

The AND Staff

"Preach the Word." (II Timothy 4:2)

• "Feed the Flock." (I Peter 5:2)

I DISCOVERED THE REAL PERSON AND POWER BEHIND Witchcraft



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(Additional copies of the true story of Ben Alexander and witchcraft in small cartoon booklet form may be ordered from The Sword and Staff at 6¢ a copy. Good in combating the rising interest in the occult.)

Strange Fire in the House of the Lord

• By BEN ALEXANDER
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LEVITICUS 10:1ff tells the story of the two sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, how they brought "strange fire" into the House of God, and because of this God destroyed them. Today many people claiming to be Christians are practicing "strange fire" and because of this their salvation is in danger.

During the past three and half years in my ministry I have met many members of congregations literally involved in "witchcraft." Witchcraft means to communicate with the spirit world.

SEANCES AND OUIJA BOARDS

Some obvious methods of communicating with the spirit world are by having seances and playing ouija board. The ouija board is a method of divination and divination is forbidden in many Old Testament Scriptures, e. g. Deuteronomy 18:10. Divination means the art of obtaining secret or illegitimate knowledge of the future forbidden by God. I am sorry to report that large numbers of our children who go to church play with the ouija board and also play seances at slumber parties. Now the frightening thing about it all is that the Bible says in Galatians 5:20 that those who practice witchcraft shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Many Christians tell me they have played ouija boards in Christian Colleges. Our young

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Proverbs of Today

If it makes no difference WHAT you believe, then it makes no difference IF you believe.

"Fear brings more pain than does the pain it fears."

In that day when all the wrongs are made right many who thought they were right will be found wrong.

"Instead of waiting upon the Lord, some people want the Lord to wait upon them."

We need to know where we stand and to stand where we know.

"Go often to the house of your friend, for weeds choke up the unused path."

One must empty himself of self and sin before God can come in.

"A loose tongue often gets its owner into a tight place."

He who does as he pleases on the Lord's day does not please the Lord.

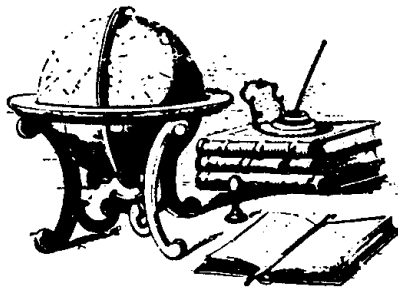
"One must be a live, wide-awake Christian before he can fall 'asleep in Jesus'."

God loves a cheerful giver—does He love you?

"When you become excited about sports, they call you a fan; but when you become excited about religion, people will call you a fanatic."

Hope is faith which is alive.

"Do you see the difficulties in every opportunity or opportunities in every difficulty?"



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

CHRISTIANITY—A COMPLETED RELIGION

WE ARE LIVING in a day when many strange things are happening in the spiritual world (both inside and outside the "church"). Among them is the claim that the supernatural spiritual gifts as exercised in the early church are for the church today—even that of an apostle. We hear of bizarre manifestations of what are supposed to be these gifts—among them "tongues" (in the modern-day context, the very sound of the word produces an eerie sensation). To deny that these gifts are available today, some say, is to deny the power of God—all things are possible with God.

In all kindness and humbleness, we would like to say, before one can make such claims and come to these conclusions there is a basic misunderstanding of Christianity involved. Christianity is a completed religion; it is God's final revelation to mankind. God has in "these last days spoken unto us by his Son" (Heb. 1:1). We are to contend earnestly for the faith which has once and for all been delivered (Jude 3). Christianity, the New Testament, is an everlasting covenant (Heb. 13:20). Change is forbidden (Gal. 1:8). It will not be replaced as the Old Testament was. All other dealings God had with mankind were preparatory. Christianity is IT.

The kingdom of God, the church, came with power (Mark 9:1; Acts 2). The purpose of the manifestation of power in miracles, signs and wonders (which were also outward evidences of supernatural spiritual gifts) was to confirm the truth of God (Mark 16:20; John 20:30, 31). The writer of Hebrews asked, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was CONFIRMED unto us by them that heard him (THE APOSTLES—Acts 1:2, 8, 21-26); God also bearing them witness (THE APOSTLES—Acts 2:43; 4:33), both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts (footnote: DISTRIBUTIONS) of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" (Heb. 2:3, 4). This Hebrew reference not only tells the overall purpose of signs and wonders, TO CONFIRM, but also shows the instrumentality by which they were done. THE APOSTLES confirmed Christianity by their miracles. THE APOSTLES also passed on gifts or distributions of the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, which was also used by THOSE who received their particular gift to confirm and edify. Acts 8:14-19 and 19:6 further verify that THE APOSTLES MADE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS BY THE LAYING ON OF THEIR HANDS (Note: There are no apostles in the church on earth today, they being the official eyewitnesses of Christ and His resurrection; hence, no one to give the gift from God). I Corinthians 12 tells us about different spiritual gifts the people received. These gifts were not a permanent fixture in the church, and were destined to pass away when God's New Testament truth had been fully confirmed. Paul, stressing the importance of love as a continuing factor in the church, wrote, "Love never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." (I Cor. 13:8-10). The gifts of prophecy (to reveal God's truth by direct inspiration), of tongues (ability to speak in a language theretofore unlearned), and knowledge (supernatural knowledge as a spiritual gift) representative of all the spiritual gifts would fail, cease, and vanish away. At that time they knew in part (or parts). The word "part" means a section in contrast with the whole, the complete (the word "perfect" meaning complete here). Thus, when the Holy Spirit had lead into all truth (John 16:13), and this truth had been confirmed or authenticated by miracle, the canon of the Scriptures was completed. The "in part" situation was done away. Christianity became a completed religion, God's final one to man. Just as the world began by miracle and continues by "natural" law, the church of

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I DISCOVERED THE REAL PERSON AND POWER BEHIND WITCHCRAFT (Continued on Next Page)

A FEW YEARS LATER MY MOTHER DIED.

