

Satan is Here and Working Hard
Compiled By Glen W. Chapman Updated June 2004

Information Given in the Bible

New Testament

1. Acts 8:9-10
But there was a certain man called Simon which before time in the same city had used sorcery and bewitched the people giving out that himself was some great one whom all gave heed and said this man is the great power of God.
2. Eph 6:12
For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world
3. 1 Tim 4:1
Now this Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons
4. Rev 16:13-14
Even whose coming is after the workings of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. They are the spirits of demons working miracles... that go forth unto the whole earth...
5. Matt 8:16
When the evening was come they brought unto him many that were possessed with demons and he cast out the spirits with his word....
6. Luke 8:27-29
And when He went forth they met a certain man, which had demons.... When he saw Jesus he cried out and fell down before him and with a loud voice said what have I to do thee Jesus thou son of God most high. I beseech thee torment me not for he had commanded this demon to come out.
7. Matt 8:28
There met him two possessed with demons coming... they cried out saying what have we to do with thee Jesus, thou son of God, art thou come hither to torment us before the time
8. Luke 4:41
And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them did not allow them to speak for they knew that he was Christ
9. Mark 3:15
And gave authority to heal sickness and to cast out demons
10. John 3:8
The Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil.
11. 1 Pet 5:8
whom he may devour Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary, the devil is like a roaring lion, walketh about seeking
12. James 4:7
Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you".
13. II Cor 11:14-15
And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works.
14. Acts 17:17-18
And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. The same followed Paul and us crying "These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation". And this she did many days, but Paul being grieved, turned and said to the spirit. I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

15. Matthew 17:14-21.

*And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,
Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oft-times he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.
And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.
Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.
And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.
Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?
And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.
Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.*

This New Testament rendering indicates the unusual amount of faith required to cast out devils. It requires greater faith than most healings. In the cited instance the disciples should have buttressed their faith and prepared themselves by fasting and prayer.

16. Mark 1: 23-28

*And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.
And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.
And when the unclean spirit had torn him and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.
And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.
And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region*

17. Matt. 8:28-32

*And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.
And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?
And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding.
So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.
And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea; and perished in the waters.*

There is a scriptural account of these exorcists. They had seen the Apostle Paul utilize the Holy Melchizedek Priesthood of which he spoke (Hebrews 3:1; 5:1-10; 7:1-21) in casting out devils in the Lord's name.

Acts 19:11--6.

*And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:
So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.
Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul*

preacheth.

And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of the house naked and wounded

Old Testament

1. Lev 19:31

Regard not them that have familiar spirits neither seek after wizards to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God..

2. Deut 18:9-11

When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee... there shall not be found among you any who use divination or an observer of times, or an enchanter or a witch or a charmer or a consulter of mediums or a wizard or a necromancer.

3, Lev 20:27

A man also or a woman who hath a familiar spirit or who is a wizard shalt be put to death".

4. Jer 10:2

Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the nations, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the nations are dismayed at them.

5. Micha 5:1

And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers.

6. Isa 14:12-14

How art thou fallen from heaven O Lucifer, son of the morning, thou art cut down to the ground, who did weaken the nations for thou hast said in thine heart I will ascent into heaven. I will exhalt my thrones above the stars of God, I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. I will be like the most High.

Modern Scriptures

D.C 49

2 *Behold, verily I say unto you, that there are many spirits which are false spirits, which have gone forth in the earth, deceiving the world.*

3. *And also Satan hath sought to deceive you, that he might overthrow you.*

D.C. 10

20. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, that Satan has great hold upon their hearts; he stirreth them up to iniquity against that which is good;*

21. *And their heart are corrupt, and full of wickedness and abominations; and they love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. therefore they will not ask of me.*

22. *Satan stirreth them up, that he may lead their souls to destruction.*

23. *And thus he has laid a cunning plan, thinking to destroy the work of God; but I will require this at their hands, and it shall turn to their shame and condemnation in the day of judgment.*

24. *Yea, he stirreth up their hearts to anger against this work*

25. *Yea, he saith unto them: Deceive and lie in wait to catch, that ye may destroy; behold, this is no harm. And thus he flattereth them, and telleth them that it is no sin to lie that they may catch a man in a lie, that they may destroy him.*

26. *And thus he flattereth em, and leadeth them along until he draggeth their souls down to hell; and thus he causeth them to catch themselves in their own snare.*

27. *And thus he goeth up and down, to and fro in the earth, seeking to destroy the souls of men.*

63. *And this I do' that I may establish my gospel, that there may not be so much contention; yea, Satan doth stir up the hearts of the people to contention concerning the points of my doctrine; and in these things they do err, for they do wrest the scriptures and do not understand them.*

MOSES, 1.

12. *And it came to pass that when had said these words, behold, Satan came tempting him, saying: Moses, son of man, worship me*

13. *And it came to pass that Moses looked upon Satan and said: Who art thou? For behold, I am a son of God, in the similitude of his Only Begotten; and where is thy glory, that I should worship thee?*

14. *For behold, I could not look upon God, except his glory should come upon me, and I were*

strengthened before him. But I can look upon thee in the natural man. Is it not so, surely?

15. Blessed be the name of my God, for his Spirit hath not altogether withdrawn from me, or else where is thy glory, for it is darkness unto me? And I can judge between thee and God; for God said unto me: Worship God, for him only shalt thou serve.

16. Get thee hence Satan; deceive me not; for God said unto me: Thou art after the similitude of mine Only Begotten.

19. And now, when Moses had said these words, Satan cried with a loud voice, and rent upon the earth, and commanded, saying: I am the Only Begotten, worship me.

20. And it came to pass that Moses began to fear exceedingly; and as he began to fear, he saw the bitterness of hell. Nevertheless, calling upon God, he received strength, and he commanded, saying: Depart from me Satan for this one God only will I worship, which is the God of glory.

21. And now Satan began to tremble, and the earth shook; and Moses received strength, and called upon God, saying: In the name of the Only Begotten, depart hence Satan.

22. And it came to pass that Satan cried with a loud voice, with weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth; and he departed hence, even from the presence of Moses, that he beheld him not.

MOSES, 4.

1. And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying: That Satan, whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning, and he came before me, saying-Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor.

2. But, behold, my Beloved Son, which was my Beloved and Chosen from the beginning, said unto me - Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.

3. Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down;

4. And he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.

5. And now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which I, the Lord God, had

MOSES, 5.

13. And Satan came among them, saying: I am also a son of God; and he commanded them, saying: Believe it not; and they believed it not, and they loved Satan more than God. And men began from that time forth to be carnal, sensual, and devilish,

D.C. 123:12 For there are many yet on the earth among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, and who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it.

Ancient Jewish Writings

Behold, I have found my opportunity; I will speak into her ear, and I will make her eat of the tree, and I will cause them to be expelled from Paradise, for I myself was expelled from Paradise for their sakes.

Apocalypse of Moses, in Anfe-Nicene Fathers. -III, 566-S67

"And Satan said to Adam I have no need to worship you, I will not worship an inferior being and younger being .I was your senior in the creation . Before you were made I was already made .It is rather your duty to worship me.

The angels who are under me refuse to worship you also...

Oh Adam I was cast forth from my Glory because of thee, and behold I have caused thee to be expelled from the Garden Paradise because thou didst cause me to become a stranger in my home in heaven .Know thou that I shall never cease to contend against thee and all those who shall come after thee until all down into my kingdom with me come"

Combat of Adam and Eve 14,15

The Devil knew that I wanted to make the world ...with Adam ruling as Lord of it.. .He became Satan when he fled from heaven , before which time he was an angel. he changed his nature and was no longer an angel. He preserved his identity, but his state of mind was altered, as when any righteous person becomes wicked and he conceived the impossible idea of setting up his throne to equal my power."

Slavonic Enoch 11

Then Satan said to Adam , "Thinkest thou ,that when I have spoken to one about anything ,I shall ever bring it to him or fulfill my word ; Not so. Therefore did I fall, and did I make you fall by that for which I myself fell. Whosoever accepts my council, falls thereby. But now O Adam, by reason of thy fall, thou art under my rule and I am king over thee; because thou hast transgressed against thy God .neither will there be any deliverance from my hands until the day agreed upon with the by thy God, nor the hour in which thou shalt be delivered .For that reason we will multiply war and murder upon thee and thy seed after thee. This is our will and our good pleasure, that we may not leave one of the sons of men to inherit our order in heaven. For as to our abode, O Adam , it is in burning fire and we will not cease our evil doing ,no not one day nor one hour,"

Book of Adam an Eve 57::5-10

"The great angels returned from the earth to report to God that which they found on the earth. They reported that Satan is teaching all man of unrighteousness upon the earth and has laid bare those mysteries of the age which belong to heaven which are now known and practiced among men."

Greek Enoch (Apocalypse of Enoch 9:6)

"Satan taught men to make knives and breast plates and all kinds of military hardware and to work ores of the earth and hew gold was to be worked and made into ornaments for women; and he showed them silver and taught them polishing and eye paint and cosmetic and precious stones and dyes .The sons and daughter of men adopted all these things and lead the Saints astray and there was great wickedness on the earth and they became perverted and lost all their ways."

Gezeh Fragment of Enoch 8:1

"Satan came to Genun and showed him how to make trumpets and horns, and siring instruments, cymbals, lyres, harps and flutes, and he played them at all hours of the day and the night. . . There were heard beautiful and sweet sounds which excited the .heart. And it pleased the children of Cain and they inflamed themselves with sin. And Satan taught Genun to make a strong drink out of grain and he brought together groups of people in drinking-houses and they drank together. . . And they blew their horns and beat their drums.

And Satan taught him to make dyes for their clothes and different patterns and colors, like crimson and purple . . And all the sons of Cain appeared in beauty and in colorful dresses and with their horns, doing all kinds of wickedness . . . And they looked at the daughters of Cain and their beautiful figures and at their dyed hands and feet and their tattooed ornaments on their bodies and the fire of sin was kindled within them."

Conflict of Adam and Eve, II,

And Cain was so sullen and so angry that he went into the field where Satan came to him and said: Since your brother has gone to your father Adam because you have pushed him away from the altar. they have kissed his face and they rejoice over him far more than over you.

Satan came to him by night, showed himself and said: Since Adam and Eve love your brother Abel much more than they love you, they wish to join him in marriage to your beautiful sister, because they love him, but they wish to join you in marriage with your. less favored sister, because they hate you. Now therefore, I advise you, when they do that, to kill your brother, then your sister will be left for you, and his sister will be cast out.

Conflict of Adam and Eve, II,

"In the days of Cain evil and deceitful practices increased. The wicked spirits set themselves up in open and insolent opposition to Adam and glorying in their earthly bodies learned a great sin and openly exposed all the work they had seen in heaven."

