

HOW JESUS PREACHED TO SPIRITS IN PRISON

Who They Are and What Was Their Offense.

"CAST DOWN TO TARTARUS."

Pastor Russell, at Georgia's Capital, Tells How Angels Once Materialized and Took to Themselves Wives From Among the Daughters of Men—Fate of Dead of Titanic Disaster Pointed Out From Scripture.



PASTOR RUSSELL

Atlanta, Ga., April 28.—While we weep with the survivors of the "Titanic" disaster, let us thank God that a better understanding of the Bible enables us to sorrow not hopelessly. Not long ago, misguided by our creeds of the Dark Ages, we would have asked, "Where any of the 1500 who perished saints? And assured that very few of them would have claimed to be saints, we would have concluded that all the remainder plunged down to a Catholic purgatory of terror, or worse, to a Protestant hell of eternal torture.

Even the tales of their great gallantry and heroism would not have altered the decision which would have hung over the question. Did they confess Jesus in word and deed? We would have asked. Were they church members? This is the same argument used respecting the 90,000 heathen who die every day in the year, "going down into Christless graves," the "London Missionary Society" truly says, but means and is understood to mean into Christless eternal torture!

Now, how different! Now we see that a faithful, elect Church is being selected during this Age; that in the next Age they with Jesus may assist, bless, uplift all the non-elect to an earthly salvation to human perfection, in the new Paradise—Earth,—which Messiah's Kingdom will usher in. Thus, only the *willfully wicked* will ever be annihilated.

But our old errors die hard; because we have twisted the Bible to fit them. For instance, let us consider St. Peter's words:—"Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened in the spirit, by which [two experiences—death and resurrection] He preached unto the spirits in prison."—1 Peter III, 18, 19.

This text, said Pastor Russell, has been made the basis for some peculiar presentations. From it some have deduced an intermediate state lasting between death and the resurrection. Others have claimed it as an authority for the doctrine of Purgatory. The difficulty in every case seems to be the failure to remember that the Bible always and everywhere teaches that the dead are really dead, that they know nothing, and that, therefore, it would be impossible to do any preaching to the dead humans. Undoubtedly the theory that people are more alive after they die than when they were alive is responsible for nearly all of the foolish things which we have all at some time professed to believe.

Before dismissing the thought that these "spirits in prison" are human spirits, let us note the fact that to say, "human spirits," is an absurdity of itself, because human beings are not spirits and spirit beings are not humans. "Who maketh His angels spirits," is the Scriptural proposition. True, we do sometimes speak of humans as possessing a spirit of life, but by this we merely mean that he possesses the power or energy of life, and the same would be equally true of the lower orders of creation, beasts, fish, fowl, etc.

Again, we sometimes speak of the Church as spirit beings—begotten of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Apostle speaks of the natural man in contrast with the New Creature, a spirit being. To appreciate this statement we must remember that the Church class receives the begetting of the Holy Spirit to the end that, if faithful, they may attain unto a spirit resurrection and become spirit beings, like unto the angels and like to the Redeemer. But we are not spirits yet, except by faith—by hope. However, the context shows that the Apostle had no reference to the Church, either; we were not in prison; we received the Message of salvation through the Apostles.

for the uplift of humanity, or, rather, permitted to demonstrate that the downward tendency of sin is incurable except in the manner which God has already arranged for through Messiah and His glorious reign of a thousand years.

Instead of those angels helping mankind out of sin they helped themselves into sin, and by so doing they increased the depravity amongst humanity until the astounding record is that "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thought of his heart was only evil continually." The particular sin of those angels was that when they were granted the privileges of materializing—of taking human bodies for the sake of helping and instructing mankind—they misused this power and took to themselves the daughters of men for wives.

Thus these angels came gradually to prefer to live as men amongst men and to rear earthly families rather than to abide in the condition in which they were created—spirit beings, higher than humans. Not only was this wrong in the sense that it was taking a course in opposition to the Divine arrangement, but it was wrong also because the thing was done for the cultivation and gratification of lust, and it led to their own moral defilement as well as having a baneful influence upon humanity; for we can readily see that for the angels, of superior powers and intelligence, to become leaders in lustful practices would mean a great influence upon mankind toward sin.

We are particularly told that the offspring of this improper union between the angels and the daughters of men were giants, both physically and mentally superior to the fallen human family—"men of renown." And this statement, that they were "men of renown," was at a time when manhood's estate was reached at a hundred years, and implies that God did not interfere to hinder or stop the progress of sin for perhaps several centuries. In the meantime the race had become so corrupt that apparently only Noah and his family were uncontaminated—all others had more or less come under the influence, directly or indirectly, of those fallen angels or their giant sons.