I DON'T EVER WANT TO DIE... IT'S SO TERRIFYING.



I WAS SENT TO HEBREW SCHOOL. THERE I WAS TAUGHT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE HEBREW BIBLE. BUT AS I GREW OLDER I REBELLED.

THIS RELIGIOUS STUFF HAS ABSOLUTELY NO MEANING TO ME.



MANY YEARS LATER, I FOUND MYSELF TRAPPED DEEPER AND DEEPER IN SIN. I BECAME DESPERATE, AND SOUGHT GOD IN MY OWN WAY.

GOD, IF YOU'RE THERE, HELP ME!

MY PRAYERS SEEMED TO GO UNANSWERED.



I BEGAN TO SEARCH EARNESTLY FOR TRUTH — THROUGH MANY DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS CULTS. BUT I COULD NEVER FIND THE REAL ANSWER TO LIFE... OR REAL PEACE.



ONE DAY I MET A WOMAN SPIRITUALIST MEDIUM.

I HAVE CONTACTED MANY FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD.



EXCITED AND FASCINATED BY THIS NEW AND MYSTERIOUS INFORMATION, I EAGERLY INVESTIGATED AND TOOK PART IN ALL FORMS OF SPIRITUALISM. THIS INCLUDED E.S.P., CLAIRVOYANCE, HEALING, OUIJA BOARDS, AUTOMATIC WRITING, PSYCHOKINESIS, TRANCE, PSYCHOMETRY, TRANSFIGURATION, TRUMPET AND MATERIALIZATION.



BUT NEVER WAS THERE THE JOY AND PEACE FOR WHICH I DEEPLY LONGED. INSTEAD, I FOUND THAT MY MARRIED LIFE BECAME A LIVING HELL.

YOU'RE NO GOOD!

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF ALL THIS.



I TURNED TO SPIRITUALISM FOR COMFORT, BECAUSE I THOUGHT I WAS CONTACTING GOD THROUGH THE SPIRITS. SPIRITUALISM BECAME THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE.

But God says —

There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end of it are the ways of death.

PROVERBS 14:12



IN 1956 MY WIFE AND I CAME TO THE U.S.A.

THE MAIN HAPPENING FOR ME IN AMERICA WAS THAT WE MET A LOVELY CHRISTIAN FAMILY. A YEAR LATER WE WENT BACK TO ENGLAND.



STRANGE FIRE IN THE HOUSE...
(Continued from Page 1)

people who practice this game are in danger of their salvation. If you have an ouija board turn to Acts 19:19; read how they burned their magic arts, and then burn your ouija board.

HOROSCOPES

Isaiah sarcastically spoke to the Jewish nation (Isaiah 47:13) and told them about their astrologers. He said the astrologers can't help themselves let alone help you. Unfortunately far too many of our ladies, both young and old, read their horoscopes. A person who reads the horoscope surely does not read the Bible. Apart from the fact it is a psuedo-science, it is also an idol worship and the astrologer becomes the substitute saviour.

EASTERN RELIGIONS

Isaiah 2:5-6 tells about the Jewish nation accepting the influences of the East. Things today apparently haven't changed. Transcendental Meditation, Yoga and even Karate are decidedly occult in nature, and are influences from the East, which many Christians practice today.

The dictionary tells us that Yoga is a Hindu Indian system of philosophy and psychology. It is atheistic in nature and against Christian beliefs. There are several stages of Yoga, starting with exercises and finally finishing with spiritualistic psychic phenomena, such as necromancy forbidden by God (Deuteronomy 18:10).

Many Christians who take up Yoga say they are only interested in the exercises. This is dangerous as the exercises open up the psychic nervous system known as Chakras. The awakening of these psychic centers will invite demon possession into your lives. Please avoid this at all costs; have nothing to do with this mystic Hindu cult. I have personally met people who have become victims and are meeting with demon oppression.

Transcendental Meditation is of course a by-product of Yoga, and even more subtle because of it's claim of not being a religion, but just a science. However, this has proven to be a lie. In the lesser known writings of it's founder, the Maharishi Mahish Yogi, he admits it is a religion. For more information on this read *Science of Being and Art of Living*. The Maharishi writes, "The key to the fulfillment of every religion is found in the regular practice of Transcendental Meditation" (Page 254).

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STRANGE FIRE IN THE HOUSE...
(Continued from Last Page)

KARATE

This is now accepted as a sport in many Christian colleges. I wish to share with you some comments from some who practiced this at one time and gave it up. In a letter Steven Ward of Indiana wrote to me stating that to obtain degrees in Karate one must progress: (1) Through Yoga you try to initiate in a meditation form a oneness with self by going into a TRANCE. (2) Mind over matter, matter being body or through self control of mind over body, this being demonstrated by a lot of masters in this country by the breaking of bricks or boards. (3) And in some cases a master may claim to be able to heal people (which is one of the feats my MASTER said he could do). They use different Old Testament Scriptures (out of context) to back their theories. He finished his letter by saying, and I quote, "The reason I started in Karate was out of pure boredom. I spent a year and a half in the Philippines and thought I would spend my time constructively, instead of what most of the servicemen get involved in, so no matter how innocent in may seem, it can be very devastating in the end. I just thank the Lord I was brought up in a Christian home and was taught the right way. This is why after obtaining a Brown Belt I quit Karate and have never practiced it since."

