

The DISCERNER

" HEREBY KNOW WE THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE
SPIRIT OF ERROR"

AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL HERESY-EXPOSING QUARTERLY

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AS IT WAS, SO SHALL IT BE

by Rev. Herbert Caneday

"As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood . . . they knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Mt. 24:37).

"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Lk. 17:28-30).

In these verses, JESUS predicted that the trend of Noah's time and of Lot's day will be duplicated when He returns to earth. In effect, He said the world's sins will then become correspondingly evil and ripe for similar judgment. So what were the conditions then, which moved God to destroy those people? Also, how does our day compare with theirs? Are we in a similar peril today? To refresh our minds, we read:

"God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that the imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually . . . And the

Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth . . ." (Gen. 6:5, 7a).

This text lists several characteristics of the antediluvian world. It was a time of blatant, rampant sin, for "wickedness was great in the earth" (6:5). Evil swept the world like a flood that sprang from man's perpetually depraved imagination.

The Idolatrous Image in One's Imagination

Man's imagination plays a crucial role in his actions. We recall that God confused the language of the ancient Chaldeans because their imaginations turned them from God. He said: "This they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them which they have imagined to do" (Gen. 11:6). By his thoughts a man builds a mental image of a thing, purpose, or action, which in turn prompts him to make or do it. Mental issues lead to, and do become a very subtle, and unsuspected form of idolatry. The image in imagination too easily becomes a controlling idol.

Jesus said, "Out of the heart of men proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness,

wickedness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these things come from within and defile the man" (Mk. 7:21-23).

What a sinner imagines in his depraved heart can quickly become an image (a demonic, idol-god), that drives him to act out his heart's wickedness, which may be followed by even murder to cover the first violent act. For example, David, who saw, lusted, then committed adultery with Bathsheba, and planned the death of her husband to conceal his initial sin. David's failure to control his "image"ination led him into adultery and murder.

A WORLD OUT OF CONTROL

Noah's day had no human government to check its outburst of wickedness. The text says, "The earth was filled with violence" (6:11). Does that sound familiar? Our police often lose civil control when a nighttime electric power failure fosters street violence. Suppressed evil in human hearts can quickly erupt when darkness provides an opportunity. Then a city can suddenly be at the mercy of rapists, murderers, arsonists, and looters!

The collapse of civil authority in Kuwait during the Gulf War produced similar results. And riots in ghetto sections of our cities quickly reveal the evil that resides in human hearts. These things can happen in any city in our time, proving that "Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." Adequate street lighting is costly; but think what our cities would be like without that protection.

There were no security lights to hinder evil in the days of Noah or

Lot. But in times of riot today, even under the best possible lighting, looters will brazenly plunder stores, despite the TV cameras that record their activity. And some are known to publicly perform, on lighted stages, the same sins which the men of Sodom waited to commit after nightfall. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were wiped from the earth for their sins, and do we think this generation can escape the judgment of God?

Their unique destruction loudly declares God's mind on their immorality, warning men that catastrophe awaits those who defy God's law. It stands as an historic monument to His holy wrath.

A Modern Comparison

Admittedly, this describes a subnormal segment of today's society; but it cannot be ignored, because it is a bold and exploding subculture that defies God's standard. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold [hold down or restrain] the truth of God in unrighteousness" (Rom. 1:18). Both sacred and secular history tell of nations, cities, and individuals who sold themselves to work iniquity and came under God's wrath in cataclysmic destruction. But persons or nations who refuse to learn from the past are doomed to repeat that same folly and reap the same tragic consequences.

Unmentionable Perversions

Ordinary decency, plus the prohibitions in God's Word, make it impossible to name the unspeakably vile sins that find their way into print today. The common sins are evil enough; but some stoop to

indulge in a host of newly-invented sins of which the wicked men of Sodom never dreamed. These have euphemistic and even explicit names for sins which are too unspeakably vile to mention.

God's Word says these are persons: "who knowing the judgment of God that they which do such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but take pleasure in them that do them" (Rom. 1:32). Do you think we might be moving into the recycled days of Noah or Lot?

