

The Bible Standard



SATAN'S BINDING

"He laid hold of the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the abyss, and shut him up, and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be finished; and after that he must be loosed for a little season" (Rev. 20: 2, 3).

THE UNSCRIPTURAL views we once held respecting hell naturally led us into unscriptural views respecting Satan. When we held the thought that hell was a vast furnace of fire (we knew not where, "beyond the bounds of space and time"), we were deluded into believing that Satan was master of ceremonies in that far-off place, and chief over a host of fire-proof demons employed chiefly in causing indescribable pain and anguish to billions of the human family who passed into his control by Divine foreknowledge and intention, the number of new arrivals by death approximating 155,000 per day. But with Satan afar off and more than busy we could not think of him as giving any particular time and attention to the comparatively small number of humanity still living compared to the over one hundred billions who have already died.

Then when we get the Scriptural idea of hell, that *Sheol* and *Hades* are the names for the state of death and unconsciousness, into which all mankind, good and bad, go at death and from which both the just and the unjust are to be resurrected at the Second Coming of Christ, it throws a different light on the whole subject. As for the term *Gehenna* fire, symbolically used to represent the Second Death, which is the utter destruction of the incorrigible (not their preservation in torment), we find that rightly understood its flames are no more literal than those of the "fiery trials" (1 Pet. 4: 12),

Many Scripture references in this issue are to the New King James Version.

which the Lord promised would come upon His faithful people to consume the wrong in their characters and, under Divine supervision, to prepare them for the Kingdom. Since we see that Satan and the fallen angels, his associates and servants, are not engaged in stoking a furnace, it prepares us to understand what the Scriptures have to say respecting them and their relationship to mankind and their future. We do well to remember that we have no personal knowledge on this subject but what we find revealed in the Scriptures.

Most distinctly do the Scriptures teach the personality of Satan and of his malicious and depraved character. Moreover, they show clearly that he is not another god who has existed from eternity, but a spirit creature subject to Jehovah. Since the Scriptural declaration is that "God's work is perfect" (Deut. 32: 4), it follows that He could not have created Satan in the condition in which he now is, an adversary to God and to righteousness. In harmony with this thought the Scriptures assure us that he was created an angel of a high order — a cherub — that he was beautiful, high in authority, and possessed great wisdom, but that he allowed ambition and pride to enter into his heart and to seduce him from loyalty to his Creator. The time when his ambitious designs began to take shape undoubtedly was when he beheld our first parents in Eden and set about to entrap them as his subjects.

"Lift up a standard for the people" — Isa. 62: 10

Contents — December 2004

Satan's Binding 178

Permitted by God to rule as a mighty god, he will soon be bound

The Assembly at Armageddon 184

The gathering of the nations prepares for Christ's rule

Bible Question Box 187

- *Why did Jesus become human?*
- *Was He born on December 25?*
- *Hebrews 13: 8 examined*

Servants of God and Man 189

Adoniram Judson: missionary to Burma

Features

Publications 191

Announcements back page

He is represented as saying in his heart, “I will ascend above the stars [be higher than the other angels, as their captain and leader] . . . I will be like the Most High [similar to the Most High God in the sense of being an independent ruler not subject to him]” (Isa. 14: 12-14; Ezek. 28: 16).

When Satan beheld our first parents possessed of the quality of procreation — the power of developing a race like themselves — he discerned that this was something that neither he nor the angels of the spirit plane possessed, and that by capturing the hearts of the first human pair he could become the ruler of the human world. The success of his deception need not be told. The disobedience of our first parents and the fulfillment upon them of the Divine sentence, “You shall surely die,” has involved a race whose numbers approximate probably 150 billion, a groaning creation, living and dead, suffering under the sentence of death through its effects upon their minds, their morals, and their physical systems. Therefore, our Lord Jesus declares of Satan: “He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the Truth” (John 8: 44). He lied to our first parents and through that deception he brought them under the Divine death sentence, so Satan became the murderer of the entire race.