One other Christian brother who earned a Black Belt relates how he watched a "master" smash a concrete block by sheer mind power without even touching the concrete slab. Spiritualists have done similar feats. I have pictures of one smashing a strong chair in the seance room by a strange similar power.

After receiving much occult literature with his Karate information, this brother gave up Karate and now serves as a youth minister.

TONGUES

I do believe the biggest danger of all lies in the false claim of many professing to have the miraculous gift of speaking in tongues. In the four and half years when I first professed Christ, I spoke in tongues. The only thing I ever experienced was confusion. I found many discrepancies in the claims of tongues speakers, too numerous to mention. Most frightening of all were the similarities to Spiritualism; especially those who claimed the gift of prophecy and told of personal prognosti-

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I DISCOVERED THE REAL PERSON AND POWER BEHIND WITCHCRAFT (Continued on Next Page)

BUT UNKNOWN TO ME AT THE TIME, FOR THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS THIS FAMILY CONTINUED TO PRAY FAITHFULLY FOR ME.

DEAR GOD, OPEN BEN'S EYES TO HIS NEED FOR JESUS CHRIST.

AGAIN I BECAME EMBEDDED IN SPIRITUALISM. AND MY LIFE CONTINUED ON A DOWNWARD COURSE.

I CAME IN CONTACT WITH A MOTHER AND SON WHO WERE SPIRITUALISTS. THE SON POSSESSED GREAT POWERS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US IN A SEANCE TONIGHT.

I'M A TRUMPET MEDIUM, I CAN BRING FORTH SOLID FORMS OF SPIRITS.

But God says — Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them. LEVITICUS 19:31

I DID THIS TO ASSURE MYSELF THAT THESE MEDIUMS WERE NOT PHONIES, FOR OVER THE YEARS I HAD FOUND MANY WHO WERE FAKES.

EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE IN ORDER. THERE ARE NO TRAP DOORS.

THAT EVENING THE SEANCE BEGAN.

A SUBSTANCE CALLED ECTOPLASM BEGAN TO FLOW OUT OF HIS NOSE AND MOUTH.

OF ITS OWN ACCORD THE TRUMPET BEGAN TO RISE FROM THE FLOOR, WHERE HE HAD PLACED IT.

THE SON WENT INTO A TRANCE.

THE TRUMPET IS A CONE-SHAPED IMPLEMENT THRU WHICH AT TIMES THE SPIRITS SPEAK FROM THE ECTOPLASM.

I DISCOVERED THE REAL PERSON AND POWER BEHIND WITCHCRAFT (Continued on Next Page)

I WAS EXCITED BY THIS NEW EXPERIENCE.

THIS MUST BE THE ANSWER TO LIFE AFTER DEATH!

BUT IT WASN'T... IT WAS JUST ANOTHER SATANIC DECEPTION.

SOMETIMES WE USED THE BIBLE AND PRAYED OVER IT, IN HOPES OF BRINGING FORTH A GREATER PHENOMENON.

SUDDENLY THE BIBLE BEGAN TO RISE.

WHY, IT'S AS THOUGH SOMEONE THREW IT AGAINST THE WALL IN ANGER.

THIS WAS DONE BECAUSE THERE WAS AN EVIL SPIRIT PRESENT. BUT WE GOOD SPIRITS WILL SEE TO IT THAT IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

BUT IT DID HAPPEN AGAIN — MANY TIMES.

WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE GOD SPEAK DIRECTLY THROUGH HIS SPIRITS.

This one's coming is according to the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders.

And with all the false acting of unrighteousness in those that are lost — because they did not receive the love of the truth to the end that they might be saved.

And for this cause God will send a working of error to them, so that they should believe a lie. II THESSALONIANS 2:9-11

I BECAME HELPLESSLY OBSESSED WITH A DESIRE FOR GREATER MANIFESTATIONS.

I SOON GOT MORE THAN I EXPECTED.

STRANGE FIRE IN THE HOUSE...
(Continued from Last Page)

cations. This is a very dangerous practice indeed. One outstanding fact that always puzzled me when I spoke in tongues was that everybody had a jargon that nobody understood, but I never heard a language spoken like the apostles did on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). I often heard about miraculous tongue speaking in far distant lands, but they were never substantiated.

I was informed by a missionary from Brazil that in 1962 in that country there was a convention celebrating 50 years of Pentecostalism. Many speakers from different countries were invited and the outstanding feature of the meeting was that of all the leading speakers from different parts of the world who claimed the gift of speaking in tongues, every single speaker who had never learned Portuguese NEEDED AN INTERPRETER. Strange, at a world convention there wasn't a single soul who had the gift of speaking a true foreign language, and yet these people claim the gift of tongues.

I finally decided after much prayer and study that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were for two reasons: (1) To prove the deity of Christ; (2) To confirm the Word of God (Hebrews 2:1-5). Both have been done!

Since coming out of tongues I am no longer confused, and I would sooner build my house on solid rock—the Word of God that I plainly understand rather than sand, such as questionable tongues that dangerously divide.

