

FROM BAPTIST TO ADVENTIST.

The Scriptures That Caused New Light to Shine into One Man's Heart.

BY E. J. MAURER.

(Continued from last week.)

II.

I believe that the Adventists hold the truth on the question of the

STATE OF THE DEAD:

That it is a sleep, and not an intermediate state of individual conscious existence, either in heaven or hades; and that this is abundantly supported by the inspired Scriptures.

"For the living know that they shall die: BUT THE DEAD KNOW NOT ANYTHING, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten." Eccl. 9:5.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; FOR THERE IS NO WORK, NOR DEVICE, NOR KNOWLEDGE, NOR WISDOM, IN THE GRAVE, whither thou goest." Eccl. 9:10.

"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit unto God who gave it." Eccl. 12:7.

And man will thus be, in death, just as he was before his birth, the "dust returned to the earth as it was," and the spirit "returned to God who gave it,"—he is in just the condition he was before his birth, so far, at least, as individual conscious existence is concerned. But God will "have a desire to the work of his hands," and call him back into existence again, and Job says, "I will answer thee."

"But man dieth, and wasteth away; yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: So man lieth down, and riseth not; till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come: THOU SHALT CALL AND I WILL ANSWER: THOU WILT HAVE A DESIRE TO THE WORK OF THINE HANDS." Job 14:10-15.

There are many passages which speak of death as a sleep. "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Dan. 12:2.

"And the Lord said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers:" etc. Deut. 31:16.

"So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David." 1 Kings, 2:10.

And numerous other passages might be quoted, to the same effect, concerning other bible characters of whom it is said they "slept" with their fathers.

"He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn." Matt. 9:24.

"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose." Matt. 27:52.

"These things said he; and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." John 11:11.

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept." 1 Cor. 15:20.

But why quote innumerable passages which might be quoted?

The theory which I have been

taught, from early youth up, that when a man dies he goes immediately to his reward—if he has lived a righteous life, to heaven, but if a wicked life, to hell—I am unable to substantiate from the bible. This is an error which has sprung from that first lie that Satan uttered to Eve in the garden of Eden. "Thou shalt not surely die," and by believing Satan instead of God, man has come to the belief that death was not really death, but that it was merely a change of state or condition of existence, and that the departed still lived after death in a spirit world. This error has given rise to what is commonly called Spiritualism, and the supposed ability of our departed friends to communicate with us after death through so-called spirit mediums. The only way that I know of in which this spiritual phenomenon can be accounted for, is as follows: We have abundant evidence in the word of God that there are unseen spirits or angels hovering around us: that some of these are "angels of light," or "guardian angels," or "ministering spirits," sent by the Father to comfort us; that there are also fallen angels, those who were cast out of heaven with Satan, when there was war in heaven, and Michael and his angels prevailed and Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven.

I will give here only a few of the many passages of Scripture which might be quoted on this point.

"And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. * * * Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Heb. 1:7, 14.

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Rev. 12:7, 8, 9.

These latter angels, under the leadership of Satan, are constantly striving to lead mankind into error and to destruction, to deceive "the whole world," as the passage above puts it; and having been familiar with man's character, disposition, manners and ways of life before death, can easily personify him after death, and they do this, in order to deceive mankind, lead him into the belief that he can communicate with the departed, and make him think that death is only a change of sphere of existence, and not really extinction of life, just as Satan said to Eve, "Ye shall not surely die."

But instead of this, we are taught by the word of God, as in the above scripture references, that death is an unconscious state, like a sleep, and that when the time shall have come for the resurrection, they shall awake, as from a long sleep, as stated in Daniel 12:2, above quoted, "some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

What has been said above has reference to the "first death;" but there is a "second death," spoken of in Revelation 20:6.

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Rev. 20:6.

And this leads me to my third point.

III.

THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED—THE SECOND DEATH—ANNIHILATION.

Malachi 4:1 is a strong passage in support of this doctrine. "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them NEITHER ROOT NOR BRANCH." Mal. 4:1.

I do not know what words could express total annihilation stronger than the words of this passage.

"For the wages of sin is death; (not eternal life in misery) but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23.

