power in Spiritualism?

But it may be asked, “How do you account for the supernatural phenomena in Spiritualism?” The answer to this question is also found in the Bible.

A world-wide, miracle-working power, to appear in the last days, has been foretold in the divine word, and most solemn warnings are uttered against it. Divine Omniscience has not only revealed the character of Spiritualism, but forewarned us regarding its deceptive, soul-destroying power, and the part it will act in the closing scenes of the world’s history. The development of this wonder-working power as foretold is a startling sign of the times, a sure precursor of the speedy end of all things earthly.

According to the Scriptures, just such a work as is being performed by means of modern Spiritualism is to be seen in the last days. Deceptions of extraordinary power are to appear just before the Lord comes:

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.” 1 Tim. 4: 1.

This statement foreshadows a terrible apostasy. Note the language, “seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.”
"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Rev. 12:12.

This scripture must apply to the last days, when Satan, realizing that time is short and his period of deception almost over, works with the energy of despair.

"False Prophets," "Lying Wonders," and "Strong Delusions"

"There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matt. 24:24.

This statement was made by the Saviour when uttering his great prophecy concerning the signs of his coming and the end of the world, and applies especially to the last days. Once more:

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceitfulness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thess. 2:9-12.

A Great Outbreak of Satanic Power

Here is a plain declaration that at the time when Jesus is about to appear, Satan will be working with all manner of signs and lying wonders, to deceive souls. As one writer has said:

"A great outbreak of satanic power is to be seen just prior to the coming of the Lord. In modern Spiritualism the first steps of this work are already taken; the others will quickly follow."

Truly men may well stand aghast at the terrible, overwhelming delusions which are multiplying in the world.

Perils of the Last Days

In 2 Timothy 3:1-4 we have a prediction of the perils of the last days. Then in verse 8 we read:

"As Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."

Jannes and Jambres were the magicians who, by means of satanic power, withstood Moses when he ap-
peared before Pharaoh. So in the "last days" satanic miracles will be performed to discredit the Scriptures and to hinder the progress of the gospel.

Supernatural power is not proof that a movement is of God, for the Scriptures state clearly that spirits of devils will work miracles in the last days.

"They are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev. 16: 14.

**Revival of Witchcraft**

It is easy to understand such warnings against these spiritualistic phenomena when we realize that what is now known as modern Spiritualism is only a revival of ancient witchcraft and necromancy, a thing which God hates, and against which he has given most solemn warnings. Then, as now, there were those who dealt in the occult. There were diviners, and charmers, and enchanters, and witches, and sorcerers, and necromancers, and wizards, and consulsers of familiar spirits, and dreamers, and astrologers, and stargazers, and prognosticators. Concerning these the Lord said:

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee." Deut. 18: 10-12.

"A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones; their blood shall be upon them." Lev. 20: 27.

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God." Lev. 19: 31.

"Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish." Jer. 27: 9, 10.

"I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts." Mal. 3: 5.
Pharaoh's Magicians Counterfeiting the Work of God. Ex. 7: 8-13

The Salem Witchcraft, One of the Historical Settings of Spiritism
Jesus Casting Out a Devil

Demonism in the Days of Christ
Such was ancient spiritualism, or witchcraft. Surely no system which God has denounced in such unmeasured terms can be of heaven, nor can it bring from the spirit world true messages of hope and comfort. Neither can it be imaginary. It is a great deception, not in that it is not real, but in that it is not what it purports to be. Its source is from beneath, not from above. There is no possible way of identifying the spirits as human beings.

True, there is an intelligence connected with modern Spiritualism, but it is an intelligence which comes from wicked spirits in high places, from angels of darkness and not from angels of light. Through its manifestation the world is wrestling “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.” Eph. 6:12. Demons of darkness clothed in angel robes are deceiving the world and leading them away from Christ. “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” 2 Cor. 11:14.

Lying Spirits

The character of the communications frequently received from the spirits indicate that they are from an evil source. As stated in the outset, very many of the communications are frivolous, some are profane, and some even obscene.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a leader among Spiritualists, says that he has never received a communication of the latter character; he makes the statement, however, that “we have, unhappily, to deal with absolute cold-blooded lying on the part of wicked or mischievous intelligences.” Referring to this, Jane Stoddart adds:

“Aside from wilful deception, there seems to be a certain mocking malevolence, where we should least expect it, on the part of the supposed spirits.”—“The Case Against Spiritualism,” pp. 134, 135.
Modern Spiritualism

This, in itself, should suggest the satanic origin of the communications that purport to come from the spirit world.

