

are called the elect angels. 1 Tim. 5:21—"I charge thee in the sight of God, and Christ Jesus, and the elect angels," etc. This does not mean that their remaining faithful was the result of their election, but rather that their election was the consequence of their fidelity.

57. Q. How do the good angels affect us today?

A. They love us, and they act as ministers of God's providence toward us.

Heb. 1:14—"are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to do service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation?" God's special providence is constantly being exerted in behalf of His saints through the ministrations of angels.

REVIEW EXAMINATION OVER LESSON NINETEEN

47. Q. Within what order of beings did sin have its beginning?
48. Q. Did the angels all remain good and happy, as they were when created?
49. Q. Who was the instigator and leader of this rebellion?
50. Q. What did this rebellious angel seek to do?
51. Q. What were the motives which prompted this rebellion?
52. Q. What happened to the angels that sinned?
53. Q. Why did not God devise a plan of salvation for the wicked angels?
54. Q. What was the effect of this eternal rejection of them by their Creator?
55. Q. But why did not God annihilate all the wicked angels when they rebelled against Him?
56. Q. How has God rewarded the angels who remained faithful to His government?
57. Q. How do the good angels affect us today?

Lesson Twenty

THE ADVERSARY

Scripture Reading: John 8:42-47, Eph. 6:10-20.

Scripture To Memorize: "Be sober, be watchful: your ad-

versary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom withstand stedfast in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are accomplished in your brethren who are in the world" (1 Pet. 5:8-9).

58. Q. Do the scriptures teach that there is a personal devil?

A. They do, and it is taught more frequently and more positively in the New Testament than in the Old Testament.

(1) The testimony of Jesus. John 8:44—"ye are of your father the devil . . . he was a murderer from the beginning . . . he is a liar, and the father thereof." John 12:31—"now shall the prince of this world be cast out." Matt. 13:38, 39—"the tares are the sons of the evil one; and the enemy that sowed them is the devil." (2) The testimony of the Apostle John. 1 John 3:8—"he that doeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning." (3) The testimony of the Apostle Peter. 1 Pet. 5:8—"your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (4) The testimony of the Apostle Paul. 2 Cor. 4:4—"in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving." 2 Cor. 11:14—"even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light." Eph. 2:2—"according to the prince of the powers of the air, of the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience." (5) The devil is spoken of in scripture as "the prince of this world" (John 14:30, 16:11); "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4); "the prince of the powers of the air" (Eph. 2:2); "the prince of demons" (Matt. 12:24); "the tempter" (Matt. 4:3); "the adversary" (1 Pet. 5:8); "the accuser" (Rev. 12:10); "the old serpent" (Rev. 12:9); the first liar and the first murderer (John 8:44). (6) He is compared to a fowler (Psa. 9:13); a sower of tares (Matt. 13:25, 39); a wolf (John 10:12); a roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8); a serpent (Rev. 12:9, 20:2); and a dragon (Rev. 16:13). These terms suggest his total depravity, and his diabolical malice and cunning.

59. Q. What does reason teach us in this connection?

A. Reason also teaches us that there is a personal devil.

(1) If not, then man must be held responsible for all the evil in the world, and such a responsibility would be overwhelming. (2) Why is it more "absurd" that a moral being should have sinned against God in past ages, than that moral beings should sin against Him now, as they obviously do? (3) Belief in a personal devil is far more reasonable than belief in an impersonal spirit of evil. (4) One of the most ingenious devices that the devil employs in deceiving people, is that of "selling" them the lie that he has no actual existence. Beware of this lie! It is destructive and dangerous!

60. Q. Who was the devil, originally?

A. He was, as we have learned, an angel of superior rank and attainment, who was moved by pride and jealousy and false ambition, to instigate and lead a rebellion of certain angels against the divine government.

61. Q. By what name has he been known since his fall?

A. He is spoken of in scripture as Satan, or the devil.

62. Q. What has Satan been trying to do since his fall?

A. He has been trying to hinder and defeat the execution of God's eternal purpose and plan.

(1) He seduced our first parents in the Garden of Eden, but God immediately announced His plan of redemption through the Seed of a woman. See Gen. 3:15. (2) He then corrupted people of the antediluvian world by bringing about the intermingling of the irreligious Cainites and the pious Sethites, Gen. 6:1-4; but God intervened, and preserved the human race and His divine plan through Noah. (3) He then seduced the Hebrew people into idolatry and apostasy at every opportunity, until God finally, as a punishment which they deserved, allowed them to be subjugated and carried off into captivity in Babylon. (4) He incited Herod to try to murder the Child Jesus as soon as the latter was born, but God sent His angel to warn Joseph and Mary, and they fled with the Babe into Egypt. Matt. 2:13-23. (5) No sooner had Jesus entered upon