Hence, of Noah it was written (not that he was a perfect man, but), "Now Noah was perfect in his generation" (uncontaminated) and his family apparently the same. Hence these alone were saved in the ark, while all the remainder, more or less contaminated, were destroyed by the flood.

"In Chains of Darkness." It was then and there that God imprisoned those spirits, angels, who kept not their first estate, and are therefore called fallen angels, devils, demons. They were not imprisoned in some far-off world called hell, nor are they engaged there in stoking fires for the torture of poor humanity. Following the leading of the Scriptures we find that when the flood came they were not destroyed because, while their fleshy bodies which they assumed might indeed perish, yet they would merely dematerialize, or assume their spirit conditions again.

The record is that God cast them down, that He condemned them to an overthrow—that they might not any longer associate with the holy angels, but must be reserved in *tartarus*—our earth's atmosphere. Here they were imprisoned, not in a special place, but in the sense of having their liberties restrained. "In chains of darkness." They were no longer permitted to materialize and thus to associate with humanity. These things are distinctly told us by St. Jude and St. Peter (Jude 6; 1 Peter II, 4, 5)—an explanation in full harmony with the Genesis account of their fall.

Once Disobedient—Still Disobedient. We of course cannot know that all of those fallen angels are still in a disloyal condition of heart. On the contrary, in harmony with our text, we may suppose that some of these fallen angels have since repented of their wrong course and it would be none too strong a way to state the matter—that any such repentant ones would surely have terrible experiences as a result. To be obliged to be in close touch and relationship with the more evil and malignant ones and to have knowledge of all their evil designs and efforts would be a terrible experience and, besides this, we may be sure that the rebellious would not hesitate to persecute the repentant ones in every conceivable manner, as they would be lawless, regardless of the Divine will.

"with wicked spirits in high positions," and the question arises, "Who is sufficient for these things?" The reply is that none is sufficient; without the aid of the Redeemer His church would be quite overcome and vanquished by evil. Likewise, without the Redeemer's aid through His Kingdom, without the binding of Satan, without our Lord's releasing of the world from the bondage of sin and death, there would be no hope of the world's recovery from its present bondage. But with the Apostle we exclaim, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans VIII, 31.)

Through Mediums and Obsessions. Satan's original plan of attack was to bring our race under his influence by misrepresentation—by putting darkness for light and light for darkness—for instance, the temptation under which Mother Eve fell. Satan there represented himself as Eve's friend, giving her sound advice. He represented God as having a selfish motive behind His command that our first parents should not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan declared that God had told an untruth when He said that the penalty for sin would be death. Satan declared that man cannot die.

And has he not since kept up the same line of falsification? And has he not deceived the whole world upon this very subject? Do not all peoples in every land believe that when a man dies he does not die, but gets more alive—exactly Satan's lie of the first instance? How few have believed God, even amongst His people who truly love Him, and who truly desire to believe the teachings of His Word! We have all been under a kind of "hoodoo." "The god of this world [Satan] hath blinded" our minds on this subject. We are now coming to see that death is the penalty for sin and that the resurrection is the salvation God promised and will provide.

Satan has had powerful allies and servants in the fallen angels, and it is through their persistence that his lie has triumphed over the Divine Word of truth—"Dying, thou shalt die." These fallen spirits have made various manifestations in every land for centuries, and thereby have apparently substantiated the theory that a dead man is more alive than when he was alive. Knowing that mankind would have nothing to do with them if their real personality were known they hide their personality and represent themselves as our dead friends who desire to speak with us, either directly or through mediums.

A further desire of these angels is to obsess or to get possession of a human being. Being chained or restrained from the privilege of materialization, the next most desirable thing in their estimation is to gain control over a human being and to use his body instead of their own. This is styled *obsession*, and persons so afflicted today are sent to an insane asylum where, it is estimated, they constitute at least one half of the entire number. In the days of our Lord these were not mistakenly supposed to be insane, but rightly declared to be obsessed. All remember the New Testament account that our Savior and His Apostles cast out legions of fallen spirits.

How Jesus Preached in Death. Here arises another question: If Jesus was really dead, as the Scriptures declare, if "He poured out His soul unto death," and "made His soul an offering for sin," and His soul was not raised from the dead until the third day after His crucifixion, how could He in the meantime preach to spirits in prison, or to anybody else? We reply that He could preach in the same way that the Apostle refers to, saying, "He, being dead, yet speaketh" (Hebrews XI, 4); and again, in the same way that the blood of Abel is said to have cried to God—figuratively. Of one thing we are sure, namely, that Jesus gave no oral address while He was dead. He preached in the way we sometimes refer to when we say, "Actions speak louder than words."

