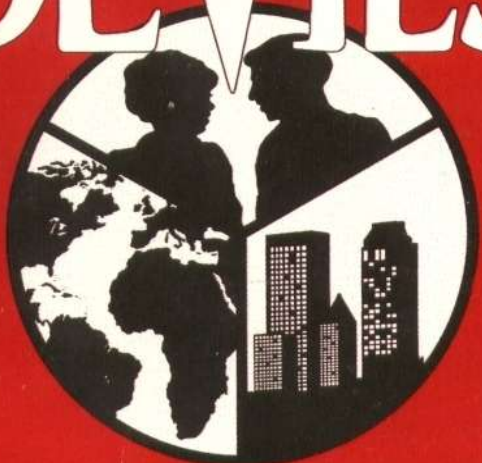
LESTER SUMRALL

THREE HABITATIONS OF DEVILS



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THREE HABITATIONS OF DEVILS

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Chapter 1

IS THERE A REAL DEVIL?

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world. he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him (Revelation 12:9).

In these pages, I shall not discuss or seek to prove the existence of the devil. The Bible offers immeasurable evidence of the devil's personality and his activity in the affairs of men.

During the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth on this earth, He referred to Satan at least 25 times, and the Bible refers to him 114 times. Surely Christ was not dealing in imagination, nor

trading in fairy tales. Jesus was unmasking the arch-deceiver of all mankind, that men might know the truth and be free from the devil's power.

The Bible, from Genesis through Revelation, is very careful to explain the power and the works of the devil. Satan's existence is taught in seven Old Testament books: Genesis, 1 Chronicles, Job, Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Zechariah. Every New Testament writer speaks of his existence, and 29 passages in the gospels refer to Satan.

The Devil Works Through Nature

In the book of Job, known as the oldest book in the world, we observe the devil's power in several strange manifestations. In Chapter 1, Satan went forth from the presence of God and caused lightning to destroy Job's herds and flocks for the express purpose of destroying his faith and confidence in God. When this failed, he sought God's further permission, and directed a dreadful wind, like a tornado or hurricane, to sweep down on Job's children and kill them, in another attempt to break Job's faith in God. The devil used nature and its power against

Job.

The Devil Is a Tempter

In the New Testament it is revealed that the devil has power to offer kingship, rulership and even dictatorship to those who will bow down to him and obey him.

In Luke 4:3-4, Satan offered Jesus the rulership of all nations on earth and their riches if Jesus would but bow down to him. In this great confrontation, which is known as the "Temptation of Christ," the Lord Jesus answered Satan by saying: "It is written, that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

Further tempting Christ's faith, in verses 5 through 8, `: . the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him

only shalt thou serve."

It is truly amazing that Jesus did not call the devil a liar when he said that all the nations were his and he would give the authority and the power of these nations to whomsoever he would.

This is a tremendous revelation of the spirit world. It is a divine exposure of how a man like Adolf Hitler of Germany and Joseph Stalin of Russia came to despotic power. It is only when we know such truth that we are capable of understanding and coping with world conditions in these last days.

From this Bible passage, it is evident that the devil does possess power to rule human society in certain areas.

In this booklet, I will describe these areas.

The Prince of the Power of the Air

In Ephesians 2:2, the devil is designated as "the Prince of the power of the air." **Prince** speaks of the exalted position of his rulership. "Air" speaks of the sphere of his rulership, which probably is the area above and around the earth. Because Satan is a spirit, he can move through space with incredible speed, as can other spirits also.

A Deceiver as "The Angel of Light"

In 2 Corinthians 11:14, the devil is called an "angel of light" This has to do with his deception of mankind. For example, he appeared to Eve in the Garden of Eden as a very kind and wonderful creature. It wasn't until after Eve had sinned and fallen from God's grace that she discovered ". . .the serpent beguiled me, and I did eat" (Genesis 3:13).

The "Prince of this World"

In John 12:31; 14:30 and 16:11, Satan is described as "the prince of this world." This means the unregenerated world: it means the world which has fallen from grace, the world that follows him to perdition.

"The Prince of Darkness"

In Ephesians 6:12, Satan is described as the "prince of darkness." This reveals his dark nature, his complete disregard for light and holiness. All of his works are dark, for he is indeed the prince of all darkness.

"The God of this World"

In 2 Corinthians 4:4, he is called the

"god of this world" This means that men and women worship him. In heathen countries, the people worship a spirit which they do not know. We know that it is Satan, for he is the god of pagan people. They have many strange manifestations in their worship of idols, but ultimately it is the devil they serve.