The Witch of Endor

That modern Spiritualism is identical with ancient witchcraft is shown very clearly by the story of King Saul's visit to the witch of Endor when he was in desperate straits because of his enemies. It is recorded:

"Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

"And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa. And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her,
and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

"And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up whom I shall name unto thee. And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die? And Saul swore to her by the Lord, saying, As the Lord liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.

"Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul. And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.

"And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do," 1 Sam. 28: 3-15.

This Woman a Medium

This narrative opens with Saul sore pressed by the Philistines. In his distress the king sought God for light; but because of his wicked and rebellious course, the Lord was not pleased to impart any instruction to him. Samuel, the aged prophet of Jehovah, was dead, and this means of communication was cut off. Saul had recourse to the Urim and Thummim, the brilliant stones in the breastplate of the high priest, which shone with a light indicating the approval or disapproval of the Lord. If the Lord sanctioned the thing asked about, a light was seen to appear on the right side; if he disapproved, a light was seen on the left side. But "the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets." 1 Sam. 28: 6.

Being cut off from the source of true light because of the stubbornness of his heart, Saul turned his face to
seek help from one of a class that, by command of God, the king himself had banished from the land. He said to his servants, "Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her." Such a woman would now be known as a Spiritualist medium.

Being informed that a "witch" could be found at Endor, Saul disguised himself, and went and requested that she bring up Samuel. The pretended Samuel came in response to her incantations, and informed Saul that the battle would go against him, and that he and his sons would be slain.

Seven Counts Against a Genuine Samuel

Now the question is, Did the prophet Samuel really appear? That he did not is evident from various considerations:

1. Samuel was dead (1 Sam. 28: 3) and the dead have no "portion forever in anything that is done under the sun" (Eccl. 9: 6). This text settles the question as to whether the dead prophet were present.

2. The Lord had departed from Saul, and "answered him not." It is evident, therefore, that had Samuel been living, the Lord would not have communicated with Saul through him; and even though Samuel had been conscious in death, it is preposterous to think that the most high God would send the soul of his faithful prophet to communicate at the behest of this depraved soothsayer, one of a class whom he had said should be cut off out of the land. Lev. 20: 6.

3. Saul requested that Samuel be brought "up." And the medium said, "An old man cometh up." 1 Sam. 28: 14. "Up" from where? Do immortal souls live in the ground, and look like old men wearing mantles? We do not think that redeemed souls will look old and infirm, and go around wearing the same kind of clothing they wore when living. The only difference between this
séance and those held in our day is that then the spirits were brought "up," and now they are brought "down" from somewhere.

4. This pretended Samuel asked, "Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?" Again we ask, Do immortal souls come "up" and complain because they have been disturbed?

5. Saul did not himself see anything. He inquired of the witch what she saw; and he "perceived," from her description, that she had seen the dead prophet. The woman doubtless had not known Samuel when he was living, and hence supposed that the apparition was the person for whom Saul had inquired.

6. This apparition informed the king that he and his sons would be with him (Samuel) on the morrow. 1 Sam. 28: 19. If this was Samuel's immortal soul from heaven, then if Saul went to dwell with him on the morrow, he must have gone to heaven. This conclusion is forbidden by Saul's character, the attendant circumstances, and the manner of his death.

7. In 1 Chronicles 10: 13 we read, "So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it."

The visit to the witch of Endor was the crowning act in Saul's apostasy. It is preposterous to think that the holy God made himself a party in that wicked transaction by sending the soul of his sleeping prophet to converse with one whom, because of iniquity, he had rejected. The bare suggestion of such a thing seems almost profane.

The Bible Rule

Even though Saul and his sons died on the morrow, as the evil spirits predicted, there were few among the Israelites who could not have made a similar prophecy, for Saul's acts of disobedience were well known. Shrewd
soldiers, politicians, or financiers can make similar predictions concerning important issues in their respective fields; and it is not surprising that evil angels, acquainted with every act of the apostate king’s life, as well as of Samuel’s, could impersonate in manner and tone the dead prophet and foretell the ruin to come to Saul.