It was the great object lesson which the fallen angels saw that constituted to them the great sermon that gave them a ground for hope. On several occasions the fallen spirits, when commanded to come out of human beings, declared that they knew Jesus. In the long ago they had known Him, when, as the Only Begotten of the Father, and His Representative, He had created them and all things that are made, and was also the mouthpiece for all Divine orders and regulations. They realized that He had come into the world to be its Redeemer; they perceived the great stoop that He had made from His lofty position on the heavenly plane to the servant position on the human plane. They admired His loyalty and faithfulness to God, but doubtless believed Him to be foolish; they never expected Him to be foolish from the dead. But when they perceived His resurrection on the third day to glory, honor and immortality, "far above angels, principalities and powers and every name that is named," His sermon to them was complete, namely, that "the wages of sin is death," but that "the gift of God is eternal life." (Romans VI, 23.) And as they realized thus the Power of God and the Love of God for His human creatures, the Apostle's words imply that this constituted to them a message of hope. Perhaps if they would show full contrition God eventually would have mercy upon them, even as He had had mercy and had provided for humanity.

The lesson is one for all. God's power is infinite, so is His love, His mercy, His goodness. Nevertheless, every wilful sin will have its punishment, a just recompense of reward, and only the willing and obedient shall have the Divine favor and everlasting life. Let each apply the lesson to himself.

FORTY KILLED IN SOUTHERN STORM

Disastrous Tornado Sweeps Texas as Panhandle and Oklahoma.

INJURED LIST IN HUNDREDS.

Great Devastation Follows Terrific Blast of Wind—Dozen Towns Suffer Damage—Fifteen Persons Are Killed at Lugert, Okla.

Oklahoma City, April 29.—Forty persons are reported to have been killed by a tornado that swept southwestern Oklahoma and the southeastern corner of the Texas Panhandle. A dozen towns were struck and farming communities suffered. The injured list will run into the hundreds.

The biggest loss of life reported is at Lugert, where fifteen persons were killed. A special train, sent from Altus with physicians and nurses when it was reported a passenger train had been blown from the rails, picked up ten injured persons and started back for Altus. Two of these, Mrs. Lee Stanaland and Miss Eva Stanaland, died on the train.

The tornado started just across the Texas border and first killed seven persons at Kirkland, Tex., demolished thirty buildings and blew a Rock Island worktrain off the track. Tearing on northward, the storm struck El Dorado, killing four; Calumet, killing three, and Lugert, where half the town is in ruins; Yukon, Warren, Martha, Blair and Lone Wolf. At each of these places many persons were hurt. What is believed to be the worst of the storm destroyed several buildings at Mulhall, fifty miles north of Oklahoma City, but there were no casualties there.

P. B. Thompson and his wife were caught under the falling timbers of their home at Calumet and crushed to death. Several other buildings at Calumet were demolished and two persons were killed.

Alledo, a village in Dewey county, is reported to be in ruins.

WILL HAVE UNIQUE TABLE

Every Methodist Mission Represented by Piece of Wood.

Nashville, Tenn., April 29.—The bishops' table which will be used by the Methodist Episcopal bishops next Wednesday in Minneapolis is declared to be a unique article of furniture.

A college at Morristown, East Tennessee, will furnish the table, and every Methodist conference and mission in the world is represented by a piece of wood. The center of the mosaic top of the table is a piece of wood from Wesley's pulpit and grouped about it are pieces of wood from the rigging loft, John Street church, New York, and the Strawberry meeting house, Baltimore. Other pieces of wood are from the United States ship Constitution, the Hancock house, the first Asbury church west of the Alleghenies, and St. George's church, Philadelphia, the oldest Methodist Episcopal church in the world in which services have been held constantly.

DECISION BLOW TO "DRYS"

Minnesota Court Gives Chance for Liquor Sales in Prohibition Districts.

St. Paul, April 29.—A decision handed down by Chief Justice Start of the Minnesota supreme court has dealt a severe blow to the cause of prohibition in this state, according to W. C. Calderwood, secretary of the state Prohibition party.

While the retail sale of liquor, according to Judge Start's decision, in "dry" territory is illegal, there is nothing to prevent any one from establishing warehouses in prohibition districts and peddling intoxicating liquor in five gallon quantities. Municipalities have no authority to control the wholesale traffic.