It is significant that the designation of prince is a name in the Bible given to deity, as to Jehovah in Daniel 8:11. Prince is a designation given to Christ in Isaiah 9:6, Acts 3:15 and Revelation 1:5. It is a name given to the chief priests of the Temple in Isaiah 43:28. Prince is a name given to noblemen and kings in Isaiah 10:8 and Numbers 17:6.

This reveals the strength, power and position the devil possesses through having been an archangel in heaven.

God solemnly warns us in 1 Corinthians 10:20 about worshiping devils: ". . .the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons" (NIV).

God refuses to permit His followers to have fellowship with the devil or with any of his demons or works.

A Warning:
Beware of Satan's Snares

The warning is to all soldiers of Jesus Christ. There is a dreadful truth written by Paul to young Timothy, his son in the faith, found in 2 Timothy 2:26, ". . and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will" (NKJ). There is a sense of strong caution here. Paul refers to ". . ."the snare of the devil."

As you know, a snare is a trap, a contraption you set for an animal. The animal thinks it is finding food to eat, and going into the trap or snare, it is caught. This is the manner in which the devil deceives the whole world-the heathen and even Christians-by a snare. He fools them into believing they will have pleasure, but they do not get pleasure. He fools them into believing if they follow him, everything will be all right, but it isn't all right. The Scripture further says that he takes them captive to do his will. That is a dreadful statement, that the devil willfully and deliberately sets snares to capture human beings.

How glad I am to know the Lord Jesus Christ who is able to set mankind free from the devil's power! I hope that is your experience, but if not, this book will warn you; it will make you alert and cautious so you will not become an unsuspecting victim caught in Satan's snares.

In the chapter ahead, I will show you how the devil has snared empires and nations; how it is possible for an entire nation to fall under the devil's dominion and give itself over to the worship of devils, becoming a devil-infested country.

After that, I will show you how Satan can take a city-how a city becomes a habitation of devils. I will give illustrations of ancient cities, as well as modern ones, that have given themselves over to satanic worship. Satan worship in the United States is almost beyond comprehension... we find it so abhorrent to consider child and animal sacrifice, drinking of animal and human blood, ritual sacrifices and other evils that have such a stranglehold on our society.

And then I will show you how humans give themselves over to the devil that he

might possess them. Demon spirits wish to reside in living organisms. History reports multitudes of incidents where demon power controlled human beings.

Last of all, I will record the great challenge of this age and hour-to defeat and destroy all the works of the devil.

Chapter 2

NATIONS AND DEVILS

... Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit. . .
(Revelation 18:2).

Is it an historic fact that devils influence, dominate and even inhabit empires and nations?

Yes, the Bible establishes this. God, speaking through His prophet Isaiah, related the fall of Lucifer with these words:

> "How are you fallen from Heaven O light-bringer and day-star, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you

who weakened and laid prostrate the nations [O blasphemous, satanic king of Babylon!].

"And you said in your heart, I will ascend to Heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit upon the mount of assembly in the uttermost north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High.

"Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol [Hades], to the inmost recesses of the pit [the region of the dead].

"Those who see you will gaze at you and consider you, saying, Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms?"

(Isaiah 14:12-16 AMP).

In this Scripture, God dramatically reveals how Lucifer, known as a light-bringer and day-star, a son of the morning, was a fallen angel originally having his habitation in heaven itself. At a time before man dwelt on this earth, Lucifer was one of the greatest angels in heaven. God says this angel caused a rebellion in heaven and was cast out.

Five Fatal and Foolish "I Wills"

Powerful and perverted, Lucifer rebelled against God and became known as Satan and the devil.

Notice his five fatal and foolish "I Wills":

1. I will ascend into heaven...
2. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...
3. I will sit upon the mount of assembly...
4. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds. . .
5. I will be like the Most High...

Lucifer was great enough to have his own throne in heaven. He wished to exalt his throne above others.

Satan desired to be like Jehovah, the creator. His chief ambition was to replace God in heaven. In order to do this, he initiated a rebellion against God, and God was obligated to cast him out of heaven.

From that time, Satan set out to destroy all of God's government and order. During the history of man on the earth, he has done this by weakening nations through wars, pestilence and famine.

You will notice that God does not blame man for the downfall of nations, but points his finger directly at Lucifer. God spoke and said, `: . .Is this the man who made the earth to tremble...?" (Isaiah 14:16 NKJ).

You may ask, "How can Satan make the earth tremble?"

An example of this is that he got into the heart of Napoleon and caused him to bring war upon the entire European continent. Through Napoleon, he made the earth to tremble. Human historians saw Napoleon destroying Europe with his bloodthirsty armies. But God saw Lucifer energizing and inspiring Napoleon to make the earth tremble.