The mere fact that an event is foretold and later comes to pass proves nothing as to the character of the source whence the prediction comes. The Bible rule is,

“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams.” Deut. 13: 1-3.

Admitting, however, that these supernatural beings of extraordinary intelligence may sometimes make shrewd guesses, we are told by the highest authorities on Spiritualism that their communications are on the whole almost valueless.

Satan Transformed

Satan did in that ancient séance what he does today in the séance of modern Spiritualism. He himself, or one of his angels, was “transformed into an angel of light” (2 Cor. 11: 14), and appeared impersonating the prophet of the Lord; and Saul, whom the Lord had rejected, held through this woman an interview with an evil angel. Samuel, the sleeping saint of God, was not there. A familiar spirit impersonated Samuel, appearing as Samuel appeared when living, and delivered to the distressed king a message void of all comfort or hope.

This instance affords no proof of consciousness in death, nor proof that Spiritualism is what it professes to be; but rather it stands as an awful warning against the ungodly practice of going to mediums or to those having “familiar spirits” for light.

The divine counsel is:
Modern Spiritualism

“When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have famili­ar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isa. 8: 19, 20.

The Foundation of Spiritualism

The foundation of this spiritualistic temple is actual phenomena coupled with belief in the inherent immor­tality of the soul, and the consequent consciousness of the dead. Immortality is not, however, an inherent attribute of man, but is the gift of God to the righteous, to be re­ceived only at the resurrection. The apostle writes:

“Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the say­ing that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Cor. 15: 51-54.

Let us look at the tremendous results of a belief in an immortal, deathless soul, and consciousness in death:

1. If man has an immortal soul that enters upon its reward in heaven at death, then death is the gate to heaven; and Satan opened this gate by causing sin to enter the world. (See Rom. 5: 12.)

2. If the dead are immortal and enter upon their re­ward, then there is no need of a general resurrection, such as the Scriptures teach. John 5: 28; Hosea 13: 14. This great pillar of Christianity is entirely destroyed through the claim of modern Spiritualism, as the spirits are swarming around us without a resurrection. A man who can return from the spirit world with tidings of what is there, does not need a resurrection.

3. The Saviour, in order to comfort his sorrowing disciples when they learned that he was to leave them, said: “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14: 3. But how could
he receive us to himself at the resurrection if the dead are conscious, and if the righteous have been with him from the time of their death until his second advent? The doctrine of consciousness in death antagonizes the doctrine of the second coming of Christ, and makes that event unnecessary.

4. Then, again, the Scriptures teach that there is to be a future time of judgment, and that upon the decisions then rendered depends the destiny of all the descendants of Adam. We cannot conceive of millions' being sent either to Abraham's bosom or with Dives to hell, unless a decision concerning their individual cases had first been rendered in the judgment. But the natural immortality of the soul, and the consequent reward of all at death, destroy the Bible doctrine of a future judgment, unless we are prepared to believe that those who have been tormented in the flames of an endless hell are to be taken out later and judged to see if they should have been there—a preposterous supposition!

God Only Immortal

But we ask how any one knows that man has immortality now. Nowhere in the Bible have we ever read a verse that says so. The words "soul" and "spirit," it is true, occur somewhat more than seventeen hundred times in the Bible, and the word "immortal" is found in the Bible; but not in a single instance do we find a text that says anything about an immortal, "never-dying," or "undying" soul.

Let us look at the use of the words "immortal" and "immortality" as found in the Bible.

The word "immortal" is found but once in the New Testament:

"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever." 1 Tim. 1: 17.

Here it applies to God alone.
The original word, however, from which "immortal" is translated, is **aphthartos**, and occurs in six other instances, as follows:

2. "A corruptible crown; but we an *incorruptible*." 1 Cor. 9: 25.
3. "The dead shall be raised *incorruptible*." 1 Cor. 15: 52.
5. "Not of corruptible seed, but of *incorruptible*." 1 Peter 1: 23.
6. "That which is *not corruptible*." 1 Peter 3: 4.