The doctrine of eternal suffering is another phase of that lie of Satan "ye shall not surely die." Satan, in order to bring God into a false light before men, would have us believe that God intends to punish sinful man with an eternal life of suffering: but the Scriptures tell us that God is a God of love and mercy, as well as of justice, and in his mercy he is going to destroy, "root and branch," the finally unrepentant sinner, and thus save him from the effects of an eternal life of sin, which would be eternal suffering, if he gave him eternal life in his unrepentant state, as, if he continued in sin, and just so long as he continued in sin, the wages of that sin would be death. And that is the reason why he drove Adam out of the garden of Eden, "lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and live forever," and thus perpetuate sin with all its direful consequences. So God, in mercy, proposes to leave the man who rejects his plan of salvation in the same condition as though he had never existed.

"For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had NOT BEEN." Obadiah, 16.

The strongest passages which I have been able to find, and which might, at first glance, appear to support the doctrine of eternal suffering as the doom of the finally lost sinner, are Revelation 20:10 and 14; 9, 10, 11.

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented DAY AND NIGHT FOR EVER AND EVER." Rev. 20:10.

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation: and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up FOR EVER AND EVER: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." Rev. 14:9, 10, 11.

Nevertheless, I doubt very much whether these words "for ever and ever" mean "throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity." Young's Analytical Concordance gives the meaning of these words in these passages as "to the ages of the ages" in Rev. 20:10; and in Rev. 14:11, as "the ages of ages." And Cruden's Concordance, in commenting upon these phrases, says, "The words eternal, everlasting, for ever, are sometimes taken

for a long time, and are not always to be understood strictly." Now, neither one of these interpretations would warrant us in holding that the finally impenitent sinner shall be punished with suffering to all eternity. "God is love," and in his love and mercy he cuts off the finally impenitent sinner from all possibility of bringing upon himself eternal suffering, by putting him in a state "as though he had not been."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

ATTENTION FRIENDS.

When writing us send your letters to the address given below. Also make drafts, post-office and express money orders run in my name.

JOHN C. THOMPSON, 40th and Grand Ave. Omaha, Neb.

EXTREMELY LOW RATES.

To Richmond and return via the North Western line. Tickets on sale, July 10th, 11th and 12th, good returning till August 11th. For list of routes and further information, apply at the North Western City Office, 1401 and 1403 Farnam Street.

HIGHEST AWARD And Only GOLD MEDAL Given to TYPEWRITERS at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.

Its Easy Writing

If its a Blickensderfer No. 5. The universal favorite with all classes of operators who desire a simple and speedy machine.

More "Blicks" in use among Iowa and Nebraska newspapers than all the rest of the \$100 machines together. The only typewriter on the market doing hundred-dollar work that is sold at a popular price.

HARDER & BLISH, General Agents, 904-910 Main Street, DUBUQUE, IOWA.

PRICE LIST OF BOOKS. Fifty Years in the Church of Rome, (cloth) by Rev. Charles Chittell, \$1.00. The Prince, the Woman and the Confession, (cloth) by Rev. Charles Chittell, \$1.00. Romanism and the Republic, (cloth) by J. J. Lansing, \$1.00. Romanism and the Reformation, (cloth) Rev. Quinn, \$1.00. Rome of America, (cloth) by Rev. John C. Christian, \$1.00. Convent Life, (cloth) by Miss O'Horman, \$1.25. Deeds of Darkness, (cloth) by Rev. J. G. White, \$1.25. Plain Home Talk, (cloth) by Dr. Fouts, \$1.50. Samantha at Saratoga, (cloth) Josiah Allen's wife, \$1.50.

PAPER BOUND BOOKS. Maria Monk, \$1.50. Secret Confession to a Priest, \$1.50. Secret Instructions of the Jesuits, \$1.50. Charles Dickens's Works, 13 vols., \$3.00. "Famous Fiction," (ten books all for), \$7.50. Leather Stockings, \$1.50. Forty Books for Forty Cents, \$4.00. Standard Encyclopedia in 5 Vols., \$3.35. Charlotte Braeme's Works, \$1.25. Keedall's Receipt Book, \$1.25. Miss Mullock's Works, \$1.25. Sylvanus Cobbs Works, \$1.25. Mrs. Henry Wood's Works, \$1.25. Convent Horrors, reduced to, \$1.25. Mammoth Book of Wit and Humor, \$1.25. Mrs. M. E. Braddon's Works, \$1.25. Jesuit Party in American Politics, \$1.25. Famous Comic Recitations, \$1.10. How to Train Animals, \$1.10. Mrs. Partington's Grab Bag, \$1.10. The Minstrel Show, \$1.10. Business Education at Home, \$1.10. Wilder Doodles Love Affair, \$1.10. Everybody's Law Book, \$1.10. Premium Budget, \$1.10.

