



## The Spirit that Originated Evil

By Charles Permant

*“Cease from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of?” Isaiah 2: 22*

In this verse of Scripture God recommends that we cease from man. And the reason given is that man’s breath is in his nostrils; because without breath he is but a lump of clay, and therefore of no account. He is no god.

The plea would not have been made if the people were not putting their trust in man rather than in God for their salvation; that is, rather than doing what the noble Bereans did, studying to know whether “these things be so,” God’s people are giving heed to what others think or say. They are today doing just what hundreds of thousands were doing in Jesus’ day: trusting in the opinions of their learned priests, scribes, and rabbis. The Jew’s attitude of giving heed to hearsay instead of engaging in personal investigation and experience of their own with the source of truth, is therefore, the very thing that crucified our Lord.

And where do you suppose such confidence in man originated? We often think that evil originated with Eve when she reached for the forbidden fruit. But the fact is that evil had already existed before Eve came in contact with it. *Isaiah 14: 12-15* “How art thou fallen from heaven. O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the

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## Self Denial – Self Sacrifice

*From Review and Herald, January 31, 1907*

How many there are who accept Christ, and apparently live a Christian life, until their circumstances change! Perhaps they come into the possession of property. Thus God tests them, to see if they will be wise stewards. But they fail to endure the proving. They use for self-gratification that which they should devote to feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. In want and distress, God’s children are calling to him. Many are dying for want of the necessities of life. Their cries have entered the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. He will call to a strict account those who have neglected his needy ones. What will these selfish rich men do when the Lord asks them, “What did you do with the money I gave you to use for me?” “These shall go away into everlasting punishment.” The Lord will say to them, “Depart from me, ye cursed; . . . for I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.”

The wails of a world’s sorrow are heard all around us. Sin is casting its shadow over us. Let us make ourselves ready to co-operate with the Lord. The pleasure and power of this world will pass away. No one can carry his earthly treasures into the eternal world. But the life spent in doing the will of God will abide forever. The result of that which is given to advance the work of God will be seen in the kingdom of God.

There is a world to be warned. To us has been entrusted this work. At any cost we must practice the truth. We are to stand as self-sacrificing minutemen, willing to suffer the loss of life itself, if need be, in the service of God. There is a great work to be done in a short time. We need to understand our work, and to do it with fidelity. Every one who is finally crowned victor will, by noble, determined effort to serve God, have earned the right to be clothed with Christ’s righteousness. To enter the crusade against Satan, bearing aloft the blood-stained banner of the cross of Christ—this is the duty of every Christian. This work calls for self-sacrifice. Self-denial and the cross stand all along the way of life. “He that will come after me,” Christ said, “let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” Those who secure the treasures of this world are obliged to toil and sacrifice. Should those who are seeking for an eternal reward think that they need make no sacrifices?

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*mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."*

We understand that Satan's name before he sinned was Lucifer; that he sinned before Eve sinned; and that he was impersonated in the serpent that deceived Eve. We shall therefore consider the sin in Heaven before we further consider sin on earth. Satan, we are told, was not the only sinner in Heaven, for with him were cast out of Heaven a third of the angelic host (Rev. 12: 4). These were cast out of Heaven because they gave heed to the words of Lucifer, to a "man" in Heaven, rather than giving heed to the word of God. This was the angels' downfall. Lucifer himself fell when he aspired to be as God

These two sins—trust in man and a desire to exalt self—are still the leading sin elements now here on earth. This was Eve's stumbling block and to many even today it is still the stumbling block. No, appetite alone was not the cause of Eve's downfall. The serpent did not say, "Thou shouldest eat of this fruit for it is wonderful, more delicious than any other fruit in the garden of God." But he said: "God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." *Genesis.3:5*. The fruit, of course, appealed to her, but she was tempted by the idea of having the opportunity to be exalted to the throne of God, to be exalted to the same position to which Lucifer himself aspired. Lucifer must have honestly believed that he would be as God if the angels in Heaven and the men on earth would but take orders from him. And so we see that the devil deceived Eve on the same grounds he deceived himself and his angels, the only difference being that he caused Eve to eat of the fruit which he himself and his angels would not eat. Consequently, Eve sinned against her physical being, too, by taking into it something that was not created for food, and consequently she died. But Satan and his angels still live.