It is not necessary for us to determine that Satan’s original lie was of full determination to misrepresent. He told our first parents that he would be their real friend and guide them to greater knowledge — that God, their Creator, was selfish and that the prohibition of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was a deliberate attempt on God’s part to keep them from useful and profitable knowledge because He did not want them to approximate His own wisdom. The human mind often gets out of accord with the Lord and deceives itself, so Satan’s mind, poisoned by pride and ambition, may have reached the false conclusion that God was really working against the best interests of our first parents and their race. It matters not which view we take, for in either case Satan was a liar and deceiver and was thereby our murderer, as our Lord pointed out.

SATAN BUILDS A DOOMED EMPIRE

Satan risked everything by pursuing the course that he took, for he not only became the Adversary of God, but he became separated from all who were loyal to the Creator. His entire time and energy became devoted to building up of the human empire he had designed. He had no authority from God to rule mankind, but by involving humanity in sin, and thus alienating them from their Creator, he was able to more and more gain control. No sentence of death was passed upon him, nor

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any impairment of his personal powers and vitality. Mankind, however, has, under the death sentence rapidly lost the mental, moral, and physical qualities necessary to cope with the Adversary.

During the 1,656 years from Adam’s creation to the Flood’s end, a certain amount of fellowship was permitted between humanity and the angels. God permitted this to teach a great lesson and to test the loyalty of the angels — the lesson being that sin is very contaminating. The fellowship between angels and men, instead of uplifting mankind had the opposite effect — it brought him downward, eventuating in sin. The influence of evil took hold upon many of the angels, whom the Scriptures say that they left their own habitation — that is, they were permitted to materialize in human form and have an unauthorized association with mankind. Some through lustful temptation wrongly used the human plane, thus sinning and transgressing the Divine arrangement of their angelic nature.

THE GENESIS ACCOUNT

The Genesis account briefly tells us that these angelic sons of God, beholding the fair daughters of men, were filled with unholy desire and took them for wives with the result that a new race began to spring up in the world — “giants,” “men of renown.” The lesson was taught and the angels having been tested as to their loyalty to God, that Age ended with the Flood of Noah’s day, wiping out that hybrid race and the entire human race except Noah and his family. Of Noah we read that he “was perfect in his generation” (Gen. 6: 9). He and his family were of pure Adamic stock, not contaminated with sinful angelic infusion. At that time, according to St. Peter (2 Pet. 2: 4), and St. Jude (6), God placed a ban upon the disloyal angels, confining them to *Tartarus*, the atmosphere of this earth,

mistranslated hell in our common version. The Divine sentence against these disobedient angels was not a death sentence but that they should “be confined in chains of darkness until the judgment of the great Day.” The Apostle indicates that in due time God would judge those angels — that time being associated with the inauguration of the Millennial Day, the seventh thousand-year epoch of man’s history. Meantime, these fallen angels, called in the Scriptures demons (mistranslated devils), having been isolated from fellowship with God and the holy angels and hindered from materializing and thus having no fellowship with mankind as previously, have undoubtedly had an unhappy time for more than 4,000 years. Satan is spoken of as their prince or leader, though nowhere are they mentioned as being of as high rank as him, nor as responsible as is he.

MANY FALLEN ANGELS REPENTANT

Perhaps some of these fallen angels have a penitent mind, are sorry for their sins, and are no longer striving against the Divine regulations. Hence they surely have special opposition from Satan and his supporters. The Apostle distinctly shows us that the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus became a great sermon to these fallen angels, instructing them respecting the love and compassion of God for His human creatures and of His Power even to raise the dead and His willingness to reward our Lord Jesus with high exaltation — because of obedience. This lesson respecting the true Divine character became to some of these fallen angels a lesson of hope, and gave them room to anticipate that if they would turn from sin and display their loyalty to God, He might in their judgment day grant the blessing of forgiveness. The Apostle Peter speaks of these in his Epistle, saying that Christ preached to the spirits in prison who once were disobedient in the days of Noah, while the ark was preparing (1 Pet. 3: 19, 20). The sermon was not one of audible words but a pantomime discourse, as we sometimes say, “Actions speak louder than words.” Our Lord’s death as a sacrifice and His resurrection by Divine Power on the third day, provided a great lesson, a great sermon for those who had little hope for deliverance.