For sale by JOHN C. THOMPSON.

"FIFTY YEARS IN THE CHURCH OF ROME," by Rev. Charles Chittell, \$1.00. SHERIFF'S SALE.—BY VIRTUE OF an execution issued out of the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, I have directed the undersigned to sell at public auction, on the 21st day of August, 1899, at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, at the Court House in the City of Omaha, Nebraska, the premises described in said order of sale, as follows, to wit: Lot four (4) in Block three hundred and sixteen (156) in original plat of the City of Omaha, as surveyed, platted and recorded, all in Douglas County, State of Nebraska. Said property to be sold to satisfy Harry J. Twining, plaintiff herein, the sum of Fifty-six and 78-100 (\$56.78) dollars judgment, with interest thereon at rate of ten (10) per cent, per annum from September 27th, 1897, together with an attorney's fee of five and 67-100 (\$5.67) dollars which said amounts are a first lien upon said above described property. To satisfy the sum of Ninety-five and 65-100 (\$95.65) dollars costs herein, together with accruing costs according to a judgment rendered by the District Court of said Douglas County, at its September term, A. D. 1897, in a certain action then and there pending wherein Harry J. Twining is plaintiff and The American National Bank of Omaha, Nebraska, a corporation organized under the laws of the United States, James S. Curtis and Kate Bird Curtis, his wife, are defendants. Omaha, Neb., June 25, 1899. JOHN W. McDONALD, Sheriff of Douglas County, Nebraska. W. A. SANDER, attorney. Twining vs. American National Bank. Docket #1, No. 229. Ex. Dec.Page 6-20-5

CALIFORNIA GREAT ROCK ISLAND ROUTE

LOW RATES ON OUR PERSONALLY CONDUCTED TOURIST EXCURSIONS. Leave Omaha every Friday via Colorado Springs and Scenic Route. These Excursions Cars are attached to Fast Passenger Trains, and their popularity is evidence that we offer the best. Write for handsome itinerary which gives full information and new map, sent free. For complete information, rates and berth reservation see your local agent or address E. E. MacLEOD, A. G. P., Topeka, Kan. JOHN SEBASTIAN, G. P. A., Chicago.

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES. Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of June, 1899, the term of the corporation of the Central Hotel Company was extended to February 15, 1901, and that said corporation will exist until that time. LOUIS D. HOLMES, President. WILLIAM E. DAVIS, Secretary. Omaha, June 6th, 1899. 6-16-4.

SAMANTHA AT SARATOGA. By JOSIAH ALLEN'S WIFE.

This is without doubt the most popular humorous book of modern times. It was written by Marietta Holley ("Josiah Allen's Wife"), and has been the most widely read and universally popular of all her famous books. "Samantha at Saratoga" describes the adventures of Samantha and Josiah Allen upon a visit to Saratoga, as well as to Lake George, Mount McGregor and other places. It likewise chronicles some amusing events that occurred at Jonewille, the home of the Allens. It is bristling with witty remarks, droll philosophy and ludicrous descriptions, written in the author's best vein, and will be enjoyed by every lover of the humorous. Some of the chapters are as follows: "Ardella Tutt and Her Mother," "The Chertley of the Jonewillians," "Ardella and Abram Gee," "We Arrive at Saratoga," "Josiah and Samantha Take a Long Walk," "Josiah's Flirtations," "Miss G. Washington Flann," "A Visit to the Indian Encampment," "A Drive to Saratoga Lake," "Lake George and Mount McGregor," "At a Law Party," "The Social Science Meeting," "An Accident with Beauty," etc. Many thousands of the subscription edition of this book have been sold at \$2.50 each. The edition that we offer contains all the text of the original, and it is published in a handsome 16mo. volume of 374 pages, well printed from large type on good paper, embellished with 60 humorous illustrations by Oppen, many of them full page, and beautifully bound in silk-finished cloth, stamped in black and gold. It is a handsome book, well worth a place in any library, and our liberal offer places it within the reach of all. We will send "Samantha at Saratoga" by mail post-paid upon receipt of Fifty Cents.

THE AMERICAN.

Bicycle advertisement for \$15.95 with features like 'GENTS' OR LADIES', 'ONLY ONE DOLLAR DOWN', and 'THE VIGORA'.

Advertisement for Dr. Kay's Lung Balm featuring a portrait of a man and a testimonial from Rev. F. M. Esterbrook, Treasurer of the Nebraska Wesleyan University.