Ethiopian Enoch Fragment

"Enoch went to the Lord who taught him all about creation and his works.. He saw matter unorganized before the creation...the council in heaven... He saw Satan aspire and get cast out to become the foundation of lower things, beyond which there is great darkness and nothing"

Slavonic Enoch 11

" The Son of Destruction shall show himself and say I am anointed! though he is not. Do not believe him .He will surely make all the signs which our Lord performs in the world . The dead however he will not raise up because he has not power over the spirits"

Apocalypse of Elijah

Apocalypse of Abraham

6. *And I asked the angel, "Who is this, my Lord?"*
 7. *He said: This is ungodliness: this is Azazel [Satan]*
 - 9 *For Abraham's part is in heaven, and thine is upon this earth.*
 10. *God has placed thee upon this earth as the Adversary, to lead dishonest spirits and practice deception.*
 13. *Thou has not the power to tempt all the righteous.*
 14. *Depart from this man! Thou canst not lead him astray, for he is thine enemy and enemy to all those who follow thee and love after thy desire.*
 15. *For behold, the garment [of glory] which once fitted you in heaven, is now laid up for him. And the decay to which he was fated now goes over to thee!*
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- 14:3. *Take heart, exercise the power that I give thee over this one, who hateth truth..*
 4. ... *who rebelled against the Almighty...*
 5. *Say to him: Depart Azazel*
 6. *Thy lot is to rule over those who are with thee...*
 7. *Depart from me...*
 8. *And I spoke as the angel instructed me.*
 9. *He [Satan] spoke: Abraham! And I said: Here is thy servant.*
 10. *But the angel said to me: O, do not reply to him! For God has given him power over those who answer*
 11. .. *.No matter how much he speaks to thee, answer him not, lest his will overpower thine.*
 12. *For the Eternal One has given him a powerful will. Answer him not!*

When the sign appears at the end of the world there shall be affliction of men , famine and plagues, changes of seasons , lamentation , many tears in all lands bitterly wailing near the end when instead of prophets false deceivers approach spreading reports on the earth and Satan too shall come and do many signs for men and there shall be confusion among holy men.

Sibyline Oracles Book 7

THE POWER OF EVIL

DISCOURSES OF BRICRAM YOUNG

There are myriad's of disembodied evil spirits-those who have and long ago laid down their bodies here in the regions round about, among and around us; and they are trying to make us and our children sick, and are trying to destroy us and to tempt us to evil. They will try ever, possible means they are masters of to draw us aside from the path of righteousness. 6:73-4.

We may be within the pale of the Kingdom of God on earth, yet we are liable to be overcome of evil. There are many spirits who have gone abroad in the world, and men are overcome by false spirits, and led astray from the path of truth. They will begin by doing some evil thing out of sight, and say, "O. it is nothing, it is a mere trifle, and the Lord is merciful and forgiveth sin." The sins which are considered trifles lay the foundation for greater evils, and expose men to be tempted, and buffeted by Satan, and they will be overcome little by little, until by and by they are overtaken in a fault which is more aggravating in the sight of justice, which lays the foundation for another trial more severe, and to be buffeted more by the Devil, for they lay themselves more liable to his power. **2:121.**

There is evil in the world, and there is also good. Was there ever a counterfeit without a true coin? No. Is there communication from God? Yes. From holy angels? Yes; and we have been proclaiming these facts during nearly thirty years. Are there any communications from evil spirits? Yes; and the Devil is making the people believe very strongly in revelations from the spirit world. This is called Spiritualism.

There are many Elders in this house who, if I had the power to mesmerize that vase and make it dance on that table, would say that it was done by the power of God. Who could tell whether it was done by the power of God or the power of the Devil? No person, unless he had the revelations of Jesus Christ within him. I suppose you are ready to ask Brother Brigham if he thinks the power of the Devil could make the vase dance. Yes, and could take it up and carry it out doors, just as easy as to turn up a table and move it here and there, or to cause a rap, rap, rap, or to bake and pass around pancakes, or to get hold of a person's hand, and make him write in every style you can think of, imitating George Washington's, Benjamin Franklin's, Joseph Smith's, and other autographs. Can you tell whether that is by the power of God or by the power of the Devil? No, unless you have the revelations of Jesus Christ. **3:157.**

When the Devil cannot overcome an individual through temptation to commit wickedness, when he sees that a person is determined to walk in the line and travel straight forward into the celestial kingdom, he will adopt a course of flattery, will strive to exercise a pleasing influence and move along smoothly with him, and when he sees an opportunity he will try to turn him out of the way, if it is only to the extent of a hair's breadth. **3:318.**

The spirits of devils have been deprived of bodies, and that constitutes their curse, that is to say, speaking after the manner of men, you shall be wanderers on the earth, you have got to live out of doors all the time you live.

That is the situation of the spirits that were sent to the earth, when the revolt took place in heaven, when Lucifer, the Son of the Morning, was cast out. Where did he go? He came here, and one-third part of the spirits in heaven came with him. Do you suppose that one-third part of all beings that existed in eternity came with him? No, but one-third part of the spirits that were begotten and organized and brought forth to become tenants of fleshly bodies to dwell upon this earth. They forsook Jesus Christ, the rightful heir, and joined with Lucifer, the Son of the Morning, and came to this earth; they got here first. As soon as Mother Eve made her appearance in the garden of Eden, the Devil was on hand. 3:36-369.

As it has always been, and will be yet for some time, when the sons of God assemble together Satan will be on hand as an accuser of the brethren, to find fault with those who are trying to do good.

11:141.

The Devil delights in the work of destruction-to burn and lay waste and destroy the whole earth. He delights to convulse and throw into confusion the affairs of men, politically, religiously and morally, introducing war with its long train of dreadful consequences. It is evil which causeth all these miseries and all deformity to come upon the inhabitants of the earth. But that which is of God is pure, lovely, holy and full of all excellency and truth, no matter where it is found, in hell, in heaven, upon the earth, or in the planets. **11:240.**

The adversary presents his principles and arguments in the most approved style, and in the most winning tone, attended with the most graceful attitudes; and he is very careful to ingratiate himself into the favor of the powerful and influential of mankind, uniting himself with popular parties, floating into offices of trust and emolument by pandering to popular feeling, though it should seriously wrong and oppress the innocent. **11:238.**

Cease to mingle with the wicked. Many of our Elders seem to believe that Christ and Baal can yet be made friends. How many times Elders of Israel try to make me fellowship the Devil, or his imps, or his servants; also try to make you fellowship your enemies, to amalgamate the feelings of the Saints and ~e ungodly! It cannot be done; it never was done, and never can be accomplished. Christ and Baal never can be friends. One or the other must reign triumphantly on the earth, and I say that Jesus Christ shall reign, and I will help him; and Baal shall not reign here much longer-the Devil shall not have power much longer upon the land of Joseph. **8:325-326.**

The Prophet wrote and published in *Times and Seasons* an editorial entitled, "Try the Spirits," a scholarly dissertation on the nature of good and evil spirits and man's relationship to the supernatural.

Citing physical manifestations of religious zeal and excesses that existed among the various sects, the Prophet noted that, "They consider it to be the power of God, and a glorious manifestation from God. A manifestation of what? Is there any intelligence communicated? Are the curtains of heaven withdrawn, or the purposes of God developed? . . . Nothing is a greater injury to the children of men than to be under the influence of a false spirit when they think they have the Spirit of God. Thousands have felt the influence of its terrible power and baneful effects. Long pilgrimages have been undertaken, penance's endured, and pain, misery and ruin have followed in their train; nations have been convulsed, kingdoms overthrown, provinces laid waste, and blood, carnage and desolation are habiliments in which it has been clothed." Noting that "there was nothing indecorous in the proceeding of the Lord's prophets in any age," he denounced the "fallings, twitchings, swoonings, shaking, and trances of many of our modern revivalists," and specifically criticized the deceptions of Johanna Southcott, Jemimah Wilkinson, the Campbell sisters, and other alleged prophetesses, reminding his readers that God never did in any age call women to be prophets and apostles.

Acknowledging that the Mormon Church had also had its difficulties with deception, he recalled that, "Soon after the Gospel was established in Kirtland, and during the absence of the authorities of the Church, many false spirits were introduced, many strange visions were seen, and wild, enthusiastic notions were entertained; men ran out of doors under the influence of this spirit, and some of them got upon the stumps of trees and shouted, and all kinds of extravagances were entered into by them . . . calculated to bring disgrace upon the Church of God, to cause the Spirit of God to be withdrawn, and to uproot and destroy those glorious principles which have been developed for the salvation of the human family. But when the authorities returned, the spirit was made manifest, those members that were exercised with it were tried for their fellowship, and those that would not repent and forsake it were cut off."

JOSEPH SMITH THE MORMON PROPHET p. 162

SPIRITUALISM (From Mormon Doctrine)

Those religionists who attempt and frequently attain communion (as they suppose) with departed spirits are called *spiritualists*. Their doctrine and belief that mediums and other mortals can actually hold intercourse with the spirits of the dead is called *spiritualism*. Such communion, if and when it occurs, is manifest by means of physical phenomena, such as so-called spirit-rapping's, or during abnormal mental states, such as in trances. These communications are commonly arranged and shown forth through the instrumentality of *mediums*.

It is true that some mediums do make contact with spirits during their *seances*. In most

instances, however, such spirits as manifest themselves are probably the demons or devils who were cast out of heaven for rebellion. Such departed spirits as become involved in these spiritualistic orgies would obviously be the spirits of wicked and depraved persons who because of their previous wickedness in mortality had wholly subjected them-selves to the dominion of Lucifer. Righteous spirits would have nothing but contempt and pity for the attempts of mediums to make contact with them.

No matter how sincerely mediums may be deceived into thinking they are following a divinely approved pattern, they are in fact turning to an evil source "for the living to hear from the dead." Those who are truly spiritually inclined know this by personal revelation from the true Spirit; further, the information revealed from spirits through mediums is not according to "the law and to the testimony." Accordingly, though some true facts may be found in it, yet its acceptance and use has the effect of leading souls into the clutches of those evil powers which give the data.. Lucifer is not alone ;one third of the spirit hosts of heaven, having been cast out with him, stand at his side to do his bidding. Their mission is to make war with the saints and to destroy the souls of all men. (Rev 12.) Obviously there are many *evil spirits* available to seduce and lead astray each person on earth.

Acting in conformity with laws which exist, evil spirits have power to tempt men, to entice them to work wickedness and to induce ~ to do those things which are carnal, sensual, and devilish. Revelations come to men just as easily from devils as they do from holy sources. By rebellion and wickedness men may commune with evil spirits, whereas by obedience and righteousness they might have seen angels and had the communion of the Holy Spirit. All these things are governed by law.

Evil spirits control much of the so-called religious worship in the world; for instance, the great creeds of Christendom were formulated so as to conform to their whispered promptings. They have played a substantial part in the formulation of the philosophies of the world; so-called scientific theories have been influenced by them. By hearkening to their promptings, leaders of nations have led their peoples into wars and every sort of evil.

Whether they know it or not, Satan is and has been the master of all who live after the manner of the world. Stalin, for instance (though he may not have been aware of the source of his ideas), seemed to have been influenced by evil spirits in the direction of the murderous and barbarous course he pursued both in his home Russia and in the nations of the earth.

Excerpts of A Prophecy on Satan, Stumbling Blocks & Delusions in The Last Days

A great and awful crisis is at hand -such a crises was never known before since the foundation of the world. All nations are looking through the misty future , in order descry if possible what **is** about to happen. The Devil or Satan will be revealed in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. He It is that will head the opposition against God and His Christ. He will be allowed a much longer chain than heretofore. And such will be the greatness of his power that it will seem to many that he is entirely loose. He will be so far unshackled and unchained that his power will deceive all nations even the world. The elect will barely escape the power of his sorceries, enchantments, and miracles. And even God Himself will contribute to put means and instruments in his way and at hand for his use .So he can have a full trial of his strength and cunning with all decievableness of **unrighteousness** in them that perish. The Devil in the last stage of desperation will take such pre-eminent lead in literature, politics, philosophy, sciences, and religion, wars famines, pestilence, earthquakes, etc.