Without knowing the proportions of those favorably inclined, we know that many legions of these fallen angels, under the leadership of Satan, are the direct enemies of the human race — tempting, misleading, deceiving, and putting light for darkness and darkness for light. These rebellious ones seemingly enter fully into Satan’s spirit and work as his associates. In the past these, not being permitted to materialize, have sought

fellowship with mankind and have preyed upon humanity. Realizing that they would be dreaded if their real character was recognized, they have impersonated the human dead, thus helping to further corroborate Satan’s original falsehood, “You shall not surely die.”

By various delusions humanity has been taught that when we die, it is only an appearance, but that we really become more alive than ever. This view was successfully spread among the heathen nations, but to the Israelites God gave special instructions — that the dead were dead and that they must not be worshiped or prayed to. The Israelites were commanded not to allow a witch or wizard or necromancer to live in their midst. They were told that the hope for their dead to come to life again was in the resurrection, which the promised Messiah would accomplish. They were told that “the dead know not anything,” that their sons come to honor and they know it not, they come to dishonor and they perceive it not of them (Eccl. 9: 5; Job 14: 21). They were told to do with their might what their hands found to do, because there is neither “work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in Sheol,” the grave, the state of death, *Hades* (Eccl. 9: 10).

Notwithstanding the protection of the Lord’s Word, the fallen angels succeeded in gaining considerable influence over the Israelites, so that in our Lord’s time that form of insanity which results from obsession, from these evil spirits getting possession of the mind, the brain, was common. Many of our Lord’s miracles and those of His disciples consisted in the casting out of such demons — in one instance a legion possessing one poor man and making him crazy.

The teachings of our Lord and the Apostles in the New Testament respecting the dead are in full harmony with those of the Jewish Age in the Old Testament. Our Lord tells us that at His Second Coming “all that are in their graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth.” The approved of God will come forth perfect by a resurrection to life, but the disapproved will come forth imperfect, that they may have a resurrection by judgments, chastening, and stripes for assisting them up to full perfection, if they will. There is no suggestion here that the dead are alive, but that they are in their graves, that they are dead. When our Lord awakened Lazarus, He first told the sisters that in Him was the resurrection and life, and that He did not call Lazarus from heaven or from purgatory, but merely from the tomb (John 11: 41-45).

It was our Lord Himself who declared that no man had ascended into heaven (John 3: 13). The Apostle Peter, when pointing out our Lord’s resurrection and

how it had been foretold by the Prophet David said: "Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell [*Sheol, Hades, the grave*]." He mentioned that "David is not ascended to the heavens" but was still in his sepulcher (Acts 2: 34). The Apostle Paul said that if there be no resurrection of the dead all mankind are perished, even those who have fallen asleep in Christ (1 Cor. 15: 17, 18). The united voice of the Scriptures is in harmony with the facts, that God's sentence upon our race was a death sentence which has affected all, and that the hope for everyone is as a result of our dear Redeemer's sacrifice that there shall be a general resurrection both of the just and of the unjust. A resurrection of the dead implies that they are dead, and not alive (Acts 24: 15). Satan and the demons have worked against this truth of the Scriptures, deceiving mankind and as a result fostering the doctrines of purgatory and of masses for the dead, thereby leading many to blaspheme God's holy name by believing that the dead are in torment somewhere and thus blinding the minds and hearts of the vast majority, even in civilized lands. Even those of civilized lands fear God because of these misrepresentations and therefore cannot fully love and appreciate Him. The deceitful work of Satan and his demon hosts has progressed, creating many dreadful conditions. They promote all kinds of sin and probably many of the criminally insane are possessed by demons.