This would also be true of men like Alexander the Great. Humans can see only his natural form, but God sees the driving force inside that made him desire to kill and destroy to exalt himself. That Alexander was under demon power is also revealed by the way he died in a drunken orgy at the age of thirty-three.

in more modern times, we saw the same influence in men like Hitler and Mussolini who made boastful statements of how they would dominate

the world. It is said of Mussolini that he declared, "I would shake hands with the devil if he would help me get the desire of my heart."

Much of our modern world trembled before Mussolini's exaggerated statements. But they did not realize that Mussolini had already shaken hands with the devil, and that his heart was full of his evil power, seeking to destroy this earth.

Satan Ruler of a Kingdom of Evil

God truly said of Lucifer that he was the one who made the world a wilderness and destroyed the cities thereof, and did not open the house of the prisoners so they could go free.

God illustrates this for us in the book of Daniel:

> "And he said to me, `O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you' 'While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.
>
> "Then he said to me, 'Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to

understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

`But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

`Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come:

"When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.

"And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, 'My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength.

"For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me

now, nor is any breath left in me"

"Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.

"And he said, 'O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!' So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, `Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.

"Then he said, ` Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.

"But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince. " (Daniel 10:11-21 NKJ)

We must accept God's Word as either error or truth. I accept the Bible as wholly and absolutely true. Here is a tremendous realm of spiritual warfare with which most of the people of our generation are not acquainted. God has revealed something our history books dare not explain.

Who was this prince of Persia in Daniel 10? He most certainly was not a man or king fighting a global battle. Gabriel, an archangel, was speaking (9:21). He was describing forces and powers of the spiritual world so great that he was obliged to appeal for reinforcements. He sent back to heaven for Michael, a second archangel, to come to help him gain the victory.

When Daniel knelt to pray for the salvation of his people, it made the devil angry. A spiritual struggle was incited, which became so violent, two archangels were required to bring deliverance to Daniel. Hell's mightiest angels were thrown against this man of prayer.

The references here to the "prince of the kingdom of Persia" and the "prince of Greece" certainly were not to mortal men. They must have referred to the ruling princes of darkness over those lands.

The Bible clearly states that Babylon was controlled by unseen powers of evil and was finally judged. We read of this in Isaiah 13:19-22.

> "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the

> Chaldeans' pride, shall be as Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them. Babylon shall never be inhabited or dwelt in from generation to generation; neither shall the Arab pitch his tent there, nor shall the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. But wild beasts of the desert will lie down there, and the peoples' houses will be full of dolefully howling creatures; and ostriches shall dwell there, and wild goats [like demons] will dance there.
>
> "And wolves and howling creatures will cry and answer in the deserted castles, and jackals in the pleasant palaces. And Babylon's time is nearly come, and its days will not be prolonged:"

We understand that the world's witchcraft was born in Babylon, cultivated and distributed from there to destroy the whole world by the worship of Lucifer.

Modern Nations and Devils

I have visited countries that made me

feel very sad and depressed. One such country is Indonesia. I preached through that country from one end to the other for a number of months. I am sincere when I say I have never seen as much demon power as I did there. I have never seen so many witch doctors in any country. We would be riding a bus and a witch doctor would get on. He would be esteemed by the people. The passengers would give him gifts. When the bus stopped, he would get off to talk and bless a few people, delaying the bus until he got back on. One could observe an unearthly strangeness about these witch doctors. But the people adored them, for they were under their demon power.

There are countries and nations ruled by certain princes of darkness from hell. When a missionary goes to a demon-dominated country to work for Christ, he must combat the evil dignitaries who rule that land. The spiritual battle is very real. If the missionary does not fight satanic power, it is impossible to have a great harvest of souls.

While ministering in Singapore, I learned that heathen worshipers there must pay respect to a powerful dignitary

who is the spiritual ruler of the area before they can worship any other gods. The heathen worshipers go to one of his temples and pray before daring to worship in any other place. This is still practiced today.

Jesus said that you cannot go into a strong man's house and take a prey unless you bind the strong man first. A Christian cannot go into a heathen country and take thousands of souls from the devil without first battling the demonic prince of that region.

The great pioneer missionaries, such as Adoniram Judson and Hudson Taylor, realized this truth and battled the forces of darkness to bring God's light to nations.

All heathen countries are under the power of the devil. There are different categories of spirits, possessing varying degrees of power and authority. God's men must win the victory over these forces before Christ can have predominance in a country.

Ephesians 6:11-12 speaks of the necessity to put on the whole armor of God so that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Why? Because this is warfare. Spiritual

warfare!

> "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12 NKJ).