His ministry, following His baptism and the Father's subsequent introduction of Him to the world as His "beloved Son," than Satan tried to seduce Him; but Satan failed utterly. Matt. 3:13-17, 4:1-11. He made another attempt to overpower Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, but failed again. (6) Finally, in desperation, he incited the Jewish nation through their ecclesiastical leaders, to murder the Son of God. Calvary was the darkest hour in human history. No doubt Satan and his rebel hosts calculated they had won a complete victory when Jesus expired on the Cross! But they reckoned without the working of God's mighty power which He wrought when He raised up Jesus from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places. Eph. 1:15-23. The resurrection of our Lord and the establishment of the church were the two great events in the development of the remedial system which made inevitable the ultimate defeat and subjugation of Satan. (7) Today with the desperation of a lost spirit engaged in a hopeless cause, he makes war on the church. Realizing full well that he faces certain and eternal segregation in hell, he seeks only to drag the human race down into the pit with him! Let us never lose sight of the fact that, in respect to every truth said of God—

"Satan ever watches round him,
Seeks to find the weakest part,
And in moments most unheeded,
Quickly throws his fiery dart."

63. Q. In what great conflict is the church engaged today?
- A. In the final and desperate conflict with Satan and his rebel hosts.

(1) Eph. 6:12—"For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (2) No doubt the saints are subject to temptation by these unseen evil personalities which inhabit the universe. No doubt that wicked angels influence us to sinful impulses by the powers of telepathy which are inherent in all types of per-

sonality, to which we may surrender unless we are clad in "the whole armor of God."

64. Q. How do the wicked angels affect us today?

A. They try to ensnare us, to entice us into sin, to injure us in body and spirit, and to plunge us into perdition.

Luke 8:12—"and those by the way side are they that have heard; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word from their heart, that they may not believe and be saved."

John 13:2—"and during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot . . . to betray him," etc.

1 Tim. 4:1—"giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons." Eph. 6:11—"put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Jas. 4:7—"resist the devil, and he will flee from you." 2

Tim. 2:26—"and they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him unto his will." 1 Cor. 7:5—"that Satan tempt you not because of your incontinency." Ps. 91:3—"for he will deliver thee from the snare of the fowler."

65. Q. How will this great conflict end?

A. In the ultimate triumph of the true church.
(See Revelation, chs. 20, 21, 22).

66. Q. What has God promised His children with respect to the wiles of the devil?

A. He has promised that, in consequence of their implicit trust in Him, He will not suffer them to be tempted beyond their ability to resist the temptation.

(1) 1 Cor. 10:13—"There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it." 2 Pet. 2:9—"the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation." (2)

That we may be reminded constantly of our heavenly Father's guidance and protection, Jesus has taught us to pray in these words: "and bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (Matt. 6:13). (3) As in the

case of Job, devilish malignity is ever circumscribed and held in check by the power of the Almighty. See Job 1:12, 2:6. The devils could not even plunge a herd of swine to destruction without the Savior's permission, Matt. 8:28-34.

(8) The most effective means of resisting temptation are: knowledge of the word of God and the ability to use it with discrimination, Matt. 4:1-11, Eph. 6:17; meditation and prayer, Matt. 4:1-2, Luke 22:39-43; and faithful keeping of the Lord's appointments, Acts 2:42, 1 Cor. 11:23-30, Heb. 10:23-25.

67. Q. What is the primary end contemplated in God's eternal purpose and plan?

A. A holy race, to inhabit the new heavens and the new earth, 2 Pet. 3:13, Rev. 21:1-4.

68. Q. What additional end is contemplated in God's eternal purpose and plan?

A. Probably His own complete vindication from the lying accusations which were brought against him by the devil and his angels; a vindication before and by all the intelligent creatures of the universe; and a vindication resulting from the matchless demonstration of His amazing grace, love and compassion, as manifested in and through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Eph. 3:10, 11—"to the intent that now unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." 1 Cor. 6:3—"know ye not that we shall judge angels?" See also Rev. 15:2-4, 19:1-8, 20:11-15, etc.

69. Q. What shall be the ultimate end of Satan and his kind?

A. Eternal segregation in hell, the penitentiary of the moral universe.

(1) Penitentiaries are for the incarceration and segregation of only those who will not respect and obey the law. (2) Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. Matt. 25:41—"Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire

which is prepared for the devil and his angels." Rev. 20:10 — "and the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are also the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (3) If human beings, for whom God has given His only begotten Son that they should not perish but have eternal life, do finally perish in hell, it will not be because God casts them into it, but because they cast themselves into hell in consequence of their own indifference and rebelliousness. See Rev. 21:8. In the final judgment, each class will go to its proper place instinctively and voluntarily; and those who go to hell will be driven there by their own guilty consciences.

70. Q. In view of all these facts what should we do?

A. We should constantly and prayerfully keep ourselves clad in the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles and snares of the devil. Eph. 6:10-20.

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61. Q. By what name has he been known since his fall?

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63. Q. In what great conflict is the church engaged today?

64. Q. How do the wicked angels affect us today?

65. Q. How will this great conflict end?

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