Men will be raised for the express purpose of furthering the designs and marvelous works of the Devil. Every description of curious and mysterious arts that penetrate beyond the common pale of human wisdom will be studied and practiced beyond what has been known by mere mortals. Satan with those he has raised up shall bring such delusion that princes, presidents, governors will be constrained to bow to it

Their credulity will be taxed beyond the power of resistance. The workers of these mysterious and supernatural causes will challenge and defy disputation. The senses and judgment of men cannot withstand such imperative facts and will arrest their observations. For it cannot be denied that facts of the ingredients of these mysterious and wonderful arts and sciences will give them irresistible strength of conviction to those who are unenlightened by the Spirit of God. And so far as facts and truth are mingled it must also be acknowledged, God will contribute to produce the delusions. He has said that "He will send them strong delusions that they might believe a lie."...God suffers Satan to compound and mix-up the truth and error in such proportions as to be captivating and strongly delusive.

Who shall be able to withstand? Do you think a profound philosophical and scientific mind will enable you to detect the error and delusion of these arts and sciences? This is vain hope. Your mind will not be competent to detect the delusion... you say then I will stand aloof from investigation. I will shun all acquaintance with these mysterious workings in order that I may not be carried away with their delusive influence? Vain hope oh man, you cannot be neutral. You must choose your side and put on your armor.... Those who take refuge in the name of the lord and in immediate revelation from heaven will be safe, and no others. You must know **it** for yourself, and not for another. This is your right and privilege. For God has made this promise to you and all others whom He calls. to repentance.

The Millennial Star Vol. 15 # 18 & 19 April 30, 1853

HABITATS OF THE DAMNED

by

O. B. HUNTINGTON

When the Saints moved to Nauvoo or Commerce, as it was then called, it might be called a deserted town, or partly so at least, as there were many empty houses, mostly built of logs and had stood so low that the mud had fallen from the spaces between them.

The Saints just driven from Missouri were glad to get such shelter as those old houses would afford, and they were all soon filled, some-times two and three families in one house. Some houses had no floors, some no doors.

Soon the inmates became sick - sickness increased until Joseph Smith began to be alarmed and saw something very unusual in the new affliction. He looked into the matter as only a Seer and Prophet could look. He saw the trouble and where it came from. Those houses had been dens of iniquity. He instituted means to empty them again by moving the people into tents and doubling up families in better houses. My father's family he took into his own house and tent.

I once heard him say concerning houses that had been inhabited by wicked people, that before the Saints moved into them they should be thoroughly cleansed, then fumigated with brimstone and whitewash. Afterward there should be a season of prayer in the house, and it should be dedicated unto the Lord for the use they designed for it.

Those old houses had been owned or occupied by wicked, unprincipled men, gamblers, outlaws, licentious robbers, etc., and those that were of the same stamp had met there for evil practices and criminal purposes and there carried on their orgies. While this was the pastime or work of men and women in bodies, disembodied spirits of the same ilk stood around in highest glee and in various ways manifested to one another their enjoyment of the vilest of sins.

When the owners or occupants of the houses were dead, they enjoyed each other's society with their new pals in the spirit state, and when the righteous took possession of their old houses, all combined to kill the new inhabitants, and hence so much sickness for all evil spirits whether in the body or out of the body, are opposed to this work and this people, and the spirits in the spirit world have means by which they can affect people on earth, and are as diligent there as here to do good or evil.

The last of these old houses doomed to destruction stood quite alone, and for a long time was occupied by one lone woman who persisted in staying there although requested to vacate. Finally Joseph told William Huntington and another brother to go and bum the house that it might

no longer be inhabited. They went without delay and removed the woman and her effects and cleansed the house by fire, but first shoved the roof down inside, as it was against the law for a man to burn even his own building that had a roof on. (Young Woman's Journal, Vol. 2:467-468)

Joseph Smith's Testimony

After I had retired to the place where I had previously designed to go, having looked around me, and finding myself alone, I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God. I made a fruitless attempt to pray; my tongue seemed to be swollen in my mouth, so that I could not utter. I heard a noise behind me like some person walking towards me. I sprang up on my feet and looked around, but saw no person or thing that was calculated to produce the noise of walking. I kneeled down again. Immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction. But, exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment which I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction—not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world, who had such a marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being.

Oliver Cowdery's Writings

[After making three attempts to secure the plates, Joseph Smith saw] the angel who had previously given him the directions concerning this matter. In an instant, all the former instructions, the great intelligence concerning Israel and the last days, were brought to his mind. He had come, to be sure, and found the word of angel fulfilled concerning the reality of the record, but he had failed to remember the great end for which they had been kept, and in consequence could not have power to take them into his possession and bear them away. At that instant he looked to the Lord in prayer, and as he prayed darkness began to disperse from his mind and his soul was lit up as it was the evening before, and he was filled with the Spirit; and again did the Lord manifest his condescension and mercy. the heavens were opened and the glory of the Lord shone round about and rested upon him. While he thus stood gazing and admiring, the angel said, "Look!" and as he thus spake he beheld the prince of darkness, surrounded by his innumerable train of associates. All this passed before him, and the heavenly messenger said, "All this is shown, the good and the evil, the Holy and impure, the glory of God and the power of darkness, that you may know hereafter the two powers and never be influenced or overcome by that wicked one. You now see why you could not obtain this record. The plates are not deposited here for the sake of accumulating gain and wealth for the glory of the world.

M&A 2 (October 1835)

From Joseph Smith's History. Vol. 1

Among those who attended our meetings regularly, was Ncwel Knight son of Joseph Knight. He and I had many serious conversations on the important subject of man's eternal salvation; we had

got into the habit of praying much at our meetings and Newel had said he would try and take up his cross, and pray vocally during meeting; but when we again met together he rather excused himself. I tried to prevail upon him, making use of the figure, supposing that he should get into a mud-hole, would he not try to help himself out? and that we were willing now to help him out of the mud-hole, he replied that provided he had got into a mud-hole through carelessness, he would rather wait and get out himself than have others help him, and so he would wait until he should get into the woods by himself, and there he would pray. Accordingly he deferred praying until the next morning, when he retired into the woods; where (according to his own account afterwards) he made several attempts to pray, but could scarcely do so, feeling that he had not done his duty, but that he should have prayed in the presence of others. He began to feel uneasy, and continued to feel worse both in mind and body, until upon reaching his own house, his appearance was such as to alarm his wife very much. He requested her to go and bring me to him. _ I went, and found him suffering very much in his **mind**, and his body acted upon in a very strange manner. His visage and limbs were distorted and twisted in every shape and appearance possible to imagine; and finally he was caught up off the floor of the apartment and tossed about most fearfully. His situation was soon made known to his neighbors and relatives, and in a short time as many as eight or nine grown persons had got together to witness the scene. After he had thus suffered for a time, I succeeded in getting hold of him by the hand, when almost immediately he spoke to me, and with great earnestness requested of me, that I should cast the devil out of him, saying that he knew he was in him, and that he also knew that I could cast him out. I replied, if you know that I can, it shall be done, and then almost unconsciously. I rebuked the devil; and commanded him in the name of Jesus Christ to depart from him; when immediately Newel spoke out and said that he could see the devil leave him and vanish from his sight. This was the first miracle which has been done in this Church, or by any member of it, and it was done by God; and by the power of godliness; therefore let the honor and tile praise, the dominion and the glory, be ascribed to the Father, Son and Holy Sprit, forever and ever, Amen..

The scene was now entirely changed, for as soon as the devil had departed from our friend, his countenance became *natural*. His distortion of body ceased, and almost immediately the Spirit of God descended upon him, and the visions of eternity were opened to his view. He afterwards related his experience as follows: "I now began to feel a most pleasing sensation resting upon me, and immediately the visions of heaven were opened to my view. I felt myself attracted upwards, and remained for sometime enwrapped in contemplation, insomuch that I knew not what was going on in the room By and by I felt some weight pressing upon my shoulder and the side of my head; which served to recall me to a sense of my situation, and I found that the Spirit of the Lord had actually caught me up off the floor, and that my shoulder and head were pressing against the beams.

All this was witnessed by many, to their great astonishment and satisfaction, when they saw the devil thrust out, and the power of God and His Holy Spirit thus made manifest."

Evil Spirits Rebuked

(Experiences of Newel Knight) (Taken from Scraps of Biography, page 66)

Newel Knight also recorded an instance in which an evil spirit attempted to block the course of the repentance process. Once again, sin had opened the way for Satan's followers to enter:

Brother Joseph from time to time sent copies of revelations to me for the benefit of the branch over which I presided in common with all the Saints in Zion. On reading one of these revelations to the branch, my aunt. . . . arose and contradicted the revelation, saying it must be

taken in a spiritual light. She went to such a length that I felt constrained to rebuke her by the authority of the Priesthood. At this time she was angry, and from that time sought to influence all who would listen to her. The result was a division of feeling in the branch, and her husband partook of her spirit until he became so enthusiastic, that he went from branch to branch crying, 'hosanna, glory to God! Zion is redeemed! and blessed is he that bringeth good tidings to the people!' Sister Peck at length began to feel the weight of what she had done, but she could not recall

She seemed racked with great torment, her mind found no rest, until a burning fever brought her to a sick bed. She sent for several of the Elders to administer to her, but found no relief. At last she sent for P. P. Pratt, Lyman Wight and my-self, we laid our hands upon her and administered to her, after which she looked up in despair and said she hoped I would deliver her from the awful state she was in. Her whole frame was racked with intense anguish while her mind seemed almost in despair. Brother Parley said to me; 'Brother Newel, you must do something for her.' My soul was drawn out in pity for her, yet I knew not what to do. *I felt impressed to call the branch together that evening.*

When the meeting had been opened as usual, I arose, not knowing what to do or what to say. After requesting the prayers and united faith of all present, *the Spirit of the Lord came upon me, so that I was able to make plain the cause of Sister Peck's illness - that she had risen up in opposition to the Priesthood which had been placed over that branch of the Church, and contradicted the revelations of God, and that by the sympathies shown her, a division of feeling had gained advantage over them, until Sister Peck had fallen completely under the power of Satan, and could not extricate herself.* I told the brethren and sisters, if they would repent of what they had done, and renew their covenants one with another and with the Lord, and uphold the authorities placed over them, and also the revelations which the Lord had given unto us, it would be all right with Sister Peck, for this would break the bands of Satan and make us free.

I had no sooner closed my remarks than with one united voice, all came forward and agreed to do so. *I then went to Sister Peck, and in the name of Jesus Christ, and by virtue of the Holy Priesthood, commanded the evil powers to depart from her, and blessed her with peace and strength, both of body and mind.*

From Book GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT by

Another incident

On the 14th of October, Brother Hyrum Smith and I held a meeting at my uncle Hezekiah Peck's. Brother Hyrum had great liberty of speech, and the Spirit of the Lord was poured out upon us in a miraculous manner. There was much good instruction and exhortation given, such as was calculated to en-courage and strengthen the Saints in this their infantile state. At this meeting, four persons came forward and manifested their desire to forsake all, serve their God in humility, and obey the requirements of the gospel.

