

- Tract No. 1, Pre-"Eleventh Hour" Extra (Ezekiel 9)
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- Tract No. 3, The Judgment and the Harvest
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- The Shepherd's Rod, Vol. 1, Pocket Edition
- To The Seven Churches (The Breaking of the Seven Seals)
- The Answerer Series, Books No. 1 to No. 5.

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TIMELY GREETINGS

—The Only Peace of Mind—

Vol. 2

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 V.T. Houteff

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CHRONICALLY ILL WITH TOO MUCH KNOWLEDGE
 AND TOO LITTLE UNDERSTANDING.

THE SPIRIT THAT ORIGINATED EVIL,
 AND ITS MANIFESTATION TODAY.

mother?" They will have a time answering, for Christ Himself brought the Christian church into being thirty or more years after He was born. Consequently she could not be His mother.

And if they were asked, "How could the woman's sun-clothing symbolize the Christian church clothed with the Gospel of Christ, as you contend?" they would have a hard time answering for she was clothed with the sun before Christ was born, and before the Gospel even came into being.

Were these questions put to the brethren, I am sure they would become profoundly confused in trying to answer. But the fact that no one asks these questions, shows that there is altogether too little understanding throughout Christendom.

Again you cannot deny the fact that the De-nomination has made a very scholarly exposition of the Seven Trumpets, of plowing through such an intricate symbolism, propping their explanations of it with commentaries and history and making the people take it as nicely as they do. By their scholarly methods, though, they contend that the locusts which were released as soon as the Heavenly Star unlocked "the bottom-less pit" at the sounding of the fifth trumpet (Rev. 9:1-3), are symbolic of the armies of the Mohammedans. This they do in spite of the fact that the locusts were not to kill anybody, but only to torment those who had not the seal of God in their foreheads, whereas the Mohammedans killed everybody that stood against them, especially the Christians, those who had the seal.

Moreover, the brethren explain that the 200,000,000 horses and horsemen that were to kill

But if the brethren were asked the question: "How could the woman be a symbol of the Christian church, and at the same time be Christ's-

nicely. Christ, and the public seems to take it in very church, that her sun-clothing is the Gospel of Denomination in the book I mentioned explains that this woman is a symbol of the Christian it speaks of the 12-star-crowned woman. The Take for example Revelation chapter 12, where

and of The Revelation themselves. understanding is there on the books of Daniel We should, however, examine to see how much book like it, evidently has great knowledge. number of languages. Anyone that can write a of copies have been sold all over the world in a and so convincing are its contents that thousands *Revelation*. It is written in scholarly fashion, originally entitled *Thoughts on Daniel and The Bible*. The book which I have in mind was Revelation, the two most invaluable books of the Denomination has put out on Daniel and The afternoon, let us take for example the book which To illustrate the subject of our study this

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Sabbath, February 14, 1948
Mt. Carmel Chapel
Waco, Texas*

AND TOO LITTLE UNDERSTANDING

CHRONICALLY ILL WITH TOO MUCH KNOWLEDGE

- Notes -

TEXT FOR PRAYER
The Good-Ground Hearer

- Notes -

I shall read from "*Christ's Object Lessons*," beginning on page 60, third paragraph.

"The word of God often comes in collision with man's hereditary and cultivated traits of character and his habits of life. But the good-ground hearer, in receiving the word, accepts all its conditions and requirements. . . .

"And he brings forth fruit 'with patience.' None who receive God's word are exempt from difficulty and trial; but when affliction comes, the true Christian does not become restless, distrustful, or despondent. Though we can not see the definite outcome of affairs, or discern the purpose of God's providence, we are not to cast away our confidence. Remembering the tender mercies of the Lord, we should cast our care upon Him, and with patience wait for His salvation.

"Through conflict the spiritual life is strengthened. Trials well borne will develop steadfastness of character, and precious spiritual graces. The perfect fruit of faith, meekness, and love often matures best amid storm-clouds and darkness."