This same stumbling block, the desire to exalt self, has predominated throughout the ages, and it predominates today. No, this is not making a rash empty statement. I have the facts to back up my words. For example, in the days of the Exodus Movement, there were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram who aspired to the throne of God—to the office of Moses and Aaron just as Lucifer aspired to the throne of God—the highest offices they could have longed for. And did not Lucifer fall because of wanting to be above all others for nothing more than to exalt self? And was not the same true of the fall of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? Today we see the same clamoring for position all around, even in our own churches. Praise God this is not the case at our church!

You may peruse the entire Bible, and I assure you that you will not find one of these things practiced by any of the prophets. Take for example Jesus Christ. Instead of preaching Himself, He preached the truth and gave God, not Himself, the credit.

Let us, therefore, never forget that the spirit of self exaltation originated all the evil which we see today. We should not give the devil a chance to trap us as he did to "the third part of the angels" Let us remember that Jesus is coming soon and He "alone shall be exalted in that day." Isa. 2: 11 ❖

## Personal Ministries Report

By La Rue Carlson and Jeff Eldred

In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus in his parting words to his beloved disciples instructed them, and through extension all who choose to follow Him, to go and preach the gospel to the whole world. How do we go about accomplishing this task today? The Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist Church – Owasso takes the gospel commission very seriously. That is why so many of our members are actively involved in distributing literature that helps people better understand the life and work of our Savior. By lifting up our Savior He has promised He will draw people to Him. (John 12:32)

The Personal Ministries Department takes to heart the responsibility placed upon it to publish the gospel to every creature. It is our mission to reach every home in the Owasso-Collinsville area with relevant last day messages for our world.

To help us accomplish this, once a month the Personal Ministries Council, which consists of elders and department leaders, meets to review the progress of programs already implemented and to discuss and apply fresh ideas to fulfill the gospel commission.

This past year, mass mailings of STEPS TO CHRIST have been made to area homes. This precious book, having over 140 million copies in circulation has drawn people to Christ for over a century, and it is still reaching souls today with its timeless soul stirring messages!

Christ spent much of His ministry in healing the souls and bodies of mankind. So in following Christ's footsteps, we have held cooking schools and health seminars, teaching people how to live healthier and better lives. As we all know, good healthful living habits clear the mind and makes it easier for the impressions of God to break through to the human soul.

We have engaged in community Bible surveys, taking the "pulse" of our community, meeting people where they are and often praying with them, inviting them to cooking/health seminars and often leaving them with Christ centered books. On one occasion, a church member and his five year old daughter stopped to survey a couple of young men who were busily unloading a pick-up truck. They accepted to answer the questions and when they were asked if they had someone or something they needed prayer for,

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## THREE ANGELS KITCHEN

### Neapolitan Fruity Alaskan

(Reprinted with permission from *Creation Illustrated Magazine*, Summer 2002 issue, *Genesis Cuisine* section.)



- 3 frozen bananas
- 1 c. frozen strawberries
- 1 c. frozen blackberries
- 1 c. frozen pineapple tidbits
- 1/4 c. shredded coconut
- 1 c. soymilk
- 1/2 c. coconut milk
- 1/4 c. shredded coconut, toasted
- 1/4 c. coconut ribbons, toasted
- 1 container nondairy topping
- 1 loaf banana bread sliced lengthwise in 1/2 in. layers (*the recipe for the banana bread was feature in our February 2007 newsletter.*)

1. Blend 1 banana with frozen strawberries and 1/2 c. soymilk until smooth yet thick. Spread in bottom of chilled bread pan. Place layer of bread on top and place in the freezer.
2. Blend 1 banana with 1/2 c. frozen pineapple and coconut milk until thick; fold in remaining frozen pineapple. Spread on top of bread layer in pan. Place another layer of bread on top; chill in freezer.
3. Blend 1 banana with blackberries and 1/2 c. soy milk until thick. Spread on top of bread layer; return to freezer. Let freeze in bread pan overnight.
4. Run pan under warm water and turn layered dessert onto a platter that will fit back in the freezer. Coat with nondairy topping and sprinkle with toasted shredded coconut and toasted coconut ribbons.
5. Return to freezer until topping is firm. Slice into 3/4 inch slices, garnish with fresh strawberries and blackberries, and serve immediately. ❖

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 8 – Adriel Simpson   | 25 – Julie Orellana  |
| 14 – Barbara McGuire | 26 – Suzanne McGehee |
| 16 – Jeff Eldred     |                      |

they replied with several requests. The church member then asked if they would like to pray right then and they accepted. It was a blessing to see how they very reverently removed their hats and bowed their heads for prayer!