A REIGN OF SIN AND DEATH

As we observe the numerous erroneous beliefs and the degraded moral fiber of society, not only in what we refer to as heathen nations, but in what we have called "Christian nations," we recognize what an influence Satan has exercised and how weak man has been in his hands. It is only in proportion as the Word and spirit of God have given enlightenment and strength that a measure of freedom from the Adversary's toils has been gained. The Apostle reminds us of our Adversary's cunning: "We are not ignorant of his devices" and of his cunningly devised fables (2 Cor. 2: 11). He declares Satan to be the god or ruler of this world by virtue of the deception which he has accomplished in the blinding of the minds of men as respects the light of truth. He assures us that as Christians we are not merely contending with flesh and blood, with human beings, but that beyond these adversaries of the true Church are the wisdom and cunning of the Adversary himself and his many agents. He says we wrestle not only with flesh and blood, but with wicked spirits in high positions (Eph. 6: 12; 2 Cor. 4: 4).

Our Lord, referring to His Second Coming, the gathering of the Church, and the breaking up of present institutions in the end of this Age, says that if the householder (Satan) knew in what hour the thief would come he would be on the alert and take means to prevent the despoiling of his household and goods.

Ever since the Lord began to lift the veil of ignorance and to grant enlightenment, bringing forth the invention of printing and then the various modes of transportation and communication, our Adversary has been busier than ever. As the Prince of Darkness, all of his work of deception upon the human family is favored by ignorance, darkness, and benighted conditions — so everything that has tended to lift the pall of the Dark Ages has tended to liberate mankind from the snares of Satan's ignorance, superstition, and deception. In one of His parables our Lord represents Satan as the householder of the present time and the whole world as his household, or dominion, over which he has control. This picture is similar to the Apostle's description of Satan as the prince, and the god or ruler of this world. Our Lord, referring to His Second Coming, the gathering of the Church, and the breaking up of present institutions in the end of this Age, says that if the householder (Satan) knew in what hour the thief would come he would be on the alert and take means to prevent the despoiling of his household and goods. Hence many things connected with the Second Coming of our Lord have been kept secret until the due time of their fulfillment.

CHRIST EVICTS SATAN

Our Lord shows that His first work has been to bind the strong man (Satan), and then He will spoil his goods — overthrow his arrangements and institutions that are in so many respects deceptive. In this overturning, our Lord as the new King may bring to all the slaves of sin and darkness the light and the blessings so long foretold in the Word of God and hoped and prayed for by all the saints — "Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6: 10). We believe that we are living in that time in which the Prince of Light has already begun the work of binding the prince of darkness, and we must not expect that Satan will meekly

submit. Though this name Satan applies to our personal adversary, the devil, it covers in a general sense all the influences for evil and unrighteousness in the world. Hence when we read of the binding of Satan, that old serpent, we should have in mind all the evil influences, all the sinful tendencies, all the injustices and untruths whereby mankind have been enslaved for centuries.

LIGHT BINDS AS A CHAIN

Whenever the light of Truth is set forth it will bind the darkness in similar proportion. Hence we might say that to some extent this loosing of the light and binding of the darkness has been in process for a few centuries, but only in our day is the matter nearing a climax. The whole world is waking up to some of the evils which have oppressed it. A wave of opposition to all injustice is also spreading, favoring the interests of all the people as opposed to the few disposed to exploit the many for their personal advantage. The Jubilee Trumpet is heard and the masses are awakening and grasping for their human rights and liberties. We do not think that all that is said and done in favor of the people and against wealthy magnates, aristocrats, and bureaucrats is true and good. Nor do we mean to dispute that many liberties are sought and desired to be grasped for which many people are not yet prepared. But we call attention to these things to show that the power of darkness is losing its hold — its shackles are breaking from human minds.

These things are responsible for bringing on what the Scriptures describe as a “Time of Trouble” such as never was since there was a nation (Dan. 12: 1). The strong man, the adversary, and his numerous allies entrenched in power and privilege will hold on until the bitter end and this will mean much suffering to all concerned. How thankful that we can see beyond this Time of Trouble to what the Scriptures outline as the Reign of righteousness, peace, and love — the blessing of all the families of the earth. Not only might we expect that the adversary and his various agents would be exceedingly active in this present time, but the Scriptures particularly admonish us that this will be the case. The Lord could crush the Adversary immediately but will permit his activity for a special purpose, partly for the testing of His people and partly for lessons of discipline for the world in general. The Apostle, speaking of the present time, says: “God will send them strong delusions, that they may believe a lie; that they all might be condemned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness [untruth]” (2 Thes. 2: 11). As we near the climax of the present Time of Trouble we realize that no one is secure from the adversary’s power except as they are on the Lord’s side, consecrated to Him, and under His promised protection. His protection will largely be through the impartation of knowledge, light, which will guard from the darkness. Therefore, those who know that the