Let us pray that our spiritual perceptions be quickened so that we shall more readily understand God's dealings in answer to our prayers; that through conflict the spiritual life is strengthened; that we throw not away our confidence when afflictions arise, but that like Paul we rejoice for having been accounted worthy to suffer in patience.

Consequently, if anyone should choose to give heed to this or to that messenger instead of to the Christian's life is, as it were, a building under construction. One messenger of God lays the foundation, another builds thereupon. Thus to no one messenger is given all the material with which to build.

Verse 10—According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereupon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

This side-choosing was ruining the Christians in Paul's day, and it is ruining them in our day; that is, people are setting their affections on men who bring them the knowledge of the Gospel rather than on the One Who sends them with the Gospel. And worse than this is the fact that multitudes are setting their affection even on men who have not a spark of inspiration, men who are not sent by God at all, but who are running loose of their own accord.

Verses 8, 9—Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

God is everything, and the men of His appointment are only His mouthpiece.

Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Dealing with a situation similar to this, Paul declared:

1 Cor. 3:1—And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

Here Paul reproved those whose knowledge seemed to be great, but their understanding dull, those who had not spiritually advanced commensurate with the time, who could not stick strictly to what the Word says, were not developed into full-grown Christians. He was, therefore urged to say:

Verse 2—I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Paul was disappointed with the progress which the Corinthians had made: They were still unable to take strong meat. Concretely speaking, he said—

Verses 3, 4—For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

By taking sides, some for Paul and some for Apollos, they were actually accepting what God had sent through one messenger, and rejecting what He had sent through the other messenger. This you will see even more vividly in the verses which follow:

Verses 5-7—Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the

No one, moreover, including ourselves, has ever accepted the writing of the prophets on the merits of their goodness, their education, or their personal religious experience. They wrote nothing concerning themselves, and nothing to bolster their office. All who have accepted them, have done so on the merits of their own writings. That is all. They never tried to

anything. No one, moreover, including ourselves, has ever accepted the writing of the prophets on the merits of their goodness, their education, or their personal religious experience. They wrote nothing concerning themselves, and nothing to bolster their office. All who have accepted them, have done so on the merits of their own writings. That is all. They never tried to set them crying over an audience, never tried to play on the emotions of His not Himself, the credit. And if anyone can, He simply spoke of Bible truth, and gave God, He tried to persuade anyone by talking of Himself. He never tried to preach repentance and love, but He never tried to play on the emotions of His audience, never tried to set them crying over anything.

Take for example Jesus Christ. His work, His mission, was greater and more important than any before Him or after Him. He had religious experience that was worth telling, and it such a procedure would have been beneficial in the work of salvation, He certainly would have taken advantage of it. Instead of preaching Himself, though, He preached the Truth. He never tried to persuade anyone by talking of Himself. He simply spoke of Bible truth, and gave God, He tried to persuade anyone by talking of Himself.

You may peruse the entire Bible, and I assure you that you will find one of these things practiced by any of the prophets. They never aimed to make God's people sad, but always to rejoice in the Lord.

win converts by what they themselves were or were not. Are they not to this day having success? And is it not the Truth of God that we must be after? The Jews asked for a sign, and the Greeks for wisdom, but God's people of today are asking for both sign and wisdom, rather than for Truth.

Let us, therefore, never forget that the spirit of self-exaltation originated all the evil which we see today, and which is harder at work than ever before. We should not give the Dragon a chance to trap us, and dump us into doom with the "third part of the angels" who took hold of his tail and could not let loose of it. Let us ever remember that—

"The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day." Isa. 2:11.

These two sins—trust in man, and desire to exalt self—are still the leading sin elements

when he aspired to be as God. Lucifer himself fell rather than giving heed to the word of God. This was the angels' downfall. Lucifer himself fell to the words of Lucifer, to a man in Heaven, were cast out of Heaven because they gave heed a third of the angelic host (Rev. 12:4). These in Heaven, for with him were cast out of Heaven Satan, we are told, was not the only sinner

consider the sin in heaven before we further consider that deceived Eve. We shall therefore Eve sinned, that he was impersonated in the ser- sinned was Lucifer, and that he sinned before We understand that Satan's name before he

—Isa. 14:12-15. brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will ascend above the heights of the north: I stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of to heaven, I will exalt my throne above the thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend in- ground, which didst weaken the nations! For son of the morning! how art thou cut down to "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer,

us read this from the prophet Isaiah: existed before Eve came in contact with it. Let bidden fruit. But the fact is that evil already inated with Eve when she reached for the for- man originated?—We often think that evil orig- And where do you suppose such confidence in thing that crucified the Lord.