DEMONIC CONTROL

Since sodomites and lesbians have "come out of the closet," our nation has learned of the shockingly filthy lifestyle which some of them follow. All unsaved persons are spiritual captives of the evil one; but sexual perverts are under a double satanic bondage—driven to repulsive, abominable acts. Some of these are close to, or over the brink into, outright demon possession that drives them from deviant sex acts to murder, and even to cannibalism. They are insulated against, and unmoved by, the physical, social, temporal, and eternal penalties. This is a harsh indictment; but consider the facts that support it:

1. That God created man in His own image to worship, honor, and glorify God, the Creator.

2. That Satan tempted Adam and Eve to sin, stole the dominion of earth from them, and determined to make mankind to hate and defame God, whose image human beings bore.

3. The Devil's plan included persuading people that they evolved from animals, thus breaking the Biblical creation-link and man's

awareness of personal accountability to his Creator.

But Satan is not satisfied until he fills many persons with compulsive, sensual passions that drive both males and females to perversions of which even animals never dreamed. Thus **SATAN DEGRADES MAN, GOD'S HIGHEST CREATURE, TO DEPTHS FAR BELOW THE LEVEL OF BRUTE BEASTS.** One can almost picture Satan mocking God saying, "Now look at Your creation masterpiece!" Only demonic control can explain this putrid, God-dishonoring degradation.

INDIVIDUALS OUT OF CONTROL

Far worse than the cruelest slavery is the bondage of sin. Paul warned: "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience which leads to righteousness?" (Rom. 6:16, NIV). No one can know that an innocent-looking "pet" sin will not become a tyrannical, demon monster, coercing some to acts of unspeakable violence and shame. An extreme example is Jeffrey L. Dahmer of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, whose homosexual lifestyle led him to kill, and at last report, ghoulishly eat seventeen males.

Jesus hates sin; but loves the sinner. The Gospel presented to these in a spirit of Christ's compassion can bring some to salvation and victory. Thank God for every redeemed soul who is delivered "a brand plucked out of the fire" (Jude 22, 23). After such are saved, they testify they had been in spiritual chains of Satanic

bondage. When Ted Bundy was converted, he stated that through pornography he became uncontrollably obsessed (or more probably, possessed) to exploit women in serial killings.

Grace Delays Judgment

Since ours is becoming such an evil day, why does God withhold His wrath from this generation? God is longsuffering, merciful, slow to wrath, as He waits for sinners to repent. Meanwhile, He declares, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his evil way and live: turn ye, turn ye; for why will ye die?" (Ezek. 33:11). Yet enslaved perverts think that judgment delayed is judgment cancelled. Many abuse God's mercy, and continue to acquire unto themselves a mounting store of condemnation that will overwhelm them in the day of God's just and holy wrath (Rom. 2:4, 5).

However, "God hath not appointed us [believers] to wrath . . ." (I Thess. 5:9). In the ark, Noah was saved from the flood. And the same day that Lot left Sodom, the fire fell. The angel told Lot, "Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither . . ." (Gen. 19:22). Rather than resent the presence and witness of Christians, the wicked should thank God for them; because they are spiritual salt, retarding the world's worsening corruption, thereby withholding the day of judgment.

Ponder the fact that God's saints are commissioned to be spiritual lights in this dark world that is becoming so brazenly sinful. We can ask ourselves: How evil would it now be if there were only eight Godly saints left, to counter the increasing darkness? Noah and

his family were the only eight believers left on earth when the flood came. How much worse must it yet become to fulfill Jesus' words: "As it was in the days of Noah so shall it be when the Son of man cometh?"

Jesus was saying that the flagrant sins of the days of Noah and Lot, will be repeated prior to His return to this world at the close of the great tribulation's judgment. This suggests much more than appears on the surface of our text. To explore it fully we are justified in reversing His words. The statement is equally true forward or backward. Reversed, it would read:

What the World is Becoming, Is What it Once Was.

