

Satan's Mission

SOME YEARS AGO a prominent Cincinnati attorney prepared and delivered a lecture entitled, "Why Doesn't God Kill the Devil?" He was a member of one of the orthodox denominations and gave his lecture in the best known church in the city. The purpose of this article is to answer that question. If, as orthodoxy contends, the devil is the enemy of both God and man, and God is stronger than the evil one, why is it that his satanic majesty is permitted to continue his nefarious work?

Occultists and mystics find no difficulty in answering the question. Instead of conceiving universal being as divided into separate and detached entities, each one separate and distinct from every other, as is held by orthodoxy, they conceive of life or being as one, undivided, and indivisible essence and force, and each individual organism, apparently detached but really an expression of Deity, inherent within the organism.

To illustrate, let us say that I hold in my hand a rose, in full bloom and beautiful in its variegated colors. If I ask the scientist, "By what process was this rose fashioned and so beautifully tinted?" his reply will be, "It is the product of modes of motion, or rates of vibration from within," for scientists are believers in the unity of life, or the co-relation of forces, and in the esoteric conception of dynamic force. They only fail to see that force is but another term for Deity.

I ask an orthodox professor of Christianity the same question, and his reply is, that God made the rose, which work from the professor's viewpoint



Engraving from *Illustrations of the Book of Job*, William Blake, 1823, Virginia Museum, Richmond, Virginia

Then went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord

The next picture in this series on Job illustrates the remainder of the Biblical text: "and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head." God has sanctioned Satan's testing of his servant Job because he is faithful and can prove his piety. Nevertheless, Blake subcaptures this picture, "it grieved him [God] in his heart."

was performed in some inexplicable way by an outside Being, a single unit, God. His conception of Deity is exoteric, assuming a being detached from the products of His work. This conception is entirely unscientific and unscriptural. It sees the letter, the phenomena, but fails to see the spirit. For God is not in phenomena. He is in the spirit; He simply manifests in phenomena. The rose mentioned is an expression of God on the plant plane.

The life or power within the rose is just as truly Deity as is the Divine Fatherhood, or the Holy Spirit.

In the Bible God is declared to be the “All and in all.” Even phenomena is an aspect of spirit. It is spirit in a state of differentiation. This being true, it is evident that Satan or the Devil is one life with Deity, as is the life within the rose that created it. Satan is but an aspect of Deity, God manifest on the plane of Satan. The spirit that animates Satan is identical with the Spirit that animates the Fatherhood; they differ simply in rate of vibration, or in mode of motion.

Satan is but a specialization of God, a being appointed by God to do a special work, and therefore, God’s ally. It is his to tempt, to try, to afflict, not for the purpose of overthrowing mankind, but for the purpose of purging and empowering. God does not tempt, nor is He temptable—that is, God in the synthetic sense. But as specialized in Satan, he does tempt and try mankind. “Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth,” not for His pleasure, but for our profit. This is the work of purgation without which mankind could never evolve, for we are made perfect by the things we suffer. Should anyone fail to stand the test, either of temptation or affliction, he is simply left behind in the same class on the day of trial or judgment and becomes a laggard. For this Satan is not to blame, but the incompetent sinner. Satan really had much rather that the man would stand the test than not, but with the result that he has no option. From what has already been said, this is palpable, however it may seem to the afflicted and tempted man.

“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them that are exercised thereby” (Hebrews 12:11). No child feels comfortable under the rod, no criminal under the penalty of the law. A wise child will profit by the chastisement but a rebellious child will think that his parent is his enemy. It is just so in the relation of mankind to Satan. Those who withstand his temptations will be grateful, but the failures will regard him as the enemy of both God and man.

The planet and spirit Saturn is the Satan of the Bible. He is called “Old Father Time” because his mission is limited to time, the period of human unfoldment. He is called “the God of this world,”



Oil on Canvas. Ary Scheffer, 1795-1858. National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

The Temptation of Christ

The third of three temptations is here illustrated: to surrender one’s soul for dominion over all the world. The artist has depicted a Devil whose outward appearance does not mitigate against what he believes to be an attractive proposal.

because his work has to do with the human or world side of our race. He is also called “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). This is because Saturn’s influence permeates the atmosphere, and operates within the souls of the disobedient or undeveloped in an *apparently* malefic way. In fact, Saturn is good and his influence remedial, but to the disobedient he seems malefic. For this reason he gets a bad name and is pictured in a most grotesque way.

As Satan, he is represented as the god Pan, that is a human goat. Saturn governs the sign Capricorn, the goat sign, and people born while the Sun is transiting this sign are given to panics. Their frights consist in spells of “blues” or hysterics. The metal of Saturn is lead, bluish in color, and one of the heaviest metals.

Saturn's influence is the cause of all general panics, financial or otherwise. Yet Saturn represented as the god Pan is what the sinner sees within himself. He is the goat man, and continues to be as long as he needs the ministrations of Saturn.

The Bible gives two notable examples of Saturn's mission. In one instance he brought about the affliction of Job. Jehovah and Satan are said to have had a parley about this patriarch. Satan accused Job of worshipping God for selfish purposes and said if God would strip him of all his possessions, he would curse God to His face. So God consented that Job be given over to the trials of Satan who made him bereft of everything but his life. The real secret of Job's afflictions is seen in the statement that he was a perfect man in his generation; but it is implied he was not a *regenerate* man and Saturn set about to consummate this objective, succeeding admirably, for Job emerged from the refining fires reflecting the image of God—a god-man. He was covered with boils from head to foot, and every boil extracted just so much poison from the blood; that is, it eliminated from his blood all lustful desires, which purification enabled him to live the regenerate life.

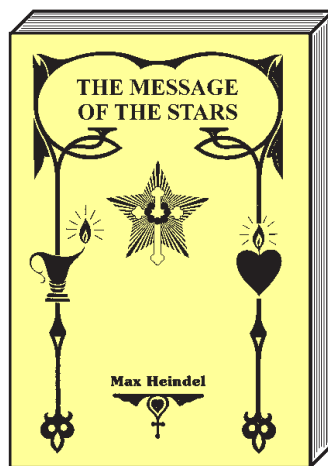
The other well-known instance of Satan performing God's unlikely work is the temptation of the Christ Jesus in the wilderness. The three temptations offered Him are the strongest that can appeal to a human being: those of meeting the demand of a starving body, of making a spectacular display of one's abilities, and the ambition to govern the earth. There are but few who would not steal, or by any other illegitimate means come into possession of food, to prevent starvation. It is the same with the other temptations. In this case, however, Saturn found a perfect man, a man living the sinless life, so that his temptations failed to produce any result, since the result intended had already been produced. The Master showed Himself able to stand the test, and so was qualified for His high mission as the Savior of the world and of mankind.

Satan, death and hell are but provisional agencies. They are all remedial, and when they shall have fulfilled their missions, they will be relegated to the discard, and God will have destroyed Satan, or "killed the devil." Until then his mission is absolutely a necessity. □

—George W. Weaver, D. D.

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