SOME DAY

Some day all doubt and mystery
Will be made clear:
The threatening clouds that now we see
Will disappear.
Some day what seems a punishment,
Or loss or pain,
Will prove to be God’s blessing, sent
For very gain.
Some day our weary feet will rest
In sweet content;

And we shall know that we were blest
By what was sent.
And, looking back with clearer eyes
O’er life’s short span,
We’ll see with wondering, glad surprise,
God’s perfect plan.
And, knowing that the way we went
Was God’s own way,
We’ll recognize His wise intent,
Some day, some day.

dead are dead and will remain dead until the resurrection, and who know that those who represent the dead through spirit mediums are demons — these are specially protected by their knowledge from many of the deceptions which are ensnaring thousands. The Scriptures imply that in some manner in this present time the Lord will permit the fallen angels to find a way to avoid their prohibition to materialize. Materializations by these demons could occur, and they would be a harmful influence. It is consoling to know that the Lord guarantees that in the end of the struggle Satan will be fully bound, shut up, sealed, that he can deceive the nations no more for a thousand years.

The blessedness of the Millennial Day, so graphically portrayed through the prophecies and the New Testament, could not be imagined except as we grasp the thought that Satan, the deceiver, will be restrained and not be permitted to deceive humanity further. Instead, the glorious light of the Millennial Day, the Sun of Righteousness, Christ and His elect Church in glory, will shine forth for the scattering of all darkness and superstition, and the light of Divine Truth will illuminate the whole world and cause the knowledge of the Lord to fill the earth as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11: 9). How blessed! How glorious! Those who were called and have now been installed to this High Calling of joint-heirship with Christ have rightly valued the things of darkness and of light and are now in

their exalted position as Divine beings with their influence on the Lord's side, the side of the Truth! And may not those of us who did not qualify for the Little Flock also be used of the Lord in the shining forth of the light which will further bind the Adversary and restrain evil? Therefore to whichever class of God's people we belong, let us, as the Apostle suggests, lay aside every weight to the attainment of that goal. The Scriptures indicate that at the close of the Millennial Age the Lord will permit Satan to have a brief period of liberty for the purpose of testing those who will have received knowledge and been uplifted to perfection throughout the Millennial Age, to the intent that none of the human family or others shall go beyond that time or have eternal life except they shall be in heart obedient to the Lord and His righteous requirements.

The verses following our text tell not only of the First Resurrection of the Church and of their reign with Christ for the thousand years, but also how the world during the thousand years may come up to perfection of life and live in the true sense of the word at the close of the Millennium. Then will come the testing time already referred to, and such as will be found disloyal to the Lord will be counted as the messengers and co-laborers with Satan and with him will be destroyed in the lake of fire, which is the Second Death, utter destruction.

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of interest . . .

The city of Chicago will utilize 2,000 remote-control surveillance cameras in an effort to reduce crime. With motion-sensing software and connection to emergency operations, suspicious behavior could be watched as it happens day or night — they include night-vision capability.

The system size is nearly limitless. Already 1,000 cameras are at O'Hare International Airport, and others on transit lines, in parks, and schools. The courts and the American Civil Liberties Union have not objected to cameras in public places, saying privacy on city streets is not expected.

Mayor Daley said, "They are the next best thing to having police officers stationed at every potential trouble spot."

— *yahoo.com/news*

Dr. Karl Swann, of the University of Wales College of Medicine, has reported the creation of "ethical" embryos he hopes will be useful in stem cell research. The eggs began dividing after injection of an enzyme produced by sperm; this "spark of life" tricked the egg into thinking it had been fertilized. After a certain point the eggs will not develop — they have only the mother's chromosomes.