Since the past will be matched by the future, then we know that the world is proceeding toward a duplicate of the past. Therefore let us examine the correlation between the morals of other ancient people and the judgments which befell them. Then we can project the current moral degeneracy into the future to learn why, and how, and what judgment this world can expect.

In addition to the death of the antediluvians and Sodomites, the Bible also records the slaughter of one whole nation because of their gross immorality. God told Abraham that his offspring would inherit all of the land of Canaan; but not immediately. Rather, God said: they must wait 400 years because: "The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full" (Gen. 15:16).

Purging Judgment

Despite God's foreknowledge of the Amorite's future, excessive wickedness, He gave them four

hundred years in which to repent. They abused that grace, and increased their guilt beyond the limits of divine patience. When Israel left Egypt and came to Canaan, the Amorites' iniquity was over-ripe. So God told Israel to slay every Amorite man, woman, child, and all their animals. It was another drastic extermination!

That total slaughter was necessary because of their gross immorality that also involved their beasts, for even the animals harbored their venereal infections. Recovered Amorite artifacts confirm their preoccupation with unnatural sex. Every living thing had to be slaughtered to shield the nation of Israel from their evil practices and deadly diseases. God was justified in this severe judgment, just as He was at the time of the flood, or in Lot's day. And similarly, He will again slay all earth's wicked when Christ returns to judge the world . . . "in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God" (II Thess. 1:8).

It is not improbable that the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah could have been similarly laden with sexual diseases. Proof of that is impossible; but it is significant that only Lot and his two daughters survived the overthrow. His girls were said to be virgins, and thus they were unexposed to venereal infections.

There is no physical evidence remaining to show any similar physical ravages of sin upon the antediluvians; but Scripture emphasizes their total abandonment to sexual sin, saying:

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God

looked upon the earth, and, behold it was corrupt: for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth" (Gen. 6:11, 12).

This triple use of the word "corrupt" is the Holy Spirit's way of underscoring this for emphasis. God is telling us that Noah's generation was hopelessly evil, perverse, desperately wicked, utterly corrupt, and doomed to extinction. It suggests something more than spiritual and moral corruption, because spiritual corruption or turning from God's truth quickly begets moral corruption. That, in turn, produces a rapid descent into abysmal sin and physical corruption which ends in disease, death, and mortal corruption. Paul outlined these downward steps into apostasy and abandonment by God, saying:

"Therefore God gave them over in sinful desires of their hearts, to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and serve created things rather than the Creator, who is forever praised, Amen.

"Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way, the men abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and RECEIVED IN THEMSELVES THE DUE PENALTY OF THEIR PERVERSION" [emphasis mine] (Rom. 1:24-27, NIV).

Homosexuals hate this text because it tells the truth about themselves. God gave them up! What fearful words! Paul said: ". . . [They] received in themselves the due penalty of their perversion." He knew of the common diseases that

flow from sexual promiscuity. But not until 1981 did the world learn of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which we now call AIDS. It started with just a few AIDS cases, and its growth was slow, small, and unnoticed: but once it became known, wise doctors warned America that it would soon explode at exponential rates, which indeed it has done, for AIDS is already—

A PLAGUE OUT OF CONTROL.

This evil genie is out of the bottle, and beyond control. Millions carry the undetected HIV virus for months, or years. Meanwhile they can transmit the plague to others, who can pass AIDS on to their multiple partners. So it fans out over earth's population like a fire-storm. Some angered victims deliberately try to infect others and take them also to the grave.

The World Health Organization estimates that nearly six million Africans are infected with the HIV virus. By the year 2,000, 10 million infected children will be born and a like number, orphaned, when diseased parents die—Reuter (5/1/91). Some villages have already been emptied by this killer plague.

Intense, political pressure from the "gays" has made AIDS America's only legally protected communicable disease. Innocent adults and babies are caught in its tragic vortex. If the present wild-fire fleshly lust, continues unchecked, the human race forces a threat of self-extinction unless God intervenes. Or is it more correct to say that God has already intervened by sending a sexual plague to judge mankind's moral degeneracy?