A Worldwide Kingdom of Darkness

A colossal truth is that human history has been marked by ruthless leaders, bloodthirsty tyrants and demon-possessed rulers, who turned entire nations over to the devil. This is the only rational explanation for such things as Adolf Hitler's execution of six million Jews. This is the only explanation for Communist China's leaders executing more than 30 million of their own people in order to establish Communism.

There are lands like Tibet, isolated countries where the devil has held supremacy for ages. I have personally traveled into Tibetan country among the high mountains of Southwest China. With Reverend Howard Carter and other companions, I slept in their heathen temples (there was no other place to sleep), saw the idol-filled temples, and

listened to strange stories of demon power. It was easy to see that the whole nation was given over entirely to the works of the devil. One missionary told me he had witnessed a Tibetan monk, in a frenzy of mystical power, take a steel sword and twist it around like a cork screw. I can personally testify that one can feel the eerie power of the devil when he is in the heathen temples.

I strongly felt the devil's power when traveling five thousand miles across Communist Siberia and Russia. There was an oppression and a sense of insecurity constantly. I was actually glad to leave.

I also felt the power of oppression in Germany when Hitler's Naziism was ruling. I could feel spiritual heaviness over the entire country, and it made me sad inside.

Unseen demon powers dominated nations in the past and they dominate nations in the modern world.

It is remarkable how the people of Israel fought the devil's power as a nation. In Exodus 22:18, God speaking to Moses said, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." God knew that these evil people would turn the nation over to the

devil.

In the book of 1 Chronicles we see how God removed Saul from his kingship and he died for his transgression of seeking after witchcraft. God would not permit His land and people to be taken over by demon power.

> "So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance" (1 Chronicles 10:13 NKJ).

During the period of the great tribulation on this earth, as described in Revelation 13, we see that the dragon, Satan, will be worshiped.

> "So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?' " (v. 4-5 NKJ).

In verse six, we see that the battle is against God "to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven."

This will be a time of great tribulation during which Satan and the Antichrist will have power practically unrestrained.

> "And it was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.
>
> "And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (v. 7-8 NKJ).

A clear warning is sounded in verse 9: "If anyone has an ear, let him hear." (NKJ)

Chapter 3

CITIES AND DEVILS

I know thy works. And where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you where Satan dwelleth
(Revelation 2:13).

One of the churches of the Apocalypse was located in Pergamos, a great and historic city.* Pergamos was beautiful, but the Bible says it was one of the cities where Satan's seat was located (Revelation

* *The New King James Bible* footnote explains that Pergamos was about 45 miles north of Smyrna. It boasted one of the finest libraries of antiquity and was the place where parchment was first used. It had once been the capital of the Roman province of Asia.

2:12-13). This was a reference to their pagan worship either of the Roman emperor or of Zeus at his altar on the local acropolis (or both).

This indicates that there are cities where devils set up their thrones and rule. The devil's power is centralized in such places. In these cities, Satan has greater strength than he has elsewhere to perform his horrible deeds. There are two areas here: "Where Satan dwelleth," and "Satan's seat." This speaks of the headquarters from which Satan operates, and of a throne from which he dictates to his evil spirits the work they are to do.

History vividly points out such cities. For example, ancient Babylon gave herself over to sorceries, witchcraft and cults. Without a doubt that queen city, which boasted of her hanging gardens, was also dominated by an evil spirit who dwelt there and had his throne there.

It was such a spirit which kept Daniel's prayer from being answered when he lived in Babylon (Daniel 10). In verse 20, the angel said that when he left Daniel's presence he would have to fight a spirit called the prince of Persia, and another called the prince of Grecia

(Greece). The angel said that only Michael was available to assist him in this warfare (discussed in previous chapter). This reveals that cosmic battles evidently take place over big cities.

The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are remarkable examples of demon habitations. These cities gave themselves to a very peculiar and terrible sin-sodomy-which bears the name of one of the cities until this day. The spirit that ruled there caused men to make love with men rather than with women. Only the devil could have caused this to happen. Sodomy became so dominate that God was obligated to wipe that sinful city off the face of the earth. Sodom was a city where Satan's seat was and where Satan dwelled. Here the devil commanded supreme power.

MODERN CITIES

The devil has not changed. There are modern cities which have given themselves to certain sins which only an evil spirit could introduce.

I am sure you are aware that no two cities in the world possess the exact

same spirit. I am very sensitive to the presence of the spirit that rules in a city. Some cities have a good spirit, others have a bad spirit. No doubt you have heard different ministers say that while a certain city is very closed, or very difficult to work in, another seems to be open to the move of the Spirit of God.

In recent years we have watched as a beautiful city like San Francisco has been taken over by homosexuals. Men loving men is traceable, I am convinced, to an evil spirit.