After the close of the meeting, Brother Hyrum and I intended going to spend the night with one of the brethren who lived a short distance from my uncle's, but as we were ready to start, the Spirit whispered to me that I should tarry there at my uncle's all night. I did so and retired to bed where I rested till midnight when my uncle came to my room and desired me to get up, saying he feared his wife was about to die. This surprised me as she was quite well when I went to bed. I dressed myself, and having asked my Heavenly Father to give me wisdom and power to rebuke the destroyer from the habitation, I went to the room where my aunt lay. She was in a most fearful condition; her eyes were closed; and she appeared to be in the last agonies of death. Presently she opened her eyes, and bade her husband and children farewell, telling them she must die for the redemption of this generation, as Jesus Christ had died for the generation in his day. Her whole frame shook, and she appeared to be racked with the most exquisite pain and torment. Her hands and feet were cold; and the blood settled in her fingers, while her husband and children stood weeping around her bed. This was a scene new to me and I felt she was suffering under the power of Satan -that was the same spirit that had bound and overpowered me at the time Joseph

cast him out. I now cried unto the Lord for strength and wisdom that we might prevail over this wicked and delusive power. Just at this time my uncle cried aloud to me saying: "O, Brother Newel, cannot something be done?" I felt the Holy Spirit of the Lord rest upon me as he said this, and I immediately stepped forward, took her by the hand, and commanded Satan, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to depart. I told my aunt she would not die but that she should live to see her children grow up, that Satan had deceived her and put a lying spirit in her mouth, that Christ had made the only and last atonement for all who would believe on his name, and that there should be no more shedding of blood for sin. She believed and stretched forth her hand, and cried unto me, and Satan departed from her.

Another sister chose to rebuke the Elders and in so doing allowed evil spirits to possess her body. Elder Benjamin Brown, who labored with her, told of the call which he and two other missionaries made upon her:

Directly we entered her room, she called out, 'Take your shoes from off your feet; this is holy ground, the Prophet Elijah is here.'

I saw the spirit by which she was influenced, so I walked up to her and said, 'I am a servant of the Lord, I obey no command of the devil.'

She became uproarious directly, for all who had gone in previously had complied with her directions. As soon as we attempted to rebuke the evil spirit in the name of the Lord, she arose up from the bed on her feet, without apparently bending a joint in her body, as stiff as a rod of iron.

From this we saw the power with which we had to contend; and, failing at first to eject the spirit, we bowed ourselves in prayer before the Lord, and asked him to assist us.

The evil spirit then came out full of fury, and, as he passed by one of the brethren, seized him by both arms and gripped them violently. Passing towards me, something, which by the feel appeared like a man's hand, grasped me by both sides of the face, and attempted to pull me sideways to the ground, but the hold appearing to slip, I recovered my balance immediately.

My face was sore for some days after this. The other brother that was seized was lame for a week afterwards.

As soon as this was done, the sister partly recovered, so much so that she obeyed everything I chose to tell her to do, whereas, before, she was perfectly ungovernable.

Still she seemed to be surrounded by some evil influence. This puzzled us, for we knew the spirit was cast out, but we learned the cause afterwards. Just then it was revealed to us that if we went to sleep the devil would enter one of the brethren.

About a week afterwards the same spirit re-entered the sister, and this time fully confessed his character. In answer to our inquires, he said his name was 'Legion.' This explained how it was that the woman, after we had cast out an evil spirit, was under an evil influence, for there must have been many spirits.

He also reviled our priesthood, but he had to submit to it at last, saying to us, 'O! you have the priesthood have you? Well, then, cast me out, command me to come out,' trying to shake our faith, and thus incapacitate us to rebuke him successfully.

Failing in this, he tried another method by entering me. I felt seized by a strange influence, and to every question put to the woman I knew the answer she was going to give, for I was possessed by a similar spirit. This broke the chain of our union and strength, consequently I requested the Elders to rebuke the evil spirit from me, after which, at our united rebuke, he left the woman.

Previous to this the sister had been a very faithful Saint, and she ever afterwards was, but *she had given the devil ground by encouraging a spirit contrary to the order of the Church, taking herself to rebuke the Elders*, and he claimed his right by virtue of her transgression.

From The Book **GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

HOSTS OF HELL

An Experience of Heber C. Kimball while in England 1837

"Saturday evening," says Heber C. Kimball, "it was agreed that I should go forward and baptize, the next morning, in the river Ribble, which runs through Preston.

"By this time the adversary of souls began to rage, and he felt determined to destroy us before we had fully established the kingdom of God in that land, and the next morning I witnessed a scene of satanic power and influence which I shall never forget.

"Sunday, July 30th (1837), about daybreak, Elder Isaac Russell (who had been appointed to preach on the obelisk in Preston Square, that day), who slept with Elder Richards in Wilfred Street, came up to the third story, where Elder Hyde and myself were sleeping, and called out, 'Brother Kimball, I want you should get up and pray for me that I may be delivered from the evil spirits that are tormenting me to such a degree that I feel I cannot live long, unless I obtain relief.' "I had been sleeping on the back of the bed. I immediately arose, slipped off at the foot of the bed, and passed around to where he was. Elder Hyde threw his feet out, and sat up in the bed, and we laid hands on him, I being mouth, and prayed that the Lord would have mercy on him, and rebuked the devil.

"While thus engaged, I was struck with great force by some invisible power, and fell senseless on the floor. The first thing I recollected was being supported by Elders Hyde and Richards, who were praying for me; Elder Richards having followed Russell up to my room. Elder Hyde and Richards then assisted me to get on the bed, but my agony was so great I could not endure it, and I arose, bowed my knees and prayed. I then arose and sat up on the bed, when a vision was opened to our minds, and we could distinctly see the evil spirits, who foamed and gnashed their teeth at us. We gazed upon them about an hour and a half (by Willard's watch). We were not looking towards the window, but towards the wall. Space appeared before us, and we saw the devils coming in legions, with their leaders, who came within a few feet of us. They came towards us like armies rushing to battle. They appeared to be men of full stature, possessing every form and feature of men in the flesh, who 'were angry and desperate; and I shall never forget the vindictive malignity depicted on their countenances as they looked me in the eye; and any attempt to paint the scene which then presented itself, or portray their malice and enmity, would be vain. I perspired exceedingly, my clothes becoming as wet as if I had been taken out of the river. I felt excessive pain, and was in the greatest distress for some time. I cannot even look back on the scene without feelings of horror; yet by it I learned the power of the adversary, his enmity against the servants of God, and got some understanding of the invisible world. We distinctly heard those spirits talk and express their wrath and hellish designs against us. However, the Lord delivered us from them, and blessed us exceedingly that day."

Elder Hyde's supplemental description of that fearful scene is as follows, taken from a

letter addressed to President Kimball:

"Every circumstance that occurred at that scene of devils is just as fresh in my recollection at this moment as it was at the moment of its occurrence, and will ever remain so. After you were overcome by them and had fallen, their awful rush upon me with knives, threats, imprecations and hellish grins, amply convinced me that they were no friends of mine. While you were apparently senseless and lifeless on the floor and upon the bed (after we had laid you there), I stood between you and the devils and fought them and contended with them face to face, until they began to diminish in number and to retreat from the room. The last imp that left turned round to me as he was going out and said, as if to apologize, appease my determined opposition to them, 'I never did anything against you!' I replied to him thus: 'It matters not to me whether you have or have not; you are ' liar from the beginning! In the name of Jesus Christ, depart!' He immediately left, and the room was clear. "that closed the scene of devils for that time."

Years later, narrating the experience of that awful morning to the Prophet Joseph, Heber asked him what it all meant, and whether there was anything wrong with him that he should have such a manifestation.

"No, Brother Heber," he replied, "at that time you were nigh unto the Lord; there was only a veil between you and Him, but you could not see Him. When I heard of it, it gave me great joy, for I then knew that the work of God had taken root in that land. It was this that caused the devil to make a struggle to kill you."

Joseph then related some of his own experience, in many contests he had had with the evil one, and said:

"The nearer a person approaches the Lord, a greater power will be manifested by the adversary to prevent the accomplishment of His purposes."

LIFE OF HEBER C. KIMBALL by Orson F. Whitney

Evil Spirit Confesses That Joseph Smith Was a Prophet

The war over the souls of men instigated by Lucifer in the pre-existence is still being waged in mortality and becomes most intense at the time of an individual's conversion. The family in this story experiences first hand the power and influence of both sides and, upon comparing their fruits,' chooses to enlist in the Lord's army by being baptized.

During the winter of 1877-8 a young missionary of this church was traveling in and about Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, proclaiming the doctrines of the gospel wherever an opportunity was presented. In his journeys he came in contact *with a* family which, for some years, had been connected with the Spiritualists. He preached to these persons, and finally agreed with the head of the *family* to alternately attend the meetings of the Saints and those of the counterfeit *which was* originated by *Satan*.

One evening a Mr. Morse, who was a very noted medium for the manifestation of the power of Spiritualism, arrived at Newcastle for the purpose of giving an exhibition. Our missionary and his friend were present and the former, never having seen anything of the kind before, was astonished at the proceedings

When the medium entered on the platform he said that if his spirit guide did not fail him he would speak upon the subject "Heaven and Hell." He then sat in a chair, clasped his hands, placing the ends of his thumbs together, and remained in this position for about five minutes,

while an organist played a quiet, solemn tune on the instrument. During these moments the face of Mr. Morse appeared to undergo a complete change, twitching being visible in the upper part of his body, the features becoming somewhat distorted and being overspread by a deathly pallor. At the expiration of this time the medium arose, ascended the pulpit, and for one hour and fifty-five minutes poured forth a volume of the most enchanting oratory. The audience was held as if spell-bound. The speaker did not for a moment open his eyes during the delivery of his discourse.

As he concluded, permission was given for any in audience who desired it to write questions which the speaker would answer. Quite a number of those present wrote questions on slips of paper, folded the same and as a platter was passed around these were dropped in promiscuously. They were then taken to the medium who, with his right hand, lifted them one by one from the platter, held them for a moment in his hands before him without unfolding them, during which time he slowly repeated the question aloud, and then, as he threw it aside with his left hand, gave an answer to the question.

Just at that time there was considerable talk among all religious people about the late President Brigham Young, who had died but four or five months previous, and some person in the audience propounded the following question:

"Where is Brigham Young?"

The answer was distinctly given:

"I do not know, he is in the spheres beyond me" Our missionary asked by note:

"Was Joseph Smith a prophet?"

And received the reply:

"Yes."

"Where do you get your information?" was another of the questions, which was answered:

"From the gates of the celestial city."

To the question whether or not the spirit operating upon Mr. Morse had ever existed in flesh on the earth the reply came:

"Yes, I existed as a professor about four thousand years ago in the vicinity of the Euphrates."

Many other questions were asked and answers given, after which the speaker made movements such as a person does who 'wakens out of a sound sleep, and after rubbing his eyes some little appeared quite natural again.

On another occasion it was arranged for a spiritual seance to be held at the house of our missionary's friend. The medium at this time was a woman. She arranged those who desired to take part in a circle around the table, upon which they merely touched their fingers. The thumbs of each person's hands were arranged so that the ends would come in contact, while the little fingers touched those of the persons sitting on either side.