If a cure or vaccine for AIDS is perfected, it will just make sex safer

and open the floodgates of iniquity wider than before. It will embolden millions more to an unrestrained indulgence of the flesh, thus creating an even greater hoard of divine wrath, and hastening the day of judgment.

God warned Israel against pagan sexual practices saying: Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled; so I punished it[the land] for its sin, and the land **VOMITED** [emphasis mine] out its inhabitants . . .

And if you defile the land, it will **VOMIT YOU OUT** [emphasis mine], as it vomited out the nations that were before you (Lev. 18:24, 25, 27 NIV).

Precisely the same abominable sins of those Canaanites, Amorites, Sodomites, and the antediluvians are being practiced in all the nations of the world today. (Read the list in the earlier verses of that chapter.) In addition, multitudes go on to compound their corporate guilt by worshipping the goddess of lust as they sacrifice their children to demons. But someone protests, "Oh, but we are too civilized and sophisticated to offer human sacrifices! We just don't stoop to those sins."

Admittedly, most people do not burn their live infants on an altar to those gods as in ancient times. Rather, it is done in modern hospitals and sanitary abortion clinics. But murder is just as sinful when done in a sterile environment. It is the same uncontrolled fleshly lust demanding pleasure even though a newly-conceived infant will be mutilated in its mother's womb, thrown into a dumpster, and incinerated as an offering to the modern gods of lasciviousness.

Think of the wrenching pain which an unborn infant endures because two people will not deny themselves the pleasure of a fleeting moment! It is horrendous selfishness that exchanges a couple's brief ecstasy for the searing agony of a defenseless life being snuffed out in it's mother's womb—it's most dangerous place to hide. What people put foremost in their lives becomes an idol-god to be worshipped at any cost. The world has forsaken God's law in its mad pursuit of sexual gratification.

Now comes word that in Sweden, to obtain live brain tissue to transplant into adult Parkinson's patients, the abortionist cuts a hole in the skull of a fetus and suctions out its brains while a 12-week-old fetus is alive in the womb. Then he aborts the unborn infant's remainder—*WORLD* (8/10/91). If mankind won't limit his exploitation, God will assuredly limit His forbearance toward this ungodly generation. Since God does not forget even one perishing sparrow (Lk. 12:6), heaven's bulging memory bank is crying for the day of justice and vengeance.

Additionally, we have let the homosexual activists compel our public schools to teach even the techniques of lesbianism and sodomy under the guide of helping children understand sex. Jesus said of those who defile innocent minds: "It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he be cast into the sea, than he should offend one of these little ones" (Lk. 17:2). Is this world ripe for judgment? Are the nations in danger of being vomited out of the world because of their pursuit of ancient sins? How can God withhold His indignation?

Forty years ago a series of well-executed signs dotted our midwest highways which said: **AMERICA, REPENT OR PERISH**. Now when this nation is becoming a cesspool of iniquity, those signs are no longer there.

Jesus said: "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Mt. 24:12). Is your love for God and righteousness being eroded by the evils of our day? Or is your light burning brightly to illumine your corner of this darkening world? Are you part of the problem or a beacon light to dying men? When the counterbalance of Godly witness diminishes to a crisis point, the scale will tip irrevocably toward judgment.

In this context, Christian youth may realize they dare not risk dating and its attendant perils in their quest for a mate. However, they can commit this to the Lord and let Him choose a pure, well-matched, Christian spouse for them—He did it twice for this writer. Or God can supply grace to remain single, which is infinitely better than having an ungodly mate, or one infected with AIDS.

The odds of getting a contaminated partner are increasing rapidly. An HIV negative test today is no guarantee that the virus is not dormant to become a positive report next month, or years later. Unsaved youth have no such recourse as does the Christian when seeking a life's partner.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah must have prayed much for God to select three pure women to be wives for their sons. Only God could have picked the right ones out of that corrupt society, who could transmit their unpolluted genes to their children

and give a fresh start to the human family. Young people today face a corresponding cross-roads, as once again, time is running out on this wicked world.