The word "immortality" is from two Greek words, and is found in the following instances:

**Athenasia**

"Must put on immortality." 1 Cor. 15: 53.
"Shall have put on immortality." 1 Cor. 15: 54.
"Who only hath immortality." 1 Tim. 6: 16.

**Aphtharsia**

"Seek for glory and honor and *immortality*." Rom. 2: 7.
"It is raised in *incorruption*." 1 Cor. 15: 42.
"Neither doth corruption inherit *incorruption*." 1 Cor. 15: 50.
"Must put on *incorruption*." 1 Cor. 15: 53.
"Shall have put on *incorruption*." 1 Cor. 15: 54.
"Love our Lord Jesus Christ in *sincerity*." Eph. 6: 24.
"Brought life and *immortality* to light." 2 Tim. 1: 10.

These scriptures show very clearly that man does not possess immortality by nature, but that it is the gift of God, bestowed upon the righteous at the resurrection. Jesus is the only Life-giver. Immortality apart from him is an impossibility.

It is clear, therefore, from the teachings of the Scriptures, that man is not immortal, nor is he conscious during the period which elapses between death and the resurrection. This being true, the spirits of the dead cannot communicate with the living, and therefore are not present in the séance with messages for those who are on earth.
Then a question arises as to the supernatural beings that are present at the séance. What are they? The answer is found in the record of the introduction of sin into the universe through the fall of Lucifer and his angels. We should understand that there are on earth today myriads of fallen supernatural beings,—angels who fell; who, we are told, lost their “first estate,” and are now awaiting the judgment of the great day.

“There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Rev. 12: 7-9.

“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.” 2 Peter 2: 4.

“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.” Jude 6.

The great rebel leader, with his angel sympathizers, failed in his rebellion against the government of God, and with his followers was cast out, as the Scriptures clearly show, to this earth. Lucifer, the prince of devils, succeeded in leading man into rebellion, and in establishing on this earth a temporary kingdom, and hence is by Christ himself called “the prince of this world.” (See John 14:30; 16:11.)

Satan Contradicts God

In his temptation of Eve, Satan contradicted the plain statement of Jehovah that man should die as a result of transgression.

“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Gen. 3: 1-5.
God had told Adam that the result of transgression and sin was death. Satan denied this, saying to Eve that they would not die, but be as gods. "God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Gen.

3:5. And in effect, those who hold and teach the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, virtually say that Satan told the truth, and that God's statement was not true.

In the séance the enemy of all righteousness is seeking to prove that man is not dead; that he, and not God, told the truth in Eden. He is seeking to spread the lie that there is no death; that what appears to be so is but transition; that the dead are not really dead, but that they live in some other sphere or form. And in the séance angels of darkness appear, impersonating the forms and imitating the voices of the dead.
CHRIST COMING IN GLORY
Communion with Devils

Instead of conversing with loved ones who have passed into the embrace of death, those who consult ouija boards or mediums are holding communion with fallen angels, who possess superhuman power and intelligence, and are able to tell in a supernatural way things which are not known to our closest and most cherished friends.

Well may we shudder in the presence of such intelligent and supernatural power from the bottomless pit as is here manifested. Spiritualism is Satan's masterpiece of deception. It is his supreme effort to lead men away from God. And today men are being deceived into rejecting their Maker, who is the fountain of all life, and are turning to the stronghold of darkness. They are receiving communications, not from men, but from demons. It is time we gave heed to the words of the ancient prophet, written for this very time, when men would look upon the earth and behold trouble and darkness. Said the prophet:

"When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and unto the wizards, that chirp and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? on behalf of the living should they seek unto the dead?" Isa. 8: 19, A. R. V.

We are in the time of which the Saviour has forewarned us, when the forces of darkness are being marshaled for the final conflict, when "there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matt. 24: 24. Our only safety in this hour of darkness is to cling with steadfast faith to the word of God. So long as we follow this divine chart, we are safe; forsaking it, we shall surely founder on the reefs and rocks of unbelief, and be drowned in the black waters of "destruction and perdition."
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"Softly within that peaceful resting place
We lay their wearied limbs, and bid the clay
Press lightly on them till the night be past,
And the far east give note of coming day.

"The shout is heard, the Archangel's voice goes forth;
The trumpet sounds, the dead awake and sing;
The living put on glory; one glad band,
They hasten up to meet their coming King."