All this being done the table gradually began to move, first on one side and then on the other until finally it was entirely suspended in the air without any visible support. Our missionary thought at first that some deception was being practiced, but he carefully examined it from all sides and was convinced that his eyes did not deceive him. There were also some manifestations

of spirit-rapping, in answer to questions which were asked by various persons present. 'The method of spelling out replies was as follows: After the question had been propounded, the letters of the alphabet were repeated in regular order until the proper one was reached, when it was indicated by a distinct 'rap on the table. This letter was then written and the next one necessary for the spelling of a word was obtained in a similar manner. This was continued until the answer was complete.

After the company had practiced for some little time, our missionary sat down to the table with the others, and though he sat in the same position as the remainder, no, manifestation was given. The medium then had some of them change places remarking at the same time that there was something present which did not harmonize. No difference, however, was seen even from the change of positions, and, in fact nothing occurred until our missionary moved from the circle, when the movements of the table and the rapping became even more vigorous than before.

Both of these exhibitions were given by gas light, so there was no chance of any deception, such as is frequently practiced in so-called spiritual seances.

Now, these were examples of the power of the evil spirits-a spirit which began to manifest itself shortly after the organization of this church and endeavored to counterfeit the power which God Himself had placed in the latter. The spirit of the false teachers, and which was felt here, produced an unsatisfactory, discontented feeling, instead of a peaceful and happy one, such as the Holy Spirit gives to those upon whom it rests. That the power, which made the table move, was subject to that given to the servants of God was evident from the fact that operations ceased when our missionary formed a Part of the circle. Neither does the Lord show forth His Power to gratify the idle curiosity of men, and he only gives His Spirit and authority to those who humbly obey the laws of the everlasting gospel, and prove themselves worthy of receiving these inestimable blessings.

The difference between the workings of the two spirits, and the difference of power existing in the true and counterfeit organizations will always be made apparent to the humble seeker after truth. So it was to the acquaintance of our missionary who, with his entire family, soon afterwards accepted the gospel and is now an honored resident of this Territory.

From the Book Our Miraculous Heritage

George A. Smith went directly to London from the October conference, and Wilford Woodruff followed him about a week later. On the way, however, Wilford felt a heavy foreboding that remained with him for days. Convinced that terrible persecution and trials were about to come upon the Saints in Europe and in America, his trepidation intensified when other Saints told of having similar apprehensions. He arrived in London on Saturday, October 17, and by Sunday night he felt well enough in his mind that he was able to sleep comfortably until midnight. Then he awoke and for three hours meditated upon his mission, renewing his determination to overcome the powers of darkness that seemed to be bridling the work in England's capital city. Suddenly the apprehension of the last several days came to a head when, he said, a person whom he considered the Prince of Darkness appeared to him, fought with him, and nearly choked him to death. "As he was about to overcome me I prayed to the father in the name of Jesus for help. I then had power over him & he left me though much wounded." At that point three more persons

appeared, all dressed in white, and "prayed with me & I was immediately healed & delivered from all my troubles."

From Book MEN WITH A MISSION

Among the remarkable incidents in the Swiss mission in (1854) is the fact that after the Elders were driven out for preaching the doctrine of direct revelation, strange noises were heard in people's houses, especially in the city of Zurich, from which place all foreign Elders had been banished. The noises consisted of rapping upon cupboards, tables, dishes and other like things. The Saints were not troubled with them, but they became so frequent that they created great excitement among the outside people.

Elder John Bar wrote to me to know what it meant, and asking if it was of the Lord, and, if so, why did it not visit the Saints?

I answered that the people had rejected revelation from the Lord, and banished the Elders who taught inspiration.. That it was known in America as spirit-rapping, and that it would probably take definite shape soon. Soon after circles were formed around tables, and the rapping in other places ceased.

I believe this was the first introduction of Spiritualism into the cantons, and, so far as known, in Europe, and was similar to the first in the United States made known to "the Fox girls" of New York. Thus, my young readers will perceive that these false spirits and other delusions follow the rejection of the gospel.

Daniel Tyler -INCIDENTS OF EXPERIENCE. SCRAPS OF BIOGRAPHY

An experience given to Elder John Parry shortly after his conversion to the Church in 1846 taught him that the blessings of the gift of faith come from praying with true faith and not with just an insincere, formal prayer:

After joining the Church Elder Parry was often troubled in his sleep by evil spirits. Upon one occasion he inquired of the president of the Liverpool branch why it was that he was thus annoyed. The Elder replied that some persons were troubled more than others, and told him to use the following words in his prayers before retiring to rest: 'O God, the Eternal Father, I ask Thee in the name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, to give Thine angels charge concerning me this night and allow not the powers of darkness to molest my spirit nor body.' He did this, and was troubled with evil spirits no more, until one night, feeling very sleepy, he uttered a hasty, formal prayer and went to bed. During the night he was almost overcome by the power of evil spirits, which were visible. Unable to utter a word, he prayed fervently in his mind to the Lord to release him. In an instant the heavens appeared to him to open, and he saw an angel descend towards him. The personage took hold of him and raised him up a little and immediately the powers of darkness disappeared.

Elder Parry asked the angel why it was that the Lord permitted the evil one to abuse him in such a manner, to which he replied: *Because thou didst not pray from the heart, but with thy lips.*

From the Book Gifts of the Spirit

...Edwin and Lorenzo decided they had better leave for a few days. They walked west across the Brandywine. Here they met John Rodeback, who, after hearing them preach, asked them to bless his wife who was possessed of a devil": So we called on the Lord and anointed her and laid hands on her in the name of the Lord and commanded the Devil to depart and he was subject to the Name of Jesus and her husband took the chain from her with which she had been

bound for some months and she arose and came down stairs and got us our dinner and so we departed:

Edwin Wooley Journal 1839

Possessed of a Devil

In the spring of 1913, I was called on a mission to Australia. When Elder James E. Talmage of the Council of the Twelve set me apart, he gave me a wonderful blessing. Among many things, he said that Satan would hedge up my way on this mission and would attempt to destroy me. However, I was promised that I would return home unharmed if I would be faithful in the discharge of my duties.

At this time in the city of Rockhampton, in Queensland, there were two Latter-day Saint missionaries laboring with great zeal. They sold many copies of the Book of Mormon, and the members of the Baptist church showed a great interest, so much so that a thousand dollars was donated by this congregation to send their minister, Reverend Shaw, to Utah to investigate our claims.

When the Reverend returned with his evidence from Utah, I was asked by my mission president to travel to Rockhampton, some two thousand miles, to hear the verdict and proclaim the truth.

Upon arriving in this far northern city of Australia, I spent a day tracting in order to feel out some of the people. The second house I approached was back some distance from the street. As I walked toward it, I observed no one except a girl of about twelve who was on the front veranda. She accepted a tract and told me her parents were not home. As I turned to leave, I heard a loud shouting in the rear of the house. A man came bounding outside, shouting in an unknown tongue.

He seized a cricket bat from the lawn, and swearing at me, said he was going to kill me. I was not the least bit alarmed and quietly stood watching him as he came very close and made a swing with the bat at my head. I didn't even raise my arm to ward off the intended blow, neither did I think of running away. As the club was about to strike me, the man was lifted into the air by an unseen power, carried through the air backward for some twenty feet, and dumped onto the ground, the bat wrenched from his hands.

He caught up the bat again and came toward me with all the fury he could wield. I observed that he was possessed with an evil spirit. I shall never forget the look of the demon in this man's eyes. As I was about to be struck again, he was lifted from the earth about two feet into the air, again carried backward, and dropped on the edge of the porch, again losing control of the bat. I still stood very calm with no fear at all; I could easily have run away.

The third time he gathered up the bat and with yells and curses came toward me and got very close. As he struck at me with all the power he could wield, he was again lifted some four feet from the ground and thrown onto the porch with the bat thrown many feet out onto the lawn, while he himself was twisted into a pitiful shape. He lay groaning in misery. I looked him over for a moment, then looked toward the girl who was still sitting on the porch reading the tract.

I walked slowly away knowing that I had witnessed the operation of two powers, one of Satan and the other of the Lord. I thanked the Lord for saving my life. After I had walked a few blocks, I became frightened and ran to where my younger companion was tracting. He said I was very pale.

The next day I chanced to meet this man who had been possessed of a devil. He was riding a horse, as he was a race horse trainer. We looked each other in the eyes while only a few feet apart and he did not recognize me. Neither of us spoke because we were strangers. The wicked spirit was gone.

From the Book THE MASTER'S TOUCH

William Budge's encounter with satanic powers is recorded as follows:

On one occasion William Budge was visited by Elders Fulton and McMillan, who had also been called to missionary work from the Glasgow branch, and who were on their way to their field of labor a few miles from Workington. They related to my father a remarkable incident of their journey. It was, in effect, that on several nights they had been visited by evil spirits who roughly tossed them about in the bed, on one occasion, lifting one elder over the other and nearly onto the floor. My father believed in the probable manifestation of unseen powers, but had had no personal experience up to that time, and therefore the account given by his friends rather amused him, especially because of the almost frightened manner in which they related the incident.

On the night of June 17, 1851, my father had retired as usual to his room. On account of the ill feeling against him he had taken the precaution of guarding, as well as possible, against surprise and acts of personal violence by those residents of the community who so deeply resented his presence among them, by making secure the door and window of his apartment. He had just gotten into bed and adjusted himself for sleep, when suddenly his attention was called to a figure in one corner of the room, apparently dressed in a black robe. It made no sound, but seemed to glide to the head of the bed. Immediately my father felt his head to be enveloped under a severe and painful pressure which gradually proceeded down his body and limbs to his feet, until he was completely enthralled. The pressure was so great as if he must die in the embrace of this strange power. He tried to cry out but could not neither could he move. His agony became intense and without apparent means of relief when the thought flashed through his mind that the power which oppressed him was the power of the evil one. He then formulated in his mind the command. "By virtue of the Priesthood which I hold.! command thee to depart." but still no relief came. and then he remembered that Christ said, "In my name shall ye cast out devils," and the command which had been ,mentally expressed had not been given in Jesus name. He thereupon thought out the command: "In the name of Jesus Christ and by virtue of the Priesthood which I hold I command thee to depart." and immediately the pressure was relieved from his feet, and was gradually lifted from his limbs and body and from his head, and the same figure stood at the bedside and then silently glided backward to the corner, and disappeared.

Jesse R.S. Budge, Life of William Budge, p. 18.

The Prophet Joseph Smiths Mother Tells of False Revelations Given in Kirtland in 1837 by the Power of Satan:

At this time a certain young woman, who was living at David Whitmer's, uttered a prophecy, which she said was given her by looking through a black stone that she had found. This prophecy gave some altogether a new idea of things. She said the reason why one-third of the Church would turn away from Joseph was because that he was in transgression himself; that he would fall from his office on account of the same; that David Whitmer or Martin Harris would fill Joseph's place; and that the one who did not succeed him would be the counselor to the one that did.

The girl soon became an object of great attention among those who were disaffected. Dr. Williams became her scribe and wrote her revelations for her. Jared Carter, who lived in the same house with David Whitmer, soon imbibed the same spirit, and I was informed that he said in one of their meetings that he had power to raise Joseph Smith to the highest heavens, or sink him down to the lowest hell.