Moreover, this class of leaders, dead to Christ and alive to themselves, as a rule love to parade, and even to exaggerate their religious deeds. Such should therefore be branded as Satan-inspired disciple-seekers. This class of men are naturally clever. They manage to gain the confidence of the people by the same method with which the priests and rab- bis in Jesus' time deceived the nation: They prayed where they could be seen; they marred their faces to appear to be fasting; they made it their business to air far and wide whatever good they did; they were adept at making themselves appear very religious, pious, philanthropic, and righteous.

Multitudes are still charmed by such so- called good men, and multitudes unquestionably accept their decisions as it they were God's decisions. Against such, remember Inspiration warns: "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" Isa. 2:22.

That these man worshipers be seen even more realistically, let me tell you something: Thousands have advised us to recant if the president of the General Conference sees no light in our teaching, if he sees no light in our revival and reformation among God's people. They seem to be just as sincere in this as were the Jews who confidently took sides against Jesus by making the high priest's decisions their own decisions!

Their wish for us to recant "if the presi- dent sees no light," shows that they are copying the Jews of old, rather than looking into the matter themselves, with confidence in the Spirit

the source of truth is, therefore, the very investigation and experience of their own with need to hearsay instead of engaging in personal priests, scribes, and rabbis. The Jews' giving trusting in the opinions of their learned dreds of thousands were doing in Jesus' day: think or say. They are today doing what hun- so," God's people are giving heed to what others did, studying to know whether "these things be rather than doing what the noble Bereans er than in God for their salvation; that is, people were not putting their trust in man rat- The plea would not have been made if the

and therefore of no account. He is no God. because without breath he is but a lump of dirt; is that man's breath is in his nostrils; In this verse of Scripture God recommends

of? Isa. 2:22—Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted

verse 22. Our text is found in Isaiah, chapter 2,

*Text of Address by V. T. Houteff,
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AND ITS MANIFESTATION TODAY
THE SPIRIT THAT ORIGINATED EVIL.

God-sent materials as we continue building.

Verses 19, 20—*For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.*

Since the wisdom of this world is foolish- ness with God, we had better have nothing to do with it, and quit taking sides—one for Luther, another for Wesley, still another for Campbell, or White—but we had better stand with the Lord, and accept all the Truths from all His servants He chooses to send. Otherwise when we arrive at the door He will have to say to us, "Depart from Me, I never knew you."

Verses 21, 22—*Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your's; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's.*

To glory in man, whether it be in self or in another, is to cheat yourself of everything. Take for example the Jews: They were determined to "be of Moses," and as they saw it, to accept the prophets, or even Christ, to them it meant to give up Moses! As a result, rather than all things being theirs, they lost everything, even Moses, and where are they today? The wood, hay, and stubble which they piled upon the structure of Truth after Moses left them, has long been swept away by the Fire of Truth, the Holy Spirit.

The only safe way to build is with Truth sent from the throne of God. This is how

—Annie R. Smith.

Long upon the mountain, weary,
 Have the scattered flock been torn;
 Dark the desert paths, and dreary;
 Grieving trials have they borne.
 Now the gathering call is sounding,
 Solemn in its warning voice;
 Union, faith, and love, abounding,
 Bid the little flock rejoice.
 Now the light of truth they're seeking,
 In its onward track pursue;
 All the ten commandments keeping,
 They are holy, just, and true.
 On the words of life they're feeding,
 Precious to their taste, so sweet;
 All their Master's precepts heeding,
 Bowing humbly at His feet.
 In that world of light and beauty,
 In that golden city fair,
 Soon its heavenly gates they'll enter,
 And of all its glories share.
 There, divine the soul's expansions;
 Free from sin, and death, and pain;
 Tears will never dim those mansions
 Where the saints immortal reign.
 Soon He comes! with clouds descending;
 All His saints, entombed, arise;
 The redeemed, in anthems blending,
 Shout their victory through the skies.
 O, we long for Thine appearing;
 Come, O Saviour, quickly come!
 Blessed hope! our spirits cheering,
 Take Thy ransomed children home.