Jesus said, "The world passeth

away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

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IS THIS TRULY THE WORD OF THE LORD?

by Ewald Eisele

The title is a question that many who attend church each week should be asking. There was a day, many years ago it seems, when preaching in the average church **was** the Word of the Lord. Sadly, this is no longer true. Sadder still, the average church-goer could not care less. But the question **should** be asked. We are living in a day when very few preach or teach the pure Word of God. There is a great controversy going on today re-garding the Word of God.

Of course, controversy is nothing new to the church. Ever since its founding in the Book of Acts, there have been problems from within and without. When Paul left the elders of Ephesus for the last time he warned them that such would be the case. He particularly warned them of those who "from within" would rise up and teach unBiblical doctrines, Acts 20. The Book of Jude was written for this very reason. Certain men in the church were wrecking havoc with the faith of believers. This is exactly the situation today. The difference today is that many of the laity are unaware that a battle exists.

The average, even the above average, Christian today seems to think that any 'battle of the Bible' is not their concern because the theologians are the ones who are

battling. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The people in the pew may not be in the battle, but they will be its victims if the battle goes against the Truth.

There **is** a battle and there are two major issues involved. While some would keep them apart, the truth of the matter is that they are inseparably linked together so that to speak of one is to include the other. While naming them as two separate doctrines, this article, will without doubt, reflect their unity. One is verbal inspiration and the other is inerrancy. In the few pages of *THE DISCERNER* it would be impossible to present a systematic and complete discussion of these complex subjects. My purpose will be to try to clarify the issues involved and to make any who have no idea of the scope of the battle aware of the serious situation facing the Church of Jesus Christ today.

The inerrancy of Scripture has been the normal and accepted view since the days of the Apostles. It is only in the last one hundred years that those who embrace errancy have mounted an attack in the church. Inerrancy, as the term is commonly used, means that the Scriptures are without error in the original manuscripts—that the writers were prevented by the Holy Spirit from making any error while

they were writing that which became Scripture. This includes historical, scientific or other matters. Many, over the years, have found fault with this doctrine. This is especially true in the above-mentioned areas. Yet, though individual problems have been pointed out, almost without exception, when the historians or the scientists have investigated, the problems have disappeared. The simple truth is that man, even in the twentieth century, has not yet caught up with the Bible as it speaks in these areas.

I would imagine that the majority of our readers would have no trouble with the Biblical doctrine of inspiration. But some may. Very briefly the Biblical doctrine of verbal inspiration is that God breathed into men, qualifying them to speak His Truth, even though when they wrote they used their own styles and vocabularies. The writers were not mere machines that were used by God as a man may use a typewriter. Their personalities remained intact when the Word of the Lord came to them and so, naturally, there would be a difference in the style and vocabulary of their writing.

It should be remembered, however, that Paul tells us in II Timothy 3:16 that the "Scriptures" are inspired, not the men who wrote them. Along with this, it should be noted that if God is really as He is portrayed in the Bible then He cannot make any mistakes. This easily does away with the arguments of those who do not want to have a Bible which is inspired, inerrant and infallible. There is a very important statement in Isaiah which God made to the Prophet in 51:16, "And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of

mine hand . . ." That is verbal inspiration.

There is another issue. Most statements of faith, or creeds of the church, state that the Bible was inspired in the "original autographs." The only problem is that we do not have any of the autographs. So the question is simply this: Is God so interested in us that He **preserved** His Word so we may have the Truth today? I believe that He is more interested in preservation than we could ever imagine.

So the problem involves not only inspiration, inerrancy and infallibility, but also preservation. The many arguments against this four-in-one doctrine are almost without number. I will mention a few, recognizing that the real problem is not with the texts or even the "original autographs" but with man's idea of and belief in God.