They still held their secret meetings at David Whitmer's, and when the young woman who was their *instructress* was through giving what revelations she intended for the evening, she would jump out of her chair and dance over the floor, boasting of her power, until she was

perfectly exhausted. Her proselytes would also, in the most vehement manner, proclaim their purity and holiness, and the mighty power which they were going to have.

They made a standing appointment for meetings to be held every Thursday, by the pure church in the house of the Lord. They also circulated a paper in order to ascertain how many would follow them, and it was found that a large number of The Church were disaffected.

History of Joseph Smith by His Mother p. 243

When individuals are seemingly prompted to correct the prophets called to preside over the Church, it is very possible that they are receiving false revelations from the evil one, Lucifer. Such was the case with Hiram Page, who found a strange stone and began to receive revelations through it. Of him Joseph Smith wrote,

To our great grief, however, we soon found that Satan had been lying in wait to deceive, and seeking whom he might devour. Brother Hiram Page had in his possession [sic] a certain stone, by which he had obtained certain "revelations" concerning the up-building of Zion, the order of the Church, etc. all of which were entirely at variance with the order of God's house, as laid down in the New Testament, as well as in our late revelations. As a conference meeting had been appointed for the 26th day of September, I thought it wisdom not to do much more than to converse with the brethren on the subject, until the conference should meet. Finding, however, that many, especially the Whitmer family and Oliver Cowdery, were believing much in the things set forth by this stone, we thought best to inquire of the Lord concerning so important a matter; and before conference convened, we received the following:

And again thou shalt take thy brother, Hiram Page, between him and thee alone, and tell him that those things which he hath written from that stone are not of me, and that Satan deceiveth him;

For behold, these things have not been appointed unto him, neither shall anything be appointed unto any of this church contrary to the church covenants.

For all things must be done in order, and by common consent in the church, by the prayer of faith.

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

A Conversation With Satan

Samuel H. Roundy, a member of the Church who lived in Salt Lake City in the early part of this century, relates an interesting dream wherein he had a conversation with Lucifer. In that experience Lucifer admitted his continuing desire to deceive the Saints by imitating the works of God through spiritualism and mediumism. While the dream's nature is unknown and is not binding doctrine on the Church, it nevertheless illustrates how Satan's purpose is to deceive the Saints and destroy the work of the Savior:

In the year 1925 about February 15th, I found myself one night sitting on one side of a table in my home and Lucifer sitting on the other side. How he came I saw not. I immediately asked this question:

Roundy: Lucifer why do you seek to destroy and tear down the good works of the Saviour?

Lucifer: That is my mission.... It was then just like two political parties now. The party that is defeated still thinks its' platform the best. I not only think my plan is the best, but I claim Jesus stole my crown and I am doing all I can to overthrow his work. We have one very important advantage over the Saints.

Roundy: I asked in what way?

Lucifer: Just think a moment, said he.

Roundy: Suddenly it came to me. Oh, yes, I understand, it is this; when our Spirits entered our mortal bodies we lost the knowledge we had in the pre-existent state and you and your followers,

not having the privilege of entering mortal bodies, retained that knowledge, therefore, you knew from the beginning the life-mission of all the great men.

Lucifer: Yes, he said, and we in every instance try to destroy them so as to prevent God's work through them.

Roundy: I have believed for many years it was you that sought to destroy Moses, Cyrus, Abraham, The Saviour and Joseph Smith while they were young, but you failed, did you not?

Lucifer: Yes, I did, but we know and understand Jesus's plan and doctrines just as well or better than do the Saints. We are just as perfectly organized as you, and are working more faithful than you are.

Roundy: Yes, so I understand, and I also understand that you send out missionaries, hold your conferences, receive reports, etc., that you also have a priesthood.

Lucifer: Yes, I have a priesthood. We send our agents out two and two as you do. We send our best informed to the authorities who preside over the people, also around the temples to discourage the temple work. We also hold our conferences, hear reports, attend to the business and pair them off and send them out again.

Roundy: I said, while you hold a priesthood you must obey the priesthood of God. Must you not? In answering this question he emphasized it very much and said:

Lucifer: ONLY WHEN IT IS EXERCISED IN FAITH, do I.

Roundy: Then as your agents travel among the people, you and your agents know everything that is going on, don't you? especially among the Latter-day Saints—know all about their financial condition, social relations, etc.?

Lucifer: Yes, my agents have all things necessary and report to me.

Roundy: Then with this knowledge in your possession you are the author of spiritualism, mediumism, slate writings and all things connected therewith.

Lucifer: Yes sir, we have all knowledge necessary, and we can impersonate and imitate any person, so, when the spiritualists call for a certain person, my servants answer, having the information required.

Roundy: You said in the beginning of this conversation that it was your mission to destroy the works of Jesus Christ. Now with the perfect organization that you have, you are, as it has been said, everywhere present. Is this true?

Lucifer: Yes, it is our mission to overthrow all that leads to purity and Godliness, and we are everywhere present, especially in the sick room where the priesthood is, we are there to offset their power, and as thoughts are seeds sown, we do all we can to put evil thoughts into the minds of the people, especially the young; then teach them to cultivate those evil thoughts as they grow up to manhood and womanhood.

When the Sons of God met I was present, and when God would have you do good. we cause you to think evil. This has been our mission from the beginning, to OVERCOME good with evil. We knew when Joseph Smith was to come and we did all in our power to destroy him, but failed. Also you claim you must overcome evil with good. This is the conflict called the battle of the end, the time of times of the End.

Roundy: Do you believe that all the Latter-day Saints are seeking the glory of God ?

Lucifer: No sir, I do not. All, who are seeking the praise of man, the pleasure of the world, and the almighty dollar, are coming my way and that is the majority of them....

Roundy: 6000 years was the time allotted you for the establishment of your kingdom, was it not?

Lucifer: Yes sir, that was, or is, the allotted time.

Roundy: Then you must know that your end is near.

Lucifer: Yes, I do, but I want to tell you before I am bound, every person that can be led astray will be, and as far as I can, I am going to accomplish my work through the women from now on, and everything in this world will be turned upside down before I am bound [See Revelation 20:1-3. The "chain" by which Satan is bound means the Priesthood coming down from Heaven].

Roundy: . . . I will say he did not seem to become vexed at any time during our conversation. Just how long it lasted I cannot tell. It seems about one-half the night. I did not see him come or leave.
S. H. ROUNDY, (Signed)

Unpublished Manuscript , Church Historical Department in Salt Lake City, Utah. And in New age Menace By David N. Balmforth 1996, pp 56-59

David P. Kimball Son of Heber C. Kimball has Terrible Ordeal With Evil Spirits

For the benefit' of such as may not have known Brother David P. Kimball, we will state that he was the fourth son of the late President Heber C. Kimball Here is the excerpt from David's letter: (1882)

"On the 4th of November, I took a very severe cold in a snow storm at Prescott, being clad in light clothing, which brought on pneumonia or lung fever. I resorted to Jamaica ginger and pepper tea to obtain relief and keep up my strength till I could reach home and receive proper care. On the 13th I camped in a canyon ten miles west of Prescott, Az. my son Patten being with me. We had a team of eight horses and two wagons. That night I suffered more than death. The next night we camped at Mr. McIntyre's, about twenty miles farther on. I stopped there two nights and one day, during which time I took nothing to drink but pepper tea. On the 13th we drove to Black's ranch, twenty-eight miles nearer home, and were very comfortably located in Mr. Black's house.

"About 11 p. m., I awoke and to my surprise saw some six or eight men standing around my bed. I had no dread of them but felt that they were my friends. At the same time I heard a voice which seemed to come from an eight square (octagon) clock on the opposite side of the house. It commenced talking and black-guarding, which drew my attention, when I was told to pay no attention to it. At this point I heard the most beautiful singing I ever listened to in all my life. These were the words, repeated three times by a choir:

'God bless Brother David Kimball.' I at once distinguished among them the voice of my second wife, Julia Merrill, who in life was a good singer. This, of course, astonished me. Just then my father commenced talking to me, the voice seeming to come from a long distance. He commenced by telling me of his associations with President Young, the Prophet Joseph, and others in the spirit world, then enquired about his children, and seemed to regret that his family were so scattered, and said there would be a great reformation in his family inside of two years. He also told me where I should live, also yourself and others, and a great many other things. I conversed freely with father, and my words were repeated three times by as many different persons, exactly as I spoke them, until they reached him, and then his words to me were handed down in a like manner.

"After all this I gave way to doubt, thinking it might be only a dream, and to convince myself that I was awake, I got up and walked out-doors into the open air.

"I returned and still the spirit of doubt was upon me. To test it further I asked my wife Julia to sing me a verse of one of her old songs. At that, the choir, which had continued singing, stopped and she sang the song through, every word being distinct and beautiful. The name of the song was, 'Does He Ever Think of 'Me.'

"My eyes were now turned toward the south, and there, as in a large parquette, I beheld hundreds, even thousands, of friends and relatives. I was then given the privilege of asking questions and did so. This lasted for some time, after which the singing commenced again, directly above me. I now wrapped myself in a pair of blankets and went out-doors, determined to see the singers, but could see nothing, though I could hear the voices just the same. I returned

to my couch and the singing, which was all communicative and instructive, continued until the day dawned. All this time the clock I have mentioned continued its cursing and blackguarding. "Mr. and Mrs. Black were up in due time and got breakfast. I arose and made my toilet, plain as it was, and took breakfast with my host and hostess. When my boy got ready to start, I went to pay my bill, and to my surprise heard a voice say or communicate: 'David Kimball has paid his bill.' When I got into the wagon, my guards, or those who were around my bed during the night, were still with me. My father had told me that he and President Young and others would visit me the next night.

"We drove on until about 11 a. m., when a host of evil spirits made their appearance. They were determined to destroy me, but I had power of mind to pay no attention to them, and let them curse all day without heeding them any more than possible. Five times they made a rush en masse to come into the wagon, the last one, where I was, but were kept off by my friends (spiritual). About 2 p. m. I told my boy to stop and we would water our horses. We used for this purpose, barrels that we had along with us. After this I walked to the west side of my wagons, and looking to the east, I saw and heard the evil spirits floating in the air and chanting curses upon Brigham Young. I saw two other groups of the same kind, but did not hear them. when I looked to the south and the whole atmosphere was crowded with fallen spirits, or those who had not obtained bodies. Others who tried to torment me were spirits who had lived upon the earth. Having seen many and being complimented by my guard for seeing so well, I became a little timid and asked my spiritual friends if they had any help. The answer was, 'Yes, plenty.' I now told my boy to drive on-he was entirely oblivious of all that was taking place with me-and soon after I was so exhausted that I fell into a troubled sleep and must have slept quite a little while.

"After I awoke I seemed to be left alone, and was lying on my back, when, all at once, I saw an old man and two young girls. This vision coming on me so suddenly, I was startled, and finding my guard gone, I jumped out of the wagon and got up on the spring seat beside my boy. But I could not get away from them. I was told in a coarse, gruff voice that the devil was going to kill me, and that he would follow me night and day until he destroyed me. I remembered the promise father had made me the night before-that he intended to visit me the next evening-and I nerved up and tried to pay no attention to my persecutors, but I must confess I was frightened.