Prohibition party leaders announce that they will endeavor to have the law changed at the next session of the legislature.

First Appeal for Aid.

San Francisco, April 29.—The first specific appeal to the transport Buford for help on its trip for west coast Mexican ports, beginning today, was received here from Paul F. Carpenter of Los Angeles. He asks that a searching party be sent for George Carpenter, an American civil engineer in charge of irrigation works at Topolobampo, who was heard from three weeks ago at Guasave, twenty miles inland from Topolobampo.

Civil War in Paraguay.

Buenos Aires, April 29.—Civil war has again broken out in Paraguay. Telegrams from Asuncion state that four government warships bombarded the revolutionists, who are commanded by former President Jara at Villa Encarnacion. The fire returned by the revolutionists was so well directed that the warships were compelled to retire in a damaged condition.

Court Refuses to Conduct Saloon.

Chicago, April 29.—United States District Judge Carpenter refused to conduct a saloon under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court. The decision came in the adjudication of the bankruptcy petition of W. H. Schimpferman company when counsel asked authority to obtain a renewal of the city liquor license.

GERMANSCHOOL CELEBRATES

Dubuque Institution Observes Its Sixtieth Anniversary.

Dubuque, Ia., April 29.—Last week concluded an important event in the history of the German Presbyterian Seminary of the Northwest. The sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the institution was celebrated. Recently the organization has completed, and is now occupying one of the finest buildings devoted to college purposes in the state and it is now on a substantial financial basis.

Dr. C. M. Steffens, president and financial head, was again inducted into office. He is a native of Dubuque. President Taft sent an autograph letter felicitating Dr. Steffens on the success of the seminary.

The German Presbyterian Seminary of the Northwest was organized sixty years ago by Andrianus Van Vliet, a Hollander, with two students, Dr. McClellan, a blind man, but one of remarkable learning and force, succeeded to the presidency, he being followed by Dr. Steffens, Sr., who in turn was succeeded by his son, the present Dr. Steffens.

ISSUES IN IOWA ARE LARGELY PERSONAL

Each Party Will Select Candidates for State Offices June 3.

Des Moines, April 29.—The state primary campaign is now the only thing of general political interest ahead in Iowa, and the filings for the state offices and legislative positions have all been completed. The primary campaign has just five weeks to run, as the date for the election is June 3. All signs are that the campaign will be very much less strenuous than some of those that have preceded it, that there will be no great amount of speaking and that the newspaper discussion will be keyed to a very moderate pitch. There is nothing in either party to arouse much feeling. The candidates are largely personal rather than factional, and while most of those among the Republicans who aspire to office are men who have not hesitated to stand firmly for one thing or another in state affairs, yet the general disposition is to overlook past differences and vote for men on their merits. Because of this fact the primary campaign will not be as exciting as some of the others.

PHILLIPS WILL IS PROBATED

Estate of McCaskill Victim Goes to His Ten Children.

Waterloo, Ia., April 29.—The will of Henry Phillips, for whose death in Poyner township last November, Jefferson T. McCaskill was recently convicted of manslaughter, has been filed in the probate court. The widow, Anna Phillips, is to receive the income from the estate, which amounts to upwards of \$20,000. Final distribution is to be made among the children as follows: \$15,000, in equal shares, is to be divided among the six sons, and \$5,000 among four daughters.

McCaskill is still confined in the county jail awaiting the hearing on a motion for a new trial. If the motion is overruled by Judge Platt, he will be sentenced. Then an appeal will be taken to the supreme court and ball will be asked. Mr. McCaskill's relatives are well-to-do and can furnish any reasonable sum for an appearance bond. It is said.

Fourth Attempt to Release Thaw.

New Rochelle, N. Y., April 29.—A fourth attempt through the agency of the law to liberate Harry K. Thaw from the Matteawan state hospital, where he has been imprisoned for the slaying of St. Alfred White six years ago "because of insanity," was made before Justice Keogh of the supreme court in New Rochelle. Thaw was brought down from Matteawan. An adjournment for several weeks in order that counsel for the state may go over the voluminous records in previous proceedings was granted.

Wheat Killed by Chill After Thaw.

Omaha, April 29.—H. Dahlstrom of Ceresco, Neb., reports winter wheat in the South Plate country in poor condition, especially in the western part of the state. He says many farmers are plowing land sown in wheat last fall and plan to plant corn and other grain in its stead. It appears that a hard crust formed after the ground was left bare of snow early this spring and the cold weather following the thaw killed the seed underneath in large patches.

Engineers' Dispute to Be Arbitrated.