ONE FINAL WORD, remember the Lord has not left us as orphans. Those of us who have repented and been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Praise the Lord! □

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NOTICE:

IF YOU do not understand, or disagree with anything brother Alexander has written, you may contact him at the address on the front page of this paper. If you would like to have a cassette tape by brother Alexander, telling of his experiences and the dangers of witchcraft, send \$4.00 and request the tape, "Witchcraft Exposed." Send this to: EXPOSING SATAN'S POWER, P. O. Box 06300, Portland, Oregon 97206. Ask also to be put on the mailing list for his paper. □

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EDITORIAL

By-Ways

OUR EXPERIENCE WITH the OUIJA BOARD
By Mr. & Mrs. Larry Williams
Route 2, Box 252
Piketon, Ohio 45661

(NOTE: The young couple mentioned above are friends of the editor. This matter came up in a conversation when we saw them sometime ago and was tape-recorded as an interview. Part of the taped interview follows. — J. GIBBONS)

LARRY WILLIAMS: "Approximately six years ago we had an interesting experience, which at the time was just nothing more than a game. We, with some friends who were in college with us, experimented with the ouija board, and we thought it was just great sport. As somebody brought it in, I said, 'Let's sit down and see if thing really works.' So, we started fooling with it, and did it according to the directions, you know, and, as we began to ask it questions, we found some things that were really weird. We thought it was surely some kind of a trick, some kind of a gimmick, the way the board was made, or something we just didn't understand. But we asked this ouija board questions about a fellow there who was a friend of mine by the name of Tom. We asked who in the next two days would become the class president. It said, 'TOM,' and it spelled his last name out on the board in the alphabet there. No one said anything about it, and sure enough in two days this did happen. The very boy it had predicted did become class president. We asked it various questions. We would ask it a question concerning God. The answer would just be jumbled and it wouldn't make any sense. There was no coherency to the answer.

"These experiences to us then, as I said, were just like a game. But now, looking back, and knowing of this great movement today and of the real discovery of the Satanic powers and demons in the world (and even in the ouija board), we look back on them with a terrifically different, a completely different, outlook than we had then at that time."

MRS. WILLIAMS: "My experience with the ouija board was amazing. I wanted to know what made it work, and so I asked it where it got its power. It spelled out, very quickly, 'S-A-T-A-N.' I asked it if it loved

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I DISCOVERED THE REAL PERSON AND POWER BEHIND WITCHCRAFT (Continued on Page 9)

FEAR

AAAAHHH

I SHALL NEVER GO BACK THERE AGAIN.

IN GREAT FEAR I FLED.

WE WILL DEAL WITH YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE WHEN YOU DIE

I MOVED AWAY, AND ORGANIZED MY OWN SEANCE CIRCLE. ACTING AS A MEDIUM GAVE ME A GREAT SENSE OF POWER.

I SHALL BE THE GREATEST MEDIATOR EVER, BETWEEN GOD'S SPIRITUAL WORLD & THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

AS I BECAME MORE DEEPLY ENGULFED BY THE WORLD OF WITCHCRAFT AND SIN, MY LIFE AND MARRIAGE CRUMBLLED BENEATH ME. I REMARRIED AND MOVED AGAIN TO THE U.S.A. MY WIFE AND I WERE IN THE HOPE OF STARTING A SPIRITUALIST CENTER IN AMERICA

MY ONE CLOSE ACQUAINTANCE IN AMERICA WAS THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY OF WHOM I SPOKE EARLIER. MY WIFE AND I DECIDED TO VISIT THEM.

WE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT YOUR CHURCH

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE SOME OF THEM TO JOIN OUR ORGANIZATION.

NEXT SUNDAY— EVERYONE SEEMS SO FRIENDLY & HAPPY.

But God says —
There is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. 1 TIMOTHY 2:5

Old Testament Reasons for New Testament Pacifism

By **NORMAN FOX**
948 Darlene Avenue
Springfield, Oregon 97477



IT IS TIME we stopped speaking only of a "New Testament basis for pacifism" and began teaching the whole Bible counsel on the subject. The Old Testament, surprising as it may seem to some people, is a bulwark of instruction against Christian involvement in armed warfare.

To believe otherwise is to come near the doctrine of an Old Testament God of vengeance and a New Testament God of love, the Jekyll-and-Hyde diety that the modernists refer us to. Yet it is typical of us to overlook the Law and the Prophets when we teach of the peace of Christ, perhaps because we're a bit uncomfortable with the body counts following Israel's victories in battle.

Let us grip this dilemma by its horns, then, and consider four ways in which the Old Testament teaches the Christian of peace.

I. EARTHLINESS OF GOD'S OLD TESTAMENT KINGDOM.

For reasons that none of us probably understands completely, God found it necessary to deal with one small physical nation over many centuries to lay a foundation for his redemptive plans. Physical nations need physical land to live on. Thus, in Genesis 12:5-7, God promises land to the seed of Abraham. When his descendants so-

journed in Egypt, interlopers naturally siezed the land for their own use, and filled it with sin and depravity to such an excess that Bible writers found some of the details unprintable; we have had to glean them from secular history.

Generations later, God directed that Israel reclaim its own land and mete out his judgment against the wicked in a series of military operations. In Joshua 1:6, God inaugurates this violent process with a reference to his original promise to Abraham.

The point is that God's kingdom was physical at this time, necessitating physical territory defended by physical means. Israel was governed by a law which was largely physical, attended by physical rewards and punishments. Even their house of worship and system of worship were physical.

God's present kingdom contrasts with this in every particular. Jesus, in John 18:36, says that his kingdom is not of this world, and thus requires no physical defense. John 17:14-15 shows that something can be in the world but not of the world, and that is the case with Jesus' kingdom. His reference is not just to a future heaven, but to his present church. No earthly land has been promised this kingdom, so no conquering army is necessary. Instead, an eternal inheritance is promised in Hebrews 9:15, an inheritance which no physical force can obtain for us or take away from us.

Yet, there will be a struggle of opposition facing every kingdom. Ephesians 6:12 shows that our struggle is not physical in nature. The context catalogues the kinds of armor necessary for the spiritual battle. Verses 11 and 13 call this the "whole armor of God." Any additional armor must be someone else's.