"We arrived at Wickenburg just at sundown. The old man and the girls were tormenting and tantalizing me all the way, but never coming very near to me. We got supper and I took a room at Peep's hotel and retired about 10 p. m. When everything was quiet my spirit friends, eight in number, returned and my tormentors were required to leave. Soon after, a glorious vision burst upon me. There were thousands of the Saints presented to me, many who had died at Nauvoo, in Winter Quarters, on the plains and in Utah.

"I saw Brother Pugmire and many others whom I did not know were dead. When my mother came to me it was so real and I was so overjoyed that I exclaimed aloud. So powerful was this vision that I asked President Young, who seemed to be directing matters, three times to relieve me, or I would faint. A great many others passed in regular order; and I recognized nearly all of them, and was told the names of all I did not know. My father sat in a chair with his legs crossed and his hands clasped together, as we have often seen him, Those who passed along had hidden him from my view till then.

"This scene vanished, and I was then taken in the vision into a vast building, which was built on the plan of the Order of Zion. I entered through a south door and found myself in a part of the building which was unfinished, though a great many workmen were busy upon it. My guide showed me all through this half of the house, and then took me through the other half, which was

finished. The richness, grandeur and beauty of it defied description. There were many apartments in the house, which was very spacious, and they differed in size and the fineness of the workmanship, according to the merits on earth of those who were to occupy them. I felt most at home in the unfinished part, among the workmen. The upper part of the house was filled with Saints, but I could not see them, though some of them conversed with me, my father and mother, Uncle Joseph Young and others.

"My father told me many things, and I received many reproofs for my wrong-doings. Yet he was loth to have me leave, and seemed to feel very badly when the time came for me to go. He told me I could remain there if I chose to do so, but. I plead with him that I might stay With my family long enough to make them comfortable, to repent of my sins, and more fully prepare myself for the change. Had it not been for this, I never should have returned home, except as a corpse. Father finally told me I could remain two years, and to do all the good I could during that time, after which he would come for me; he mentioned four others that he would come for also, though he did not say it would be at the same time.

"On the 18th of November, about noon, we left Wickenburg (which is twenty-two miles from Black's Ranch where we stopped the previous night) on our journey home. I was exhausted from what I had experienced, and could feel my mind fast giving away, but I had confidence that I would reach home alive. There were no Elders to administer to me and no kind friends to look after my wants except my son, who had all he could do in looking after eight horses and two wagons. As my mind wandered and grew weaker, I was troubled and led by influences over which I had no power, and my friends, the good spirits, had all left me.

"We drove about twenty miles that afternoon, camping about eight miles from water, on the Salt River desert, which is about fifty miles across. During the fore part of the night I heard the horses running as though they were frightened. My son was asleep, but I got up and put my overcoat across my shoulders and went out where they were and got them quieted down. I was about to return to the wagon, when that same old man with gray whiskers, who had tormented me before, stepped between me and the wagons. He had a long knife in his hand. I was frightened and fled, he pursuing me and telling me he was going to kill me. What I passed through I cannot describe, and no mortal tongue could tell. I wandered two days and three nights in the Salt River desert, undergoing the torments of the damned, most of the time, which was beyond anything that mortal could imagine.

(From the Book Classic Experiences And Adventures, Helpful Visions pp. 12-14, Bookcraft, S.L.C. Utah 1969)

The Reality of Satan

‘John Wiscombe (uncle of ex-Superintendent of SLC schools Arthur Wiscombe) tells of Satan’s taunting when he was afflicted with boils while serving as an elder in San Francisco in 1921. ‘—
H.B.L.

As a missionary in San Francisco in the year 1920 or early 1921, I spent my entire mission at 1649 Hayes Street. The chapel and rectory there, which had been purchased from some sectarian church, served as the conference headquarters. Our sleeping quarters were upstairs at the rear of the building which faces north on said street, making the bedrooms on the south.

I had been afflicted with boils, they being confined chiefly to the back of my neck and a few also on my hand and wrist. I suffered the torture of this affliction, in all, for two months or more,

near the close of which period I was almost despondent because of it. During the same period, or most of it, our conference president, Wilford W Richards, was also afflicted with this same trouble. We did almost everything that people would suggest to try to rid ourselves of the disease, but it seemed we could not effect a cure. Most of the time the siege was so severe that I could not perform my regular missionary work, although it would usually clear up sufficiently for me to care for my many duties on Sunday.

One day I was alone in the house and in bed in the west bed-room. The head of my bed was against the west wall of the room near the north wall. At the southeast corner of the room was a window in which were two sashes; each was approximately 30 inches square and opened on hinges to either side. The bottom of the window was approximately two and one-half feet from the floor.

During my illness I had tried to take advantage of the time in studying the scriptures and how to present my message to the people, but on this day, I felt so miserable I decided to go to bed. I had learned that a long siege of affliction will shatter the nerves of the strongest of people. (How I admire the faith, the strength and the fortitude of Job!)

It was probably the deflection of light that caused me to turn my head toward the window as I was lying on my back, for I had heard no sound. As I did so, I observed a figure entering the window in a hurdling position, face forward with the left leg already through and the foot apparently on the floor. Amazed, I gazed at him as he entered the room, as if stepping in from mid-air. He was clad in some garment comparable to tights or a bathing suit, with the arms and legs almost wholly bare excepting the upper part of the thigh. He was as fine a specimen of physical man as I have ever beheld, being approximately six feet tall with an almost perfect muscular body to match his height. His course was straight from the window to the middle of my bed, where he stopped, folded his arms, and looked at me.

I was very much startled, at least in my feelings, but was too weak to become very excited physically. (I am naturally quite calm, even under pressure.) But even though it all seemed so real, I still could not trust my vision so I proceeded, as I lay there, to pinch myself with the thumb and forefinger of both hands, commencing with my ears, my cheeks, my neck and on down my body to my feet, to assure myself that I was awake and that what was passing before my eyes was a reality.

My physical weakness must have been apparent to him as evidenced by his only remark: "You're a fine emissary of the Master—to allow a thing like that to get you down. Where is the power you claim through him?" This was said with a caustic sneer as the most devilish expression I have ever seen crossed his face. It was so penetrating that for the moment I fairly quaked—in fact, I despaired of my very life. But it was only for the moment, as I raised myself on my left elbow to a partial sitting position, and in the most majestic experience of my life, pointing the index finger of my outstretched right arm, I commanded:

"By the authority of the Holy Melchizedek Priesthood, and in the name of Jesus Christ, GET OUT OF HERE!"

Instantly the hellishness of his taunting expression left him, and apparently the fear that had been mine completely overwhelmed him. His countenance fell and like a skulking pup he backed out of the room and window without turning, keeping his gaze upon me as he had done from the

time of his first appearance, and vanished as stealthily as he came.

The ordeal was too much for my physical strength and I fell back upon my pillow exhausted, yet awake and conscious. I was conscious sometime later (I don't know how long) when Brother Richards came to my room. When he saw me he turned very pale and anxiously inquired how I was. I told him I supposed I was all right but weak, and then I related my experience. His comment was, "Great Heavens, man, what else must you pass through?"

Later, when the other boys came in he called them together and related briefly what had happened. They unitedly administered to me, and I commenced an immediate recovery and in a few days was able to happily go about my work as usual. My recovery was very much expedited by the kind and affectionate ministrations of Brother Richards, whom I shall always love.

I know not why this experience came to me unless it was to impress me with the fact of the reality of the adversary—his power to take upon himself a bodily form in which to carry on his diabolical mission among men, and his power to prey upon the weaknesses of people. Perhaps it was given to demonstrate to me the marvelous powers of the Priesthood even when exercised under dire physical weakness. Or perhaps it was for both reasons. I only know that I have wondered greatly as to the full meaning of it. Perhaps it was given to fortify, to strengthen, and to enlighten me for future events in life. Since that time I have witnessed a similar expression on the faces of men in a few instances when I have known them to be possessed of a devilish spirit.

Although my suffering from this affliction was grievous and I regretted very much the loss of time and effort in my work, this period gave me the greatest opportunity of my life to study and concentrate on spiritual matters. As a reward, to compensate, I suppose, for these unpleasant experiences, I was given an insight into what seemed to be the true social and economic order which the Lord would have men live; where the effort of each and all is expended in the interest of the fullest development of the individual, regardless of his capacity, and of society in general. There was no usury; no profit-taking from other men's labors. The development of the person was the sole aim.

The vision of this so impressed me that since then I have tried to practice the philosophy of such a society, dedicating my life, in the main, to public service both in church and the community. It is not always easy to abide by such a philosophy. There are many difficulties and hardships suffered which are unknown to any but God. Public service means a sacrifice of time, energy, and often money, all of which means the giving up possessions considered of social and economic worth by most people. But to me it is a wonderful ideal to work toward and I trust the Lord will give me strength to sometime gain that goal which was so beautifully portrayed to me in that vision. (From Modern Day Miracles by L. Brent Coats, 1996, Covenant Communications, American Fork, Utah)

Contest With Evil Spirits

When on my first mission (in the year 1844), in the State of Virginia, we were attending a conference in Burke's Garden, Tazewell County. There were some ten or twelve Elders in attendance, most of whom had just arrived a week or two previous from Nauvoo, where they had, during the April Conference, been called and set apart for missions in Virginia. It was Sunday evening, some time early in May. Our conference had just closed, the last services of which were the ordinances of baptism and confirmation administered to several persons.

The Saints and strangers had dispersed to their homes, except some of the Saints who lived at a distance. A few of these had put up with Colonel Peter Litz, who, with his family, were members of the Church, and where also several of the Elders, myself included, were going to stay over night.

The time in the evening was what would be called early twilight. Some of the Elders had taken an evening stroll. At any rate, I was the only Elder that was about the house, when Sister bitz came to me (I was seated at the time out in the yard) very much excited, and said that one of the sisters who had come to stay over right, was taken suddenly and very severely sick, and she (Sister Litz) desired me to administer to her.

I was only a boy, yet in my teens, and with little or no experience, and had never been called upon, up to that time, to administer to the sick. I naturally shrank from the task, and would have given anything to have had some one to take it off my shoulders.

However, there was no escape for me-no other Elders were present, and she insisted that I should attend to the ordinance.

I followed Sister Litz into the house, and there lay the girl, stretched upon a bed, apparently lifeless, without breath or motion.

I asked Sister Litz what was the matter with the girl, but she could not tell.

"What can I do?" I thought. What could any one do? Nevertheless, I placed my hands upon her head, knowing full well if the Lord did not help me, that I would utterly fail in being able to say the first appropriate word, or exercise the least power.

As soon as I opened my mouth, I began to cast a devil out of her, which was farthest from my thoughts before I commenced. I commanded it, in the name of Jesus Christ, to come out of her, and not to return again. The evil spirit immediately departed from her, she being restored to her normal condition, seemingly as well as ever.

Not ten minutes after, the same evil spirit entered another girl. But during this interval Elder Robert Hamilton had returned from a walk, and was present at the time of the second attack, and was mouth with myself in casting it out.

In about the same time it would take a person to walk from one room to another, a third young sister was attacked, and in the same way exactly that the two first had been taken; and our administration had the same effect in relieving her as in the first two cases.