The temptations of the kingdom of darkness-wealth, property, fame, power, science, art, etc.-are especially great in our large modern cities. These things are not . necessarily evil in themselves, but they can become as gods if they distract us from the one and only God.

I am sure a metropolis like New York City is possessed of a special kind of spirit. The majority of the population does not attend church. Many people there live in the deepest sin. New York is a center of commerce for the world, and a center for world government. If one's spiritual eyes could be opened, no doubt he would be able to see that strong and evil spirits rule there.

No doubt Hollywood, California, is dominated by an evil spirit. It is a spirit of immorality, a sensual spirit. In the past, several young couples I knew personally moved from our part of the country into the Hollywood area. Before long, they were divorced and some of them remarried. If they had stayed in the part of the country where they came from, this thing likely would never have happened, but living in an area where the devil is strong in destroying morals, they fell beneath his onslaught.

The Female Goddess Cali

Let us carry this thought a step further. There is, for example, the great city of Calcutta in India. From my experience in many nations, I have found Calcutta to be one of the most depressing cities on the face of the earth. The city is named after a female god named Cali. Cali is a fierce devil. When you see her image at the great temple, her six-inch wide tongue sticks out about eight inches long. This goddess demands blood. Her followers must bring goats to the temple and cut their throats, letting the blood flow in a groove underneath this hideous idol.

Her devotees splash their faces with the hot goat blood, then drink it.

The Cali temple in Calcutta is a place of gross immorality, for it is claimed that this goddess can give children to barren women. I saw a tree full of horrible looking heathen artifacts tied to the branches. The devotees came and tied them to the tree and prayed to the goddess Cali. Often, people deeply under her influence are virtual epileptics. To win Calcutta to Christ, one certainly will have to face that devil in combat.

One of our missionaries told me he prayed for a person a hundred miles away from Calcutta and found her to be demon-possessed. The missionary said, "Who are you?"

The demon spoke through the person and said, "I am from Cali in Calcutta."

"How did you get into this woman?" he said.

"She worshiped in our temple in Calcutta. "

Then the missionary said, "Come out of her in Jesus' Name."

The devil came out crying and weeping, saying, "Now I must journey back to Calcutta to find somebody else

in which to live."

I have spoken to several people who have spiritual discernment. Invariably they say the city of Calcutta is shackled with a spirit of possession. Such cities without a doubt have wicked dignitaries dominating them in the world of the spirit.

Cities of Devils

While traveling in Indonesia, we found several of what the people call "cities of devils." They are cities where the chief priests of demon worship, black magic and spiritism have their headquarters. The doctors of witchcraft congregate in these cities and work out from them. Beyond any doubt these cities have spiritual darkness much greater than other cities in Indonesia.

Jesus made a very remarkable statement when He said that you must first bind the strong man before you can take a spoil from him (see Matthew 12:29). The Lord was speaking of the devil when he said that. He simply meant that if you wish to win souls who are bound by the devil's power, you must first strike at the devil. You must bind his power before you can take the

spoil-the immortal souls of men.

This calls to mind an interesting observation of missionary work. Often people go to a mission field and try to teach the nationals western customs or guide them morally. Having done this, they wonder why their "converts" slip out at night to perform devil dances and all kinds of incantations. Actually, they have dressed a demon-possessed person in European clothes, taught him to use a knife and fork, to read, to use good grammar and to do arithmetic. But inside, that person remains a pagan and an idol worshiper.

According to the Lord Jesus Christ, and also to the Apostle Paul, it is necessary first to deal with the spirit in a person before dealing with the personality. If the person has a demon spirit, cast it out so that he will be free to make decisions, before trying to deal with him. Much of the mission field is still in the hands of the devil because missionaries went with a teaching mission rather than with apostolic power to set people free from satanic bondage. Every heathen needs the devil cast out of him before he can become a Christian.

If I had a million dollars and went to India or China and gave a dollar to each person I met, I could give the money away very quickly. But the people still would be poor. They would consume the dollar's worth of food in less than one day, and then they would be hungry again. But if I took that same million dollars and erected ten huge evangelistic centers, then until Jesus Christ came back to this earth again people would get the devil cast out of them and become converted and have their names written in heaven. To me it would be much more wonderful to invest in the eternal destiny of those people than in one day's gratification of a little food.

That is why when we do go to feed the hungry in needy places around the world, we work only through pastors in a pastor-to-pastor program. We have a three-pronged approach:

1. We feed the hungry.
2. We strengthen churches with pastors' seminars.
3. We hold evangelistic crusades with proclamation of the gospel, spiritual transformation-setting people free from bondage to the devil and

demonic power-and prayer for the sick and oppressed:*

It seems the big cities of America are becoming increasingly difficult to reach for God. I believe the devil's power is taking a stranglehold upon them. I have observed that in the large cities of America, many full-gospel churches are even smaller now than they were several years ago. If there was ever a time when gospel power should invade big cities to bind the devil and set the people free, it is today.