Physical things need physical defense. If you think God's kingdom depends on church buildings and other real estate, you will need to defend your faith with physical force. But God's kingdom today is spiritual. To defend it physically is both unnecessary and impossible. Wrestling flesh and blood is not God's struggle today; it is someone else's.

II. GOD'S GENERALSHIP OVER ISRAEL'S ARMY.

Closely related to our first point is the fact that God himself directed the military decisions and fortunes of Israel. Deuteronomy 1:30, referring to the total campaign of conquest, illustrates this truth. Also, Judges 1:1-2 shows that the armies of Israel could operate even without a particular earthly general.

Israel's success at Jericho and failure at Ai illustrate dramatically the central part that God's direction played in His people's military enterprises. At Jericho, He issued a word-for-word battle plan. At Ai, He was not consulted before the ill-fated attack. It was not only Achan's sin that upset Israel's fortunes, it was their striding out without clearance from command central.

If God could be shown to bear this same commander-in-chief relationship to any earthly army today, then we could justify joining that army, and none other. But it is both egocentric and ignorant to believe that any one nation, including our own, is a modern version of old Israel.

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OLD TESTAMENT REASONS FOR N. T. PACIFISM

(Continued from Last Page)

III. PROPHECIES OF A PEACEFUL KINGDOM.

The same Old Testament echoes with shouts of battle also predicts serenely that God's kingdom would be re-constituted as one of peace. We will use Micah 4:1-3 as representative of several such prophecies.

The "last days" in which this was to be fulfilled would come in the first century A.D., as Peter clarifies in Acts 2:16-17. A mountain in prophetic language is typically a kingdom, so Micah 4:1 must be telling us of a kingdom to be established in the first century. Since the church is repeatedly called the kingdom, we may suspect that the church is being foretold here. Further, it is "the mountain of Jehovah's house." House of God also designates the church, as in I Timothy 3:15 and I Peter 4:17.

Micah 4:2 shows the uniqueness of this kingdom, its international flavor. The world evangelism command in Mark 16:15 is one of many Scriptures that show the church to be that world-wide kingdom.

The law, or message of this kingdom, would go out from Jerusalem (also called Zion) according to Micah. Luke 24:46-49 shows that this was true of the church.

When we come to Micah 4:3, we see that peace will be the distinctive mark of the kingdom. How tragic that most religious people have projected this condition into heaven only, or into some Golden Age of the future. It's all happening now in the true Body of Christ, an island of peace in a world of war. Maintaining our island of peace will not put an end to war in the world among unbelievers. Jesus never promised peace there. But if the church is the only island of peace, how tragic it would be for us to let it slip beneath the raging waves of waging war!

IV. LEVITE NON-COMBATANT STATUS.

Finally, we want to show that the priesthood of God has never been involved in physical international warfare.

Chapter 1 of Numbers relates the taking of a military census among Israel in preparation for war. Statistics on the fighting strength of the tribes are recorded, but notice the absence of the tribe of Levi. Verses 47-50 explain why. As priests, those of Levi's tribe were to attend to spiritual matters rather than to carnal warfare.

Verses 5-15 show that Levi was not even represented on the "draft board." Thus, those with the direct spiritual responsibilities of prayer and sacrifice to God were excluded from war-making activity.

Isaiah 61:6 implies a future extension of the scope of priesthood to non-Levites, and this extension came about in God's New Testament kingdom. All Christians now have direct prayer access (I Timothy 2:1-8), and offer sacrifice (Romans 12:1; I Peter 2:5). And Christians are actually called priests in I Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6.

A Christian cannot be part of earthly warfare because:

I. His kingdom is not an earthly one.

II. God is not commander of any earthly army.

III. The kingdom he is part of was foretold to be peaceful.

IV. His position as priest excludes him from warfare.

Parallel to these conclusions, anyone who tries to use the Old Testament as ammunition for Christian involvement in warfare is not aware of these four things:

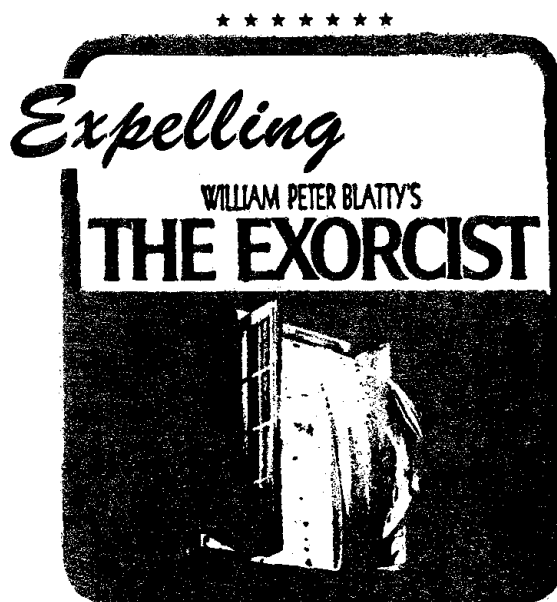
I. The difference between earthly and spiritual kingdoms.

II. The role of God in Israelite warfare.

III. Old Testament prophecy concerning the church.

IV. The nature of the priesthood.

□



"THE EXORCIST" is a novel written by William Peter Blatty about the efforts of two Roman Catholic priests to perform the ancient rite of exorcism (casting out demons) on a 12-year-old girl who is possessed with such. The runaway best-seller is now out in film version by the same title. After reading five different reviews of the movies, I strongly urge all readers... NOT to read the book or see the movie. Pass this advice on to others, especially children.