This third one was no sooner rid of the evil spirit, than it returned and took possession the second time of the one last before relieved of its power; and when it was cast out from this one, it took possession of the third one again, and so on, alternately, as well as I can remember, for three or four times. But the spirit never returned the second time to the first sister that was attacked that evening.

However, at the end of three or four hours, we separated the two girls, by taking one of them up stairs and into a room at the west end of the house, leaving the other in a room on the first floor at the east end, making the distance between as far as we could for both to occupy the same house, which was a large one.

In the meantime. one of the Elders from the house of one of the nearest neighbors had come in, so there were six of us in attendance, the names of whom were as follows: Robert Hamilton, James Park, Richard Kinnamon, Chapman Duncan, Alfred B. Lambson and myself. A.B. Lambson, James Park and Richard Kinnamon, with the father of the two girls (for they were sisters), watched with the one in the room on the first floor, while Robert Hamilton, Chapman Duncan and myself, with the mother, watched with the other in the upper room.

While possessed with this evil spirit, the girls would some-times lay in a trance, motionless, and apparently without breathing till we were ready to conclude they were dead, then they would come to and speak and sing in tongues, and talk about Priesthood and the endowments. At other times, they would choke up, ceasing to breathe until they were black in the

face, and we thought they would surely die. Sometimes they would froth at the mouth and act like they were in a fit. If standing upon their feet when taken, they would fall to the floor and act like they were struggling for life with some unseen power. Altogether, these cases reminded us of the other recorded in Mark, 8th chapter, 14th to 29th verse, and other cases recorded in the New Testament.

We never made a failure when attempting to cast out this evil spirit from either of the girls. But invariably as soon as one of them was dispossessed, in the length of time it would take a person to walk from one room to the other, the spirit would take possession of the other, but never both at the same time, and both were operated upon alike, so we knew there was but one evil spirit to deal with; yet it seemed impossible to get rid of it, for the girls were possessed with it alternately for some thirty-six hours.

However, we took advantage of the Savior's explanation in the 9th chapter of Mark, before referred to, and fasted and prayed. After which, while the three of us up stairs were administering (Robert Hamilton being mouth) and commanding the devil (for such we were from the first convinced it was) to come out of her and return to its own place, Elder Duncan immediately interrupted, and said to Elder Hamilton, "Name the place; name the place!" (See Matthew, 8th chapter and 31st verse.)

This somewhat confused Elder Hamilton, who hesitated, when Elder Duncan called the name of a family who were near neighbors, and of whom not one us had thought in connection with these cases. Elder Hamilton repeated this name, and immediately the evil spirit departed, not only from the girl it then had possession of, but from the house. And in a moment all in the house felt and knew that they were rid of its power and influence and that it would not again

We all, by this time, knew something of the power of the adversary, for we had had an actual experience, indeed, a contest, that had left us weak and nearly worn out, to an extent that an actual corporal struggle with flesh and blood would not have so reduced us.

Why was the key to its departure given to Elder Duncan and not to Elder Hamilton, who was acting as mouthpiece at the time? is a question my young readers are ready to ask as we asked one another at the time, and were not able to answer, and which I am unable to answer to this day.

And why was it necessary to give this demon the privilege to return to torment some other family?

This also I am unable to answer to my own satisfaction; but this much I can say: the family referred to was bitterly opposed to the gospel and its blessings, and to all those who taught, practiced, or enjoyed the same. A daughter of this family had been afflicted in a very singular way from her childhood. This girl had, in company with her parents and all the family (as they never left her alone), attended our baptismal meeting on Sunday evening, and her family spoke of her being and acting like a new person for two days after attending that meeting, often speaking of the good effect the witnessing of the ordinance of baptism had had upon her.

To all I have said in the foregoing, I was an eye and ear witness. All those who are living, who were present at the time this occurred, will remember the truth of what I have inscribed, though at the time we kept it from the world. I have written this experience for the benefit of the young Elders who are now abroad on mission, and for the benefit of the boys who may hereafter be called on to take missions, and any others who may glean any good from its perusal; and also as an evidence of the truth of the promise of Jesus to believers.

(taken from book Four Faith Promoting Classics Early Scenes in Church History pp. 12-16, Bookcraft S.L.C. Utah 1968)

From The book The Edge of Evil By Jerry Johnston , 1989, Word Publishing
"Dr. Gould is referring to what she and many other authorities are calling an epidemic of ritual

abuse which is sweeping our nation and our world at a frightening pace. And children *from* infants to teenagers are the primary targets.

In every state in the nation there are reports and investigations of satanic crimes. Two million children a year are reported missing, many of them runaways. Five thousand unidentifiable bodies of children are found each year in the U.S. Hundreds of teenagers are committing suicide, or attempting it after attending satanic heavy metal concerts or listening to black heavy metal music. Thousands of children from neighborhoods, preschools and daycare centers around the country are telling strikingly similar stories of human and animal sacrifices in connection with strange devil rituals. Satanic graffiti can be found on highway overpasses, walls . . . Cemeteries are being desecrated and graves robbed. Bodies of mutilated animals are reported being found in connection with occultic rituals.

In California alone reports have been staggering. In the Los Angeles area there have been 64 preschools and 27 neighborhoods with reported satanic activity over the past two years. In Orange County there have been at least six murders with satanic ties in the last year and a half. Ten straight-A teenagers in an Ontario, California, high school recently put together a two-page step-by-step plan on how to get rid of their parents. Step number ten was the 'ultimate sacrifice' - cutting up the bodies of the parents and feeding them to dogs, then sacrificing the dogs. In Fremont a Japanese high school exchange student was beaten and stabbed to death by a teenage couple with satanist backgrounds. In Mendocino County several children claim to have been raped at a preschool while being forced to chant, "Baby Jesus is dead." Twelve boys in Pico Rivera said they were sodomized by four neighborhood men during satanic rituals. In San Francisco an eight-year-old girl reported to police that she was made to stab a baby by her father in a candle-lit room with an upside-down cross. Seventy children in Bakersfield were removed from their homes because they were claimed to be used in satanic rituals by their parents. Also under investigation in Southern California are charges of satanic ritual abuse in an institution for deaf children. Similar- punk, heavy metal-satanic gangs have emerged as a new phenomenon. It says satanic gangs 'differ greatly from the more traditional street gangs. Most of their activities are secretive and therefore are hard to identify. . . Members are mostly white and of a middle-class socio-economic status . . . ; their behavior is violent-they enjoy shock value . . . , believe in anarchy; and their goal is to destroy, not protect territory as usual in street gangs. These groups' activities include drawing graffiti, using illegal drugs, abusing children and assaulting parents. Grave robbing, desecration of animals and human remains-' Actually, we call them stoners." There are a million of them in the United States alone. They're sometimes community leaders, daycare directors. But most of them are younger, ages 13 to 22. They're the kid down the block.

A Trend for the 1990s

No, I'm not one of those alarmists who snivel about clandestine groups conspiring to rule the world. I'm an author and specialist who's talked nose-to-nose with kids who are tough, happy, depressed, romantic, outrageous, nice, dangerous. I'm not easily fazed anymore by foul-mouths, by rebellion and delinquency by teenagers who love to shock adults.

But the young of today's satanic subculture scare me.

- The new twists to the ancient arts are goose-bump material:

-Fourteen-year-old Tommy Sullivan murders his mother, tries to burn his father and brother to death, then slits his throat and wrists with his Boy Scout knife. Newark, New Jersey, police who find Sullivan dead in the snow in a neighbor's yard conclude the youth was "entranced by the occult."

-Animal mutilations increase among occult groups. "The animal is decapitated and left in a ritual position," says Orange County, California, Animal Control chief Ron Hudson. "Usually officers will find the front feet cut off because they're used by Satan to walk the earth."

-Fifteen-year-old runaway Theresa Simmons is ritually strangled by three Georgia ninth graders in what Douglas County sheriff Earl Lee describes as a killing of "sex, satanic devil worship and witchcraft."

- Lauren Strafford admits on a nationally televised talk show: "As a teenager I was used as a breeder to have children, and two of them were killed in snuff films."
- Seventeen-year-old Thereon Roland of Carl's Junction, Missouri, thinks Satan will appear and bless him with power after he and two other teenagers beat a friend to death with baseball bats.
- A small group of Northport Harbor, New York, teenagers force student Gary Lauwers to say, "I love you, Satan" while stabbing him; then they drag him into the woods, gouge out his eyes and leave him to die. Investigator Bill Keahon, head of Long Island Major Offense Bureau, tells the *New York Times*, "You take a mixture of some very disturbed young people with antisocial behavior in their background, and you have a daily intake of drugs, angel dust, mescaline and the like."

The Kingdom of HeLL

A letter confiscated at a Southern California school seems to say something about what dedication to the lord of death can do to a young mind. The letter is reproduced in John Frattarola's article on "America's Best Kept Secret" in the special 1986 *Passport* magazine. The following is an edited letter, confiscated from a high school student by his principal and turned over to a police officer investigating satanic crime in his area:

"At the Kingdom of Hell Satan gazes at humanity-a wide smirk on his evil face, his eyes glaring, staring, thoughts of supreme wickedness resounding throughout his head . . . for them (humanity) there is no hope, no saviour to lead them into a promised land of milk and honey. For them, there is only death and pestilence forever more . . . Satan looks favorably upon his followers-the ones who worship him, kill for him, sacrifice virgin blood for him. The ones who dedicate their ceremonies and pleasures to his infernal name. It is they who shall rule the earth-the strong, the mighty all others shall be trodden under cloven hooves-the swords of the Satanists will fall heavy upon the necks of the holy, the pure, the humble, the sanctified, the god-lovers Millions will suffer and die-all their hopes shattered because of a "god" who doesn't care whether they live or die-to God, all his children are nothing more than heaps of excrement [sic]-not worth half a penny All the god believers will all become the slaves of their new masters. Since they are slaves, then Kryst [sic] is the King of Slaves-the shackles [sic] and chains are tight on the tom hands of the bearded faggot. Who will behead him in front of all his quivering followers-all who have done good in his name? Satan sits on the throne of God-he raises his blood-sprayed sword and proclaims himself the new ruler of the universe. The royal crown of Heaven is now placed on his head by his chief demons. All his children praise him and a large banquet is now prepared for the great victory of the new ruler . . .

A banner flutters in the distance with the symbol of Baphomet enscribed on it with the words written: "Satan, the ruler, king and Lord of all the Universe, the one who conquered the mighty Jehovah Yahweh and heard [sic] him back into infamy never to be heard from again. Hail Satan! Luciferi Excelsi! Diabolus Supremus! So Be It." A new world is then formed in the names of Satan, Lucifer, Belial, and Leviathan. A world with perfect creatures to inhabit the new earth. Creatures that will worship the Black Lord forever more. Creatures that will once again take pleasure in performing all the "sinful" actions of man Take heed all ye who read these God-forsaken blasphemies. If you be a God-believer, prepare to suffer and serve-if ye be a Satanist, prepare to rule over the sons of God. For they will eat the crumbs which fall from your table. Satan spits on the children of light. If you be one, Satan watches you in the shadows, he dwells within your nightmares and dark thoughts. Satan watches you at this very moment-your every move, thought, and action are seen by him from the pit of Hell The fiery abyss is ready to open up for you. Beware." (pp.11-13, 36-37)