Big cities dominate our country. All of the filth on television comes from just two great centers: Hollywood and New York. Most of the amusement that is wicked and immoral comes from the big cities. Because they dominate large areas, I am sure we need to attack these cities spiritually and defeat the devil.

I humbly feel that if I had not prayed for a girl in Bilibid prison in Manila, Philippines, and wrestled for two days with the evil spirit which possessed her, revival might never have come to that great city. But after. we had bound the

* For more information write: LeSEA, The End-Time Joseph Program to Feed the Hungry, South Bend, IN 46680-7777

"strong man," revival flowed like a mighty river. Since that time, many people there have been set free from the devil's power, and multitudes have found salvation. Before that, there had never been a great move of God in the history of that city. I believe we should not give the great cities of this world to the devil!

Jesus' Big City

It is interesting to me that Jesus wept over Jerusalem. It was the big city of His life. It was the largest city He ever saw on the face of the earth. He wept over it. He wanted to wrench it from the devil's grasp and see the people set free from satanic power.

Today we should weep over the great cities of our land lest they become throne rooms of the devil's power. The reason the evil one's power is stronger in cities like Washington, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles is because they are full of soothsayers, crystal-gazers, fortune tellers, spiritist mediums, and cults of all kinds.

There is no satanic power that can stand before the living Church. The Lord Jesus promised that even the gates of

hell could not stop His church. Let's advance on the big cities.

Chapter 4

HUMANS, ANIMALS, AND DEVILS

And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him
(Luke 8:30).

There are three areas spoken of in God's Word regarding demons in individuals and animals.

One: Beasts may be possessed by devils. Matthew 8:29-32 tells of pigs which, after demons entered them, plunged down a steep place into the sea, perishing in the water. I am sure farmers and other people who deal with

animals have noticed peculiar beasts which actually possessed a strange spirit, and possibly had to be destroyed because they could not live peaceably with other animals or with humans.

Two: Parts of a human body can be possessed. Several times Jesus cast out spirits of deafness and dumbness from human beings (Mark 9:25). He also cast out the spirit of infirmity (Luke 8:2) from a person. This means that an evil spirit can take over a certain part of the human body and not remove itself until someone with God's power rebukes it with divine authority.

Three: Unregenerate mankind can come under the complete domination and authority of the devil.

In Matthew's gospel, chapter 12, Jesus tells about a man who was demon-possessed, blind and mute, then delivered of that evil spirit so that he both spoke and saw.

Jesus used that as a springboard to discuss with the Pharisees the whole subject of demonology.

They were accusing Him of being possessed by Beelzebub, "the ruler of the demons" (v. 24).

Jesus set them straight, knowing their

thoughts (v. 25-45). He explained that when an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, but if he finds none he returns to the man in whom he once had lived.

The Bible says when he looked upon the man, he found his soul swept and garnished, but empty. Being "swept" means that the world had been taken away from him; "garnished" means decorated. The man's religious decorations were all right. He looked religious, he may have carried hymnals or prayer books. He was decorated. But his spirit was empty. The demon instantly realized this man had no resistance to him. Therefore, he went back into the dry places and found seven other evil spirits worse than himself. Together they came back, overwhelmed the man and possessed him. Jesus said that the end of the man was worse than the beginning.

Deliverance Power for the Individual

Jesus went on to say that "Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation" (v. 45b).

Jesus came to this world to deliver us

from the devil's power according to Acts 10:38, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

In Luke 8:2 we read of certain women who were healed of evil spirits and infirmities; and of Mary Magdalene who was delivered of seven devils.

Here is one of the most remarkable of Bible events. The Bible says specifically and empathically that this woman had seven devils in her. Jesus cast them out and she became His disciple. This is conclusive proof that humans can have evil spirits in them, and that Christ can cast them out.

Luke 4:33-35 tells about Jesus going to the synagogue one day. In the synagogue was a demon-possessed man. This foul demon felt very comfortable until Jesus arrived. He was enjoying the dead sermon and lifeless prayers. But when our Lord walked in, the devil began to scream at Him crying out with a loud voice, "Let us alone! What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Did you come to destroy us? I know you, who You are-the Holy One

of God" (NKJ).

Jesus rebuked him and said, "Come out!"

Instantly, the man was delivered of the unclean spirit. Times have not changed. There are still people loitering around churches who need to be set free from the devil's power.