The part of the demon possessed girl is played by a 14-year-old girl, Linda Blair. In revolting sex-sodden scenes she "screams the most obscene language ever heard on the screen" (*Newsweek*), brutally kicks a doctor in the groin, makes lewd overtures to her mother, vomits quarts of green bile in the face of a priest, and masturbates with a crucifix while "lasciviously licking her lips." Little wonder that *New York Times* reviewer Vincent Canby calls it "an exorcise in bad taste."

In real life, Linda is an active member of the Congregational Church. Her parents "never worried about the effect of the role on their child." Said the confident Mrs. Blair, "I knew it wouldn't bother her." Time will tell. But in the meantime, Mrs. Blair, what about the ones who it will bother? Or already has? What about 23 terrorized souls in Chicago who now feel they are demon controlled? After listening to these pathetic people, a Dominican from Loyola University said, "This movie is going to cause so many pastoral problems I wish they had never made it." A minister speaking for others in his profession told *Chicago Tribune* film reviewer Gene Siskel, "We're going to get a rash of pseudo-possessiones."

Even the defenders of the film warn children to stay away. Yet many have been seen in theaters, without their parents. Jesuit Richard Robin of Loyola-Marymount in Los Angeles saw "ten-year-olds in the theater with their parents. That is nothing short of a crime." Students that have seen the film, he says, "wish they had never seen it." Theater owners in Boston and Los Angeles have stocked up on smelling salts to revive patrons who are fainting in their seats.

And what about little Linda? She is proud of the film. She said, "It could have been about a girl eating a lollipop." Parents, this is one lollipop you had better keep from your children. And yourself. —Victor Knowles □

I DISCOVERED THE REAL PERSON AND POWER BEHIND WITCHCRAFT (Continued on Next Page)

THE MINISTER SAID SOMETHING THAT STARTLED ME.

THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET THEY SHALL BE AS WHITE AS SNOW! (Isaiah 1:18)

YOU CAN HAVE COMPLETE FORGIVENESS FOR YOUR SINS, & BE FREE FROM ALL GUILT & FEAR... RIGHT NOW! YOU CAN HAVE ALL OF THIS BY REPENTING OF YOUR SIN & BY ASKING JESUS CHRIST TO FORGIVE YOU. ASK HIM TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR.

JESUS SAYS BEHOLD! I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK. IF ANYONE HEARS MY VOICE & OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN TO HIM... (Revelation 3:20)

OH, HOW I WISH I COULD KNOW FORGIVENESS FOR MY SINS, AND POSSESS THE JOY, LOVE, AND PEACE THESE PEOPLE HAVE.

THAT NIGHT I ATTENDED THE EVENING SERVICE, WHICH WAS A SINGSPIRATION.

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND THAT SAVED A WRETCH LIKE ME!

THE SAVIOR IS WAITING TO ENTER YOUR HEART. OH, WON'T YOU LET HIM COME IN....

I WANT TO HAVE WHAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE, MY HEART IS CRYING FOR PEACE.

MOVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT ... AS THEY WERE STILL SINGING ... I WENT FORWARD. THERE HAD BEEN NO INVITATION GIVEN. WHEN THE PASTOR SAW ME COMING DOWN THE AISLE HE CAME DOWN FROM THE PLATFORM TO MEET ME.

I WOULD LIKE TO BELONG TO THIS GROUP.

FINE! WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME INTO MY STUDY AND TALK ABOUT IT?

YES, I WOULD.

EXPERIENCE with OUIJA BOARD

(Continued from Page 6)

God, and the little answer part just raced to 'NO,' and anytime we would ask it a question about God it would just go in continuous circles after that. It wouldn't answer anymore questions concerning God." □

EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

(Continued from Page 2)

Christ began in the midst of signs and wonders and now continues by his confirmed Truth. The New Testament has been confirmed—it is the truth of God.

But if the spiritual gifts are in the church today, Christianity is not a completed religion—it is an open-ended thing. If we are to allow one of the gifts, such as tongues, we must accept them all. One of the other gifts was the gift of prophecy (I Cor. 12:10, 28, 29). The gift of prophecy involved not only foretelling, but primarily forth-telling—the gift of revelation (Eph. 3:3-5). The words of one exercising the gift of prophecy would be equal to the Scriptures, a part of the Bible. Are we ready to accept such a conclusion?

The question of whether the spiritual gifts are for the church today or not is not a question about the power of God. All things are possible with God—EXCEPT ONE. He cannot lie (Heb. 6:18). So it is really a question of what the Bible (God's Word) has to say. Christianity is a completed religion. □

Song Back in Print
New Material

THE song, "HIS CHURCH IS MARCHING ON" (on gummed paper to stick in the back of your hymn-books) by the editor is now back in print. It has gone through several printings and is still in demand. Cost is still the same—5¢ per copy.

Also, we have now printed a new tract-leaflet entitled, "A QUESTION ABOUT THE SABBATH," dealing with the question: "Why do you not observe the sabbath, and who changed this anyway?" This should prove valuable to distribute to those facing misunderstanding on this subject. Price is only 2¢ per copy.

Order from: THE SWORD AND STAFF, Post Office Box 147, Mount Airy, N. C. 27030.