New York, April 29.—Belief that the threatened strike of 28,000 locomotive engineers employed by the railroads east of the Mississippi river has been averted through the efforts at mediation of Judge Knapp of the court of commerce and Charles P. Neill, commissioner of labor, was expressed by participants in the conferences. The question of arbitration has now been agreed to by both sides.

Took the Wrong Drink.

Correctionville, Ia., April 29.—A. R. Goucher, forty years old, died here from drinking liniment purchased, as he declared, for application on a lame leg. Three physicians were unable to revive him. It is thought that an uncontrollable desire for a stimulant was the cause of his taking the drink.

STATE WARDS USING CASH

Eleven Institutions Are Ahead of Appropriations.

CAVINESS ON NORMAL BOARD.

Commandant Hillyard of Soldiers' Home at Milford Said to Be Contemplating Return to His Farm—Ross Runs a Great Race.

Lincoln, April 29.—April 1 was the beginning of a new fiscal year for all the state institutions. The appropriations are made for a two-year period and the auditor's books show that eleven of the eighteen institutions have used up more than half the money appropriated for their maintenance for two years. In the case of the school for the feeble minded at Beatrice the typhoid epidemic, which necessitated the reconstruction of the plumbing and the sinking of new wells, was the cause for the overlap, and the penitentiary has also overdrawn as a result of recent events which required the expenditure of considerable money not anticipated by the legislature.

All four of the normal schools have used up more than half the two-year appropriations. Chadron having made the largest inroads into its cash, and the extra expense incident to the repairs to the foundation, which settled, will make another draft for the second year of the biennium. The other institutions which have overdrawn are the deaf and dumb school at Omaha, the industrial school for boys and girls at Geneva, the orthopedic hospital at Lincoln and the soldiers' and sailors' home at Milford.

New Board Member.

Governor Aldrich announces the appointment of A. L. Caviness, now a member of the board of examiners, as a member of the state normal board, taking the place of B. L. Shellhorn, whose term expires in May. No appointment has been announced to succeed Caviness as a member of the examining board.

It is announced on seemingly good authority that Commandant Hillyard of the soldiers' home at Milford will soon tender his resignation. It is said Mr. Hillyard desires to devote his time to his farm near Superior.

Ross Runs a Great Race.

Charles Ross, the Lexington liveryman, who has the unique distinction of running for president on both the Republican and Democratic tickets, received 1,225 votes in the sixty-four counties which have reported to the office of the secretary of state. Of these 386 were cast by Republicans and 839 by Democrats. His high vote on both tickets was in Saline county, where he received 17 as a Republican and 103 as a Democrat. At the ratio he has maintained up to date it appears likely he will reach a grand total of 1,500 when the returns are all in.

Manning Kills Himself.

Joseph Manning, aged twenty-four years, an employee of the Burlington freight office, killed himself by slashing his throat with a razor. He severed both the jugular vein and the carotid artery. He had been in poor health for some time and had been melancholy and unable to sleep. His sister and brother were sitting in the adjoining room when he slashed himself.

Bishops Finish Work.

After an executive session of five days the Methodist bishops completed the draft of the episcopal address to be submitted to the general conference in Minneapolis in May. The visiting bishops have left the city.

RIVER'S INROADS CHECKED

Vast Amount of Material Dumped Into Missouri at Folsom.

Omaha, April 29.—After cutting and throwing over the rapidly melting bank all of the apple trees from the large orchard on the farm of Eustice Williams and adding 100 cars of brush and forest trees, all tangled in mazes of barbed wire, fifty old boxcars filled with stone and 500 cars of stone, the Burlington Railway company has succeeded in checking the onslaught of the Missouri river at Folsom, twelve miles south of Council Bluffs, but not until the river had undermined and carried out several hundred yards of its track.

A little party of 225 men has been working day and night during the last week in the desperate combat.

Benkelman Man Dies From Rifle Shot.

Benkelman, Neb., April 29.—The body of Frank Bunning, who died in a Kansas City hospital, was brought to Benkelman and interred in the cemetery here. Mr. Bunning was one of the prosperous young farmers residing five miles north of Benkelman. On Jan. 2, while taking a ride from his wagon, the weapon was discharged, the ball lodging in his lung.

Live Stock Nearly All Sold Out.

Omaha, April 29.—J. W. Fitch of Columbus, in Omaha with a load of live stock, said he believed that another car of cattle could not be found in his county. Because of the scarcity of corn and the present high prices obtained for live stock, central Nebraska is being cleaned rapidly of both cattle and hogs.