Soon He Comes

Moses, the prophets, and the apostles built, and this is how we must build. Moses, for example, founded his structure of Truth on the solid rock of creation, the Genesis, on the work of Him Who created the worlds (Heb. 1:1). The prophets after him, also the apostles, continued building on the same foundation, not on the theories of the priests and rabbis, the so-called religious educators of that day. And that is why their structure of Truth stands today firmer than ever before.

Knowledge, you see, devoid of Divine understanding is as devastating to the soul as is fire let loose in a house that is built of wood and hay. Let us therefore no longer be side-choosers, but come to the table which God has spread so abundantly with spiritual food, and unbiasedly and free from prejudice feast to the full, refresh our souls and strengthen our backbones with good understanding so that we may be able to stand against the chronic ills of worldly knowledge; that we overcome temptation in the strength of the Mighty One, and be permitted to have a part in proclaiming the message when it shall swell into the Loud Cry.

The fruit, of course, appealed to her, but she was tempted by the idea of having the opportunity to be exalted to the throne of God, to be exalted to the same position to which Lucifer himself aspired. Lucifer must have honestly believed that he would be as God if the angels in Heaven and the men on earth would but take orders from him.
 And so we see that the Devil deceived Eve on the same grounds he deceived himself and his angels, the only difference being that he caused Eve to eat of the fruit which he himself and his angels would not eat. Consequently, Eve sinned against her physical being, too, by taking into it something that was not created for food, and consequently she died. But Satan and his angels still live.
 This same stumbling block, the desire to exalt self, has predominated throughout the ages, and it predominates today. No, I am not making rash and empty statements. I have the facts to back up my words. For example, in the days of the Exodus Movement, there were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram who aspired to the office of Moses and Aaron as Lucifer aspired to the throne of God, the highest offices they could have longed

knowing good and evil." Gen. 3:5.
 eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be *as gods*, know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your In the garden of God." But he said: "God doth wonderful, more delicious than any other fruit say, "Thou shalt eat of this fruit for it is cause of Eve's downfall. The serpent did not stumble alone. No, appetite alone was not the cause of Eve's downfall. The serpent did not now here on earth. This was Eve's stumbling block and to many even today it is still the cause of Eve's downfall. The serpent did not

for. And did not Lucifer fall because of wanting to be above all others for nothing more than to exalt self? And was not the same true of the fall of Korah, Dathan and Abiram?

Today we see the same clamoring for position even in our own churches. The offices of Church Elders, Sabbath School Superintendents, Secretaries, Pianists, and other such church offices, let us remember, hold no monetary compensation. But in spite of it, every year in most of the churches, as far as I have been able to observe, there is a clamor and a quarrel by men and women for one or more of these offices. Since there is no monetary remuneration for such services, then what is the fuss about if not purely for self-exaltation, if not for the purpose of being looked up to as somebody?

You see, then, that the same clamor for self-promotion that existed with Lucifer, with Eve, with others down through the ages, exists today. My statement, you see, is backed up by actual facts. Moreover, if such be the case with those who receive no monetary consideration for their services, then what could be the case with those who are well paid? This question you can answer for yourself to your own satisfaction.

Plainly, one who aspires to position simply for self-exaltation, especially when such an office holds out spiritual responsibilities as does a church office, such a one should not be given any consideration whatsoever. And if he already has any station of responsibility, he should be relieved of it, for such high-minded leaders are spiritually blind, and they draw the multitude to themselves as did Lucifer draw the angels to himself and to doom.