THE MASTER'S PLAN FOR
Evangelism

By Victor Knowles
4886 W. Amazon
Eugene, Oregon 97405

IN THE FIFTH chapter of Mark we read of a Gadarene demoniac named "Legion." Fetters and chains could not hold this demon-filled one who lived among the tombs, day and night "crying and cutting himself with stones." But then Jesus came. The poor creature ran to Him and worshipped Him. With tender compassion for the man and by the great power of His Word, Jesus sent the unclean spirits into a great herd of swine feeding nearby in the mountains. About two thousand of them stampeded wildly down the mountainside and plunged into the foaming sea where they were choked to death. Later, as peace and normality were restored to the Gadarene, Jesus instructed him to "GO HOME TO THY FRIENDS, AND TELL THEM HOW GREAT THINGS THE LORD HATH DONE FOR THEE, AND HATH HAD COMPASSION ON THEE" (Verse 19). In genuine gratitude the man immediately "began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him." We are further told that because of this "all men did marvel."

I firmly believe that the Master's plan for evangelism is far superior to any so-called "masterplans" for evangelism that man can devise. Leaders have tried this plan and that plan, some of them good, some of them not so good. Some methods have been Scriptural and others have drifted from the Scriptures. Detailed strategy and complexity are lost in Mark 5:19 where we find a simple but successful plan: GO and TELL! This, of course, is essentially the same directive given to the apostles in the Great Commission: GO and TEACH (Matthew 28:19). God's plan, as always, is simple, Scriptural, spiritual and successful.

I. JESUS TOLD THE MEN TO "GO."

It has been said that the church needs to put the "go" back in the "gospel." This is imperative. And this is Phase I of Jesus' plan for evangelism. While the charge reads "Go ye into all the world" in Mark 16:15, it is significant to note that "Go home" is stated in Mark 5:19. Perhaps this is to gently remind us that before we go out to convert the world at large, we must first begin at this business in our own back yard. Or possibly, that the leaders of the church are to go out beyond the local boundaries while the

(Continued on Next Page)

I DISCOVERED THE REAL PERSON AND POWER BEHIND WITCHCRAFT (Continued on Next Page)

LATER - IN THE OFFICE AND STUDY

BEN, HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS AS YOUR LORD & SAVIOR ?

JESUS DIED FOR YOU THAT YOU MIGHT RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FOR YOUR SINS.

NO I HAVEN'T

BUT MY SINS ARE TOO GREAT.

BEN, GOD WILL FORGIVE NO MATTER HOW BLACK YOUR SIN HAS BEEN. IF YOU WILL REPENT & TURN FROM YOUR SIN, & ASK GOD TO FORGIVE, HE WILL GRANT YOU HIS FORGIVENESS. THE WAY TO RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS... & ETERNAL LIFE... IS TO TRUST CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR, & SURRENDER TO HIM AS THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE.

AFTER MORE THAN AN HOUR OF COUNSELLING ...

BEN, LET'S PRAY, TELL CHRIST WHAT'S ON YOUR HEART.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE CHRIST INTO YOUR HEART ?

YES, I WOULD.

LORD JESUS, PLEASE FORGIVE MY REBELLION & WILLFUL SIN AGAINST YOU. JESUS, I WANT YOUR LIFE TO TAKE COMPLETE CONTROL OF ME. LORD, I NEED YOU SO BADLY...

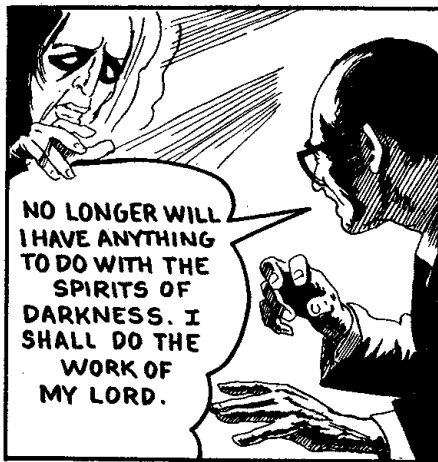
O, WHAT PEACE AND JOY CHRIST GAVE TO ME! MY HEART OVERFLOWED WITH HIS LOVE. I THEN WAS BAPTIZED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR LORD'S COMMAND THROUGH THE APOSTLE PETER, WHO SAID, "REPENT, AND BE BAPTIZED EVERY ONE OF YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SIN." (ACTS 2:38) I FELT LIKE A NEW PERSON, FOR TRULY I WAS!

A FEW DAYS LATER, NOT KNOWING ABOUT GOD'S FORBIDDANCE OF SEANCES (LEVITICUS 19:31; 20:6, 27) A GREAT BATTLE FOR MY SOUL TOOK PLACE WHILE HOLDING A SEANCE.

THIS IS AN ABOMINATION TO GOD, YOUR FATHER, BEN. HAVE NO MORE TO DO WITH THIS WORK OF SATAN.

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM BEN. YOU CAN HAVE GREAT KNOWLEDGE & POWER TO RULE OTHERS.

STOP!



I broke all my contacts with my spiritualist associates. I put my whole heart and soul into studying the Word of God. God has miraculously called me to a full-time ministry for Him, in warning others of witchcraft and the deceitfulness of Satan . . . and to tell the good news of God's power and love to set men free.

I came to the realization that all the spirits connected with spiritualism and witchcraft are evil . . . even though some of them claim to be good spirits. These spirits are the angels, who along with Satan, attempted to overthrow God's kingdom. (Isaiah 14:12-14). And being cast out of heaven, because of their rebellion, they are now constantly at work trying to deceive mankind and to keep man from receiving God's eternal life through Jesus Christ. But their fate, as well as that of others who rebel against God, is spoken of in II Peter 2:1-4.

Warning!

Television

Television is continually showing very humorous and appealing programs regarding witchcraft. These programs stir the child's curiosity for witchcraft. It's very exciting to be magical. Children now find it fun to attempt seances, and to play witch, or warlock. If you allow this type of seed to be planted in their young minds, you may be shocked at the fruit that will come forth. See Proverbs 22:6 and Matthew 18:6 in the Bible.