Church members have engaged in massive door-to-door book distribution to homes in the surrounding area. In the first quarter of 2007 we distributed more than 4,000 pieces of literature! In the weeks leading to Ten Commandment Day last year, about 15 members distributed hundreds of Ten Commandments Twice Removed books under the pouring rain! God promises the outpouring of the Holy Spirit during these last days. As we were soaking wet that day, we look forward to being completely filled with His Spirit very soon!



Church members ready for Ten Commandment Day book distribution.

These are just a few of the humble ways we are fulfilling our calling as followers of Jesus. New and exciting plans are in progress for the near future including a Stop Smoking Clinic, door-to-door literature distribution for Ten Commandments Day and a possible media outreach through TV or radio.

By God's grace and by the generous and active support of the members of the Three Angels SDA Church – Owasso we are fulfilling our mission and we will take the gospel to every home this year. Let us all pray that the Lord will guide us and that his Holy Spirit will work through our humble efforts to improve people's lives and to enlist hearts and souls into the army of Christ. If you have not been able to participate in any of these outreach activities, just join us as we work to hasten the Second Coming of Jesus. ❖

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*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."*

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*(Romans 12:1)*

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Healthy Choices Cooking Classes

Place: Three Angels SDA Church - Owasso  
Time: Sunday, April 22 (2-4 PM); ongoing monthly.

Come enjoy health videos by renowned doctors and health professionals as well as food samples, gift drawings, and more!

## Revelation Seminar

Place: Three Angels SDA Church - Owasso  
Time: Each Wednesday at 7:00 PM

Each Wednesday evening, we delve into the fascinating prophecies of the book of Revelation using a question and answer format with a colorful study guide for each lesson. These in-depth studies will provide you will valuable insights crucial to our times. Come join us as we pray and study together to learn what God has to share with us in these last days of earth's history.

## Stop Smoking Seminar

Coming soon!  
Location and Time: To be announced

## Church Monthly Activities

Place: Three Angels SDA Church – Owasso  
Time: Every Sabbath afternoon starting at 2:00 PM

Every month, on Sabbath afternoons our church is working on something. From evangelism planning to outreach to Bible study, there is always something going on Sabbath afternoons. Come join us! Here is the schedule:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Sabbath:** Personal Ministries Council/Community Outreach
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Sabbath:** Bible/Spirit of Prophecy Study
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Sabbath:** Visitation/Invite a church member to your home.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Sabbath:** Bible/Spirit of Prophecy Study

The most difficult sermon to preach and the hardest to practice is self-denial. The greedy sinner, self, closes the door to the good which might be done, but which is not done because money is invested for selfish purposes. But it is impossible for any one to retain the favor of God and enjoy communion with the Saviour, and at the same time be indifferent to the interests of his fellow beings who have no life in Christ, who are perishing in their sins. Christ has left us a wonderful example of self-sacrifice. He pleased not himself, but spent his life in the service of others. He made sacrifices at every step, sacrifices which none of his followers can ever make, because they have never occupied the position he occupied before he came to this earth. He was commander of the heavenly host, but he came here to suffer for sinners. He was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, that through his poverty we might be made rich. Because he loved us, he laid aside his glory and took upon him the form of a servant. He gave his life for us. What are we giving for him? Shall we not, in the new year just before us, consecrate ourselves entirely to him? Shall we not make him a New-year's offering of a portion of the means he has given us? As we follow him in the path of self-denial, lifting the cross and bearing it after him to his Father's home, we shall reveal in our lives the beauty of the Christ-life. At the altar of self-sacrifice,--the appointed place of meeting between God and the soul,--we receive from the hand of God the celestial torch which searches the heart, revealing the need of an abiding Christ. ❖

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### Worship Schedule

#### Saturday (Sabbath)

Sabbath School.....9:30am  
Main Worship Service.....10:45am

#### Wednesday

Prayer Meeting.....7:00pm

Send comments/suggestions about this newsletter to  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