Of course, one of the most amazing deliverances in the entire Bible is the healing of the demoniac of Gadara mentioned in Mark 5:1-9.

> "Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.
>
> "And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him.
>
> "And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting

himself with stones.

"But when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, `What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.

"For He said to him, 'Come out of the man, unclean spirit!'

"Then He asked him, 'What is your name?'And he answered, saying, 'My name is Legion; for we are many.' " (NKJ)

Legion was a Roman military term for a large unit of between two and six thousand men. The man at Gadara was possessed by that many evil spirits. Spirits do not necessarily need space as things do in the physical world. I presume a million evil spirits could be in one place because they do not need physical room. For this reason, thousands could be inside one physical being.

I have written a book about Arlindo Barbosa De-Oliveira, a witch doctor from Brazil. He was possessed of more than five-hundred demon spirits. He knew their names and worshiped them

in different ways. For example, one of the demons desired strong drink and Arlindo was made to drink certain types of wine when this devil was active in him. Arlindo was possessed of these evil spirits for forty years, then the Lord Jesus Christ set him free. He is free to this day.

Deliverance for the Multitudes

Jesus cast demons out of multitudes of people. Matthew 8:16 says "When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick" (NKJ).

Luke 4:41 says, "And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, `You are the Christ, the Son of God!' And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ" (NKJ).

Perhaps someone will say, "But that was Jesus, and He hasn't lived on this earth for two thousand years" Permit me to direct your attention to Luke 9:1, "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases" (NKJ).

The Lord Jesus Christ gave these twelve men power and authority over all demons. This means there was no demon who could stand against these selected disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, who were to go in His name to set humanity free.

Again someone will say, "But that was for the disciples. That was a long time ago." May I refer you further to Mark 16:17, "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons: they will speak with new tongues. . ." (NKJ).

In this Great Commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, He commanded those who were to come after Him-anyone who believed upon Him-to take power over demon spirits and to cast them out in His name.

In these last days, there will be multitudes of people needing to be set free. And it is the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ to set them free. The Church must gird itself for the greatest battle in history against demon power.

The battle will be greater in the future than it ever has been in the past. Demons will try in a greater measure to take over human beings in the future.

God's children must stand up against them. We must believe for a tremendous victory.

As Christians, we need not fear any work of the devil. We have no reason for fear. The Bible says, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from thee" (James 4:7). It does not say that he will walk or crawl. It says that he will flee. No one flees unless he is afraid. So if the devil is afraid of the true child of God, why should the Christian be afraid? There is no need for both to be afraid.

From studying the Scriptures, one of the great things we see is that God's children have no reason to fear any aspect of demon power. God has put something in us stronger than demon power, " : . greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). We can all be free, and we can set others free by His great power.

Chapter 5

THE CHALLENGE TO ACTION

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover
(Mark 16:15-18 NKJ).

The greatest command ever given to the Church is the statement known to the world as "The Great Commission."

These are the last words ever spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ upon this earth, and they are the final words of command to those who would carry on His work. This set the divine pattern which must be followed until Christ returns for His Church.

I positively believe the members of the Bride of Christ will be judged primarily by this Great Commission. When we meet Jesus, He will not ask which denomination you were a member of, whether you taught Sunday School, or whether you were a deacon. He will look you straight in the eye and ask, "What did you do about the Great Commission?"

You may stammer and say, "I took care of the tea parties at my church, I did this or that."

And Christ will say, "I left one command. What did you do about it?" When I was in Singapore, a minister and I walked into a heathen temple. The priestess was in a trance, holding a seance. Through the groanings of the demon spirit, she was telling fortunes.

I had told the missionary that, when I walked in, I would plead the blood of Jesus over this witch, who was

slobbering and groaning in a strange way, and she would be free for a while. For the ten minutes we stayed in that temple, the priestess found it impossible to reach the spirit world or to reveal anything.

If Christ were not stronger than the devil, our lives would be in jeopardy. But He who claims all power in heaven and in earth, who came back from the corridors of hell with the keys of death and hell, tells every believer, "Be not afraid! Cast out devils and set humanity free!"

That is the command and challenge to the Church today.

What hinders the Church from winning the entire world to Christ today?

Two Reasons for Rebuke

When I travel through heathen lands, I see most people in ignorance, confusion, and poverty. They need everything Christ stands for. Why is it that we have not reached them? Christ gave us the answer in Mark 16. In verse 14, Christ appeared to His disciples while they were eating. In this last meeting with them, He rebuked them for two things. The first was unbelief, and

the second was hardness of heart. I believe these are the two reasons why the Church is not more victorious today.