First, it is argued, those who copied from the original text made errors. These were automatically multiplied because copyists later made their own errors. These were added to the original errors so that, in time, very little of the original was left which could be recognized as being inspired. The answer to this thinking is simple and obvious. It is supposed that the Holy Spirit was wide awake and on the job when the "original autographs" were written but, then He went to sleep and allowed **GOD'S WORD** to be subject to man's mistakes! This kind of thinking reveals a distorted view of God and His control over the affairs of men and His Word.

Second, it is declared that even in the "original autographs" there are mistakes because the writers copied from sources **not** inspired.

Those who wrote the genealogies **may not** have received all of the information by inspiration but could have copied the temple records. Yet the genealogies could have been given by inspired revelation as well. But, to answer the complaint: Could not the Holy Spirit, who is God, ensure that the writers, or copyists of the temple records, if this is what they actually did, copy only that which was the truth?

Another attack on the four-fold doctrine, mentioned earlier, comes from those who question the Bible's relevance to the culture of today. Most Christians have lost their certainty of faith. The former unabashed certainty that what God has said is what He means for us today. There is a revolt today against applying the moral teaching of the Bible to the way we live or ought to live. I believe this is obvious when we see Christians carried away with the various movements that are contrary to the Word of God. Individual churches, and even denominations, see nothing wrong in bowing to the demands of homosexuals and their perverted behavior which is condemned in the Word. The same is true in the area of the women's 'liberation' movement, as well as the anti-Biblical response many in the church give to the abortion issue. It seems that the entire atmosphere of the church in America is controlled by

subjective experience rather than the objective truth of the Word. God never changes, nor does His Word. It is "forever settled in heaven" (Psalm 19:89). What He was yesterday, He is today, and will be forever. This is also true of His Word. What was applicable a thousand years ago is just as applicable for our twentieth-century culture. Sin is sin, whether committed 500 B.C. or today, and God still regards it as sin.

Today we do have a sure word from God; He Himself is Truth and He speaks only the Truth. Man may think that with the advances he has made today, he can substitute human reasoning for the revealed, verbally inspired, inerrant, infallible and supernaturally preserved Word of God. But if man would only **read** the Word, he would find that God has anticipated his antagonism. Through the Prophet Isaiah He says in Isa. 8:20, "... if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Paul warned the Galatians (1:7) that there were those, even in his day, who perverted the pure Gospel of Christ, which is what is being done in our day. Today we do not have to defend the Bible. It speaks for itself. We do, however, have to contend for the faith which seems to be slipping away from so many who profess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

September 3, 1991

KENNETH COPELAND SAYS CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS IS NOT ENOUGH TO SAVE FROM SINS

In asserting another position deemed heretical by orthodox Bible scholars, popular television evangelist, Kenneth Copeland, says that Christ's death on the cross DID NOT pay for **all** our sins.

In the lead article in his just released *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine (Sept. 1991 issue, Vol. 19, No. 9), Copeland declares that Jesus' death on the cross only "paid the price for the covenant," pre-sumably between God and man. It was **His Spirit** being tortured in hell by the devil and his hordes that actually "paid the price for our spirit to be born again."

Copeland's teaching, outlined in the article "**The Price of It All**," clearly contradicts the heart of the historic Christian faith in that he misses the significance of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of the world. He contradicts a number of Scripture passages. Among them is Romans 3:24-25: "Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith" (NASB).

In making such a clear public announcement, Copeland has joined a number of other well-known teachers propounding the heresy that Christ took on Himself the nature of Satan and was tortured in hell by demons for the three days and three nights that His body lay in the grave. As the teaching goes, Jesus got born-again in hell and there defeated the devil before His resurrection. Copeland knows this

teaching is controversial, yet he teaches it anyway. He notes: "There are people who've almost wanted to take me out behind the church and hang me for preaching it."

But now Copeland has taken that heresy a step further. He reiterates, "Now, imagine after living in that kind of glorious union with the Father, having to make yourself obedient to Satan . . . and to take on his nature." And then he compartmentalizes the sufferings of Christ into three categories, teaching that His physical suffering paid for our body's needs (i.e.: healing), His spiritual suffering (by the demons in hell) paid for our spiritual rebirth, and His mental anguish paid the price for our minds to be renewed.