Ouija Boards

The Ouija boards are now one of the most popular games sold. But for many the Ouija board is a critical step toward acting as a Spiritualist Medium. True, it is only two pieces of wood. But applied with innocent desire, one can yield to the Ouija board as a medium for evil spirits. For me, the Ouija board led to automatic writing by the guidance of spirits. And later the spirits communicated to me by their voices. See Proverbs 16:17 and Ephesians 6:12.

Drugs

Most young people taking drugs claim there aren't any harmful effects from drugs. But drugs act as a tool to open the mind, and leave you defenseless against evil spirits entering and taking possession. 90% of those who belong to the church of Satan started on drugs.

The mystics of the east use drugs in order to go into a trance which enables them to make contact with the spirits, and they are soon possessed by them.

James Manson, the occult leader responsible for the murder of Sharon Tate and others, is a typical example of one who became possessed by evil spirits through drugs. Revelation 18:23 — sorceries [Pharmakeia, in the Greek] = drugs.

Astrology

God definitely forbids consulting this type of activity! So often even Christians fall into the trap of seeking after the mystical. Seek God for advice and guidance in solving your problems . . . not the horoscope. See Deuteronomy 18:10-11 and Leviticus 20:6.

Angels Of Light

Beware of those who want to teach you

"new truths" that can't be found in the Bible. The Bible states that, "In the latter days some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." I Timothy 4:1. Seek God and His Word for spiritual discernment. Satan's workers are wooing their prey right on the junior and senior high school campus.

Occultism In Our Schools

The infiltration of occultism and witchcraft into our schools is very alarming. On many junior and senior high school and college campuses an introduction to witchcraft and the occult is being taught under the innocent guise of mysticism or transcendental meditation. Large occult groups have been formed in many areas, comprising mainly junior and senior high school, plus college students. They are taught that they will control the world through witchcraft, and that a world ruler will soon appear on the scene who will control the world through the powers of witchcraft. This person is prophesied in the Bible. He is called *the beast, a king, the Antichrist*. See Daniel 8:23-25; Revelation 13:1-18; I John 2:18; II Thes. 2:8-12.

We have entered into a period where drugs have enslaved many, and now we are entering into a much deadlier phase, witchcraft! You and I must act now in stemming the tide. Make sure that mysticism is not allowed to be taught in your public schools. If they will not allow the Bible to even be read in our schools, certainly Satan's religion of witchcraft and the occult should not be allowed.

Witchcraft Unmasked!

The following scriptures reveal God's attitude toward and judgment of those involved in any way with witchcraft and the occult:

"The soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a-whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people." Leviticus 20:6

"Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." Exodus 22:18

Then look up Galatians 5:19-21 and see what God says concerning witchcraft in this present age.

I pray that you will take God's warnings to heart, and refuse to have any part in Satan's religion.

If you should wish to contact Ben Alexander, his address is: Logsdon, Oregon 97357.

The MASTER'S PLAN for EVANGELISM (Continued from Last Page)

members evangelize within their own community.

Jesus added: "to thy friends." This is so vitally important. Our friends should be first on our list. But oddly enough, we find it easier (or more convenient) to talk to people who perhaps don't know us well—or at all. Could it be to save our "friendship" we don't approach them at all with the gospel? Now, a friend should be a natural starting point, a field that has been cultivated, ready for the sowing of the seed. Friendships do not occur overnight. It does take time. But how long are you going to hold back the seed? The woman at the well went to her friends and said, "Come see a man." Because she did so, "many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him for the saying of the woman" (John 4:39). It works, doesn't it?

Perhaps you don't have any friends. Then make some! How? "A man that maketh friends must show himself friendly" (Proverbs 18:24). As the song says, "Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak." Then you will be ready for Phase II.

II. JESUS TOLD THE MAN TO "TELL."

What should we tell our friends? In the Great Commission we are instructed to tell them "all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Why not make the commands of Jesus a pattern for your teaching? What better basis for truth could one have? This would definitely narrow the field for some, but that just might be a good thing! Do as the evangelist Philip did—preach Jesus only (Acts 8:35). "Tell them of JESUS the mighty to save!"

The Gadarene, however, was told to tell his friends of the great things that the Lord had done for him. Could we not, should we not, do the same? Of course. Share that testimony with your friends. Additionally, he was to tell them about the compassion of Christ. Has Jesus been compassionate toward you? Many times! Then tell your friends of His mercy and grace. Tell them how your burdened soul found liberty at Calvary. Perhaps they will "glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). But it will never happen until the bushel is removed from the candle.

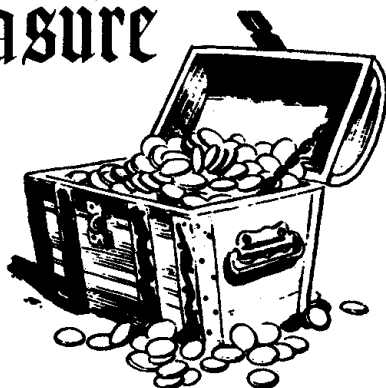
Let's go home to our friends and tell them what God has done for us and what He can do for them. THEN we can go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. This is the Master's plan. □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The cartoon version I DISCOVERED THE REAL PERSON AND POWER BEHIND WITCHCRAFT was reprinted in this paper by permission.

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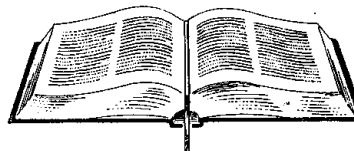
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