First, unbelief. It is unbelief which keeps us from winning the world to Jesus. It is unbelief which keeps us from seeing great miracles take place. It is unbelief which keeps churches from growing larger and better. It is unbelief that keeps us from doing great and wonderful things for God. The spirit of unbelief is in the church. Some modern churches take more time telling what they don't believe than what they do believe. They are busy explaining which parts of the Bible are for two thousand years ago, and which parts are for a thousand years from now. But what the world needs to know is that all of the Bible is for now! What can the Bible do for me? What can it do for you?

The other problem with the disciples was hardness of heart. These men had seen the dead raised, yet they could not believe Jesus had risen from the dead. They had seen mighty miracles take place, yet they were not willing to lend themselves to another miracle. They had hardness of heart!

In the world in which we live today, if

there is one thing above all others wrong with the Church, it is hardness of heart, a callousness of spirit that doesn't care whether the world is saved or not. It seems to be saying, "Let someone else do it." The Church is not concerned about world conditions. It is not worried about the heathen.

These two evils have plagued the Church for the last two thousand years. It is time to remove unbelief and hardness of heart from our churches. Let us have faith in God, a tender spirit like Jesus had, and zeal like the Apostle Paul had, to win the world to Christ right now.

The Last of the Last Days

Many Bible students today know and teach that we are dispensationally at the end of the age. These are the last of the last days. We now face the greatest challenge the Church has ever known. It is time for God's people to bind the devil's power. We know that the devil's power is coming to an end. Revelation 11:15 says, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our

Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Revelation 20:1-10 reveals what is to happen:

> "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
>
> "He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.
>
> "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ

for a thousand years.

"But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

"Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

"They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

"And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the

beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (NKJ).

This is to be the final position of the devil, completely destroyed, hurting no one, ruling and reigning no place. He will be utterly and completely destroyed because of his fightings against God.

I would like to stress strongly that God's power runs parallel with the things we have said in this book about the devil's power. God blesses entire nations just as the devil curses entire nations. God dwelt among His people Israel, and He was the God of the nation. We can call the blessings of God upon our nation, and be a people who love and serve God.

This is also true of cities. God blesses cities. He blessed the city of Jerusalem. It was especially a place of His presence and His power, and God can do the same today. He can especially bless my city, your city, or any city that will put its trust in Him.

Christ told His disciples that if a city did not receive the message of life, to shake off the dust of that city from their feet and depart. He said it would be

better for Sodom and Gomorrah than for that city in the Day of Judgment. And so a city can choose its own blessing or be cursed by the way it receives Christ.

God also blesses houses. The Temple in Jerusalem was blessed with His presence. Your church and my church can be blessed with His presence. And our homes can be blessed with the presence of God.

God has not changed. God will dwell in a nation, in a city, in a church, in a home, in our hearts-wherever we want Him to dwell. God is now ready and willing to dwell there. The decision is up to you and to me.

The challenge is big and eternity is long. May God help each of us, that we shall do the best we can in the closing hours of this dispensation.

MY CHALLENGE TO YOU

If Jesus should come today, would you be ready? If you are not sure, I invite you to receive Jesus as your Savior now. You will be filled with hope and peace that only Jesus can offer.

Pray out loud with me right now:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. I do believe that you died and rose from the dead to save me from my sins. I want to be with you in heaven forever. God, forgive me of all my sins that I have committed against you. I here and now open my heart to you and ask you to come into my heart and life and be my personal Savior. Amen."

When you pray the Sinner's Prayer and mean it, He will come in instantly. You are now a child of God and you have been transferred from the devil's dominion to the kingdom of God. Read I John 1:9 and Colossians 1:13. A wonderful peace and joy will fill your soul.

Please write and tell me what Jesus has done for you. I will send you a little pamphlet titled, "So You're Born Again!" Mail your letter to: **Lester Sumrall**, P.O. Box 12, South Bend, IN 46624.

LESTER SUMRALL

THREE HABITATIONS OF DEVILS



There are three areas spoken of in God's Word regarding the habitations of devils. Demons can dwell in nations, cities and individual beings, human or animal.

Empires and nations have given themselves over to the worship of devils, becoming devil-infested. Ancient cities, as well as modern ones, practice Satan worship. Finally, humans have yielded themselves to the devil that he might possess them.

The great challenge of this age and hour is for the believer, using the power of Jesus' name, to defeat and destroy all the works of the devil!

Dr. Lester Sumrall is a prominent voice in the Christian world, having ministered for over fifty-five years in more than one hundred nations of the world. Dr. Sumrall founded LeSEA Broadcasting, which owns and operates Christian television stations, a local radio station, and an international shortwave radio station, with the special purpose of bringing millions of souls to heaven.

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