In essence, Copeland is now teaching that **the shed blood of Christ was not sufficient for our redemption**. This should be of interest to Copeland defender, Paul Crouch, president and founder of the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) who frequently asserts that he'll fellowship with anybody who "does not cross over the blood line."

Christian apologist and scholar, Robert Morey, calls the latest installment of Copeland's unfolding theology "blatant heresy" and "comic book theology." He adds: "The idea that Satan and demons are ruling in hell and presently tormenting departed souls in Hades or Sheol has more to do with Dantes' *Inferno* and Medieval Catholic thought than with the Bible."

Morey also pointed out that Copeland seems to think that the

price for man's sins had to be paid to Satan instead of to God the Father, as the Bible clearly teaches. The former is a Seventh-Day Adventist doctrine, Morey said.

Responding to Copeland's teaching that Jesus wasn't finished with His suffering when He shouted, "It Is Finished," from the cross, Morey says that the Greek word, "tetelestas" actually means "paid in full." The word is found stamped on ancient receipts to signify that the debt is paid for. "When Jesus gave that shout of victory and released His Spirit He then went to Paradise where the thief on the cross was told he would be with Him 'today.'" But Copeland says it wasn't enough for Jesus to merely go to Sheol. "If He had simply stayed there, there would have been no price for sin," he stated.

"Satan and his demons," says Morey, in explaining the Biblical position, "migrated to this planet as non-dimensional beings, the first aliens so to speak. The real bad ones were put in Tartarus, the bottom basement—hell of hells. Humans do not go to Tartarus. When judgment comes for the demons they are the ones who will be tormented." (Morey referred to Mark 5 when the demons identified as Legion begged Jesus not to torment them before their time but to cast them into the swine. Morey's book, *Death and the Afterlife* deals with the subject.)

This is not the first time Copeland's remarks have drawn fire and have sparked Christian leaders accusing him of heresy. In his February 1987, *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, Copeland published a prophecy, which he claims was directly from Jesus. It stated: "Don't be disturbed when people

accuse you of thinking you're God." Copeland claims Jesus prophesied through him: "The more you get to be like Me, the more they're going to think that way of you. They crucified Me for claiming that I was God. But I didn't claim I was God."

In a TBN telecast of his crusade broadcast internationally on July 19, 1987, Copeland implied that believers in Christ were little gods—a teaching also being propounded by other heretical word faith teachers like Benny Hinn, Earl Paulk, Morris Cerullo and others. He stated: "I say this with all respect so it don't upset you too bad . . . when I read in the Bible where He (Jesus) says, 'I am,' I just smile and say yes, I am, too!"

Previously Christian leaders such as the late Dr. Walter Martin, Dave Hunt, John Ankerberg, and others have tried to arrange meetings with Copeland to discuss these and other teachings deemed questionable, but each time Copeland has rejected these attempts, even after allies—Paul Crouch, and popular Charismatic pastor, Jack Hayford, of Van Nuys, Calif.—offered to moderate the meeting.

Copeland closes his article with the admonition that we should "put the devil under our feet! He's our footstool! . . . knock him in the head . . . twist the Word of God into him and hold him there."

It's ironic that Copeland would close with those instructions. For it is he that is twisting God's Word, and doing damage to the body of Christ.

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MILITARY CHAPLAIN'S REVIEW, WINTER 1990

Seventh-day Adventists Believe...

A Biblical Exposition of 27 Fundamental Doctrines

Ministerial Association of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Review & Herald Publishing Assoc., Hagerstown, MD, 1988. Hardcover, 392 pages, \$4.95

The primary author of this work is P.G. Damsteegt, a former Dutch aeronautical engineer. In 1977 he was given a Doctor of Theology degree by the Free Reformed University of Amsterdam. In addition, a large committee of 194 persons, and a smaller committee of 27 church officials and theologians participated in writing this book.

This book was written to provide reliable information as to how Seventh-day Adventists understand and practice their 27 doctrinal statements. It contains 27 chapters. Each chapter has the official doctrinal statement on the facing page beginning: "Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . ." The succeeding chapter then contains the exposition as to how Seventh-day Adventists understand and practice this belief.

It is stated that this book "is not an officially voted statement . . . [but is] representative of 'the truth . . .' that Seventh-day Adventists . . . cherish and proclaim." [Page iv] Yet, the emphasis on the thousands of hours spent in research and evaluation by various committees seems to indicate that it is an official statement. This clearly reminds this reviewer of the situation of earlier years, when this church produced *Questions on Doctrine* and individual church leaders were able to state that *Questions on Doctrine* was not really reliable.

It seems to be written in the style of a preacher presenting a sermon [see page 37] rather than a scholarly work. This may suggest that the general audience is Seventh-day Adventist, and the purpose is to unify Seventh-day Adventists in a common understanding and practice.

Seventh-day Adventists do not have a well defined and developed theology. Consequently there are differences of understanding and practice among them. This book does almost nothing to indicate these differences. Many would see the incarnate nature of Christ as different from that presented by the author [page 47]. Others, while accepting the creationist position, would not agree that our solar system was created 6,000 years ago.

Contrary to the inference on page 226, Ellen White, as stated in Arthur White's six-volume biography of Ellen White, received the credentials of an ordained minister.

While this book has failed to present a balanced picture of how Seventh-day Adventists understand and practice their doctrinal statements, it is a book that belongs in the library of those who desire to understand them. It does contain the officially voted beliefs. It presents the position of many conservative Seventh-day Adventists. It is the newest and best that is available. But, one must remember that it is not a litmus test to determine who is a Seventh-day Adventist. There are those sincere committed people within this church who differ from the picture present in this book.

Chaplain (Maj) Temple G. Matthews

BOOK REVIEW

FREEMASONRY

"WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES AND FOUND WANTING"

Reviewed by Ewald Eisele

The author has, in this book, removed the last vestige of secrecy from the rituals of Masonry. This will be a very disturbing book for anyone who believes that the lodge is just another friendly, benevolent organization. One of the outstanding things that you will find here is that there is thorough documentation of the facts presented. There are very few pages that do not have quotations from the writers within the masonic organization. The secrecy that surrounds the lodge has traditionally been its greatest strength. This is no longer true. Now, with quotations from their own writings, the entire story has been told.

The author in the first chapter establishes the fact that Masonry is a religion. He then writes regarding the tools, emblems, oaths and obligations of the individual lodges as well as those of the individual members. Especially enlightening is what is told of the oaths taken by members as they rise in the ranks to higher degrees. One general statement will suffice: "Those who join the lodge, solemnly swear that, if they violate 'any part' of their oaths, they will submit to be executed in the manner the oaths prescribe" (chapter 5, page 51). The chapter deals with the unlawfulness and the unChristian nature of the

oaths and penalties. One of the problems is that the candidate does not know what he will be subjected to in the oaths because their content is not disclosed until the instant that the oath is quoted for his recitation. Once he does repeat the oath it is too late to change his mind because part of the oath is that he is bound under penalty to be obedient to whatever is included in the oath itself.

There is a world of good in every chapter, but chapter 9 is probably more important for a Christian than any other. In that chapter, "**Masonic Doctrine Versus The Bible**," there are five parts. Each part relates what the Masonic teaching is regarding "Jesus Christ," "God," "The Bible," "Salvation," "Spiritual Light," and "The Fatherhood of God and The Brotherhood of Man." That chapter alone is worth the price of the book and should be read by any Christian who is a lodge member or who has friends or relatives in the lodge.

This is a very informative book. There is some repetition—that is a tool of teaching—but that does impress on one's mind things that should never be forgotten.

There are illustrations taken from various Masonic guides, manuals, and encyclopedias. If you have an interest in knowing about the inside workings of Masonry, this is the book for you. It may be purchased by name from our office.

174 pages, \$7.95

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by David Stone. The author lists 24 names by which these folk are known. He has some very good insights as to why people

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This book will be reviewed in next issue.

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