Stem cells from the embryos can turn into different kinds of tissue and scientists believe that with the right chemical cues they could produce replacement tissue for patients suffering degenerative brain illnesses such as Parkinson's disease, as well as heart damage.

Josephine Quintavalle, of *Comment on Reproductive Ethics*, a London-based pro-life lobby group, said: "I'd be happier if it was beyond all reasonable doubt that it could not become a human life."

— *thescotsman.com*

THE ASSEMBLY AT ARMAGEDDON

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. . . . And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon” (Rev. 16: 13-16).

GOD SEEMS to have given the Book of Revelation with the intent of covering up great and important truths, not only because these were not due to be understood, but because He designs to keep certain features of His Plan from the world. Being a book of symbols, the Revelation will not be understood by the world in general, but the Bible assures us that when the due time for it to be made known arrives, the wise among His people, “the wise virgins,” shall understand (Dan. 12: 10; Matt. 25: 1-13). The Prophet Daniel, who tells us the Time of the End is the time for those wise servants of God to understand His great Plan, gives two particular signs by which this time will be especially marked: First, “Many shall run to and fro” and second, “Knowledge shall be increased” (Dan. 12: 4).

Sir Isaac Newton living in the seventeenth century, when the mode of transportation was the horse and carriage, was interested in this statement by Daniel and declared his belief that eventually human knowledge would so increase that men would possibly travel at the rate of fifty miles an hour. The noted infidel Voltaire retorted — “Now look at the mighty mind of Newton, the great philosopher who discovered the law of gravitation: When he became an old man and got into his dotage, he began to study the book called the Bible, and in order to credit its fabulous nonsense he would have us believe that the knowledge of mankind will yet be so increased that we shall by and by be able to travel fifty miles an hour! Poor dotard!”

Today we see this prophecy fulfilled. All over the world people are traveling here and there as never before and in today’s world there are opportunities for knowledge such as have never before been possible. The remarkable fulfillment of this prophecy characterizes our day as the Time of the End, in which this Gospel Age is to be concluded and the Messianic Age is to be ushered in — the time when God’s people will understand the Divine plan and prepare for the Millennial Kingdom. In the Scriptures God has seen fit to associate the name of Israel’s famous battlefield with the great controversy between Truth and Error, Right and Wrong, with which the change of dispensation will

take place. While the phrase, “Battle of Armageddon,” is heard on all sides and is applied in many ways, nevertheless Christians realize that in the Bible this phrase is used in a religious sense.

Before we proceed to set forth our understanding of the symbolic language of the Revelation, we wish to state most emphatically that we are saying nothing whatever against godly Christians at any time or in any place, whatever affiliation they might have. We realize that the Word of God conveys an arraignment of some of the great secular and religious systems of our day, some that we long have revered, that we have recognized as containing many of God’s people. We have nothing to say against godly individuals, but what we have to say in the interpretation of Scripture is in respect to these systems, secular and religious. Coming to the interpretation of the symbols of Revelation 16: 13-16, we find that the Scriptures mention three agencies connected with the gathering of the hosts to this great battle. We read that three impure spirits, or teachings, will go forth from the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet, and that these three will be in agreement. These three doctrines, symbolically represented by frogs, are to have a mighty influence throughout the civilized earth.

They are to gather the kings (rulers) and their armies to the great Battle of Armageddon. The kings and princes, with their retinues of affiliated adherents, will be gathered — the world’s military powers supported by religious and secular factions. The managers of industry, with their supporters, will likewise be gathered. The political bureaucrats, with all of their backing, will join the fray. The great financiers and merchant princes, and all whom they can influence by the most gigantic financial power ever yet exercised in the world, will also gather, according to this prophecy. They do not realize, however, that they are coming to Armageddon.

These “doctrines of demons,” represented by the frogs, will lead many noble souls to assume an attitude quite contrary to their preference. For a time the wheels of liberty and progress may be turned backward, and

medieval restraints may be considered necessary for self-preservation, for the maintenance of the present order of things and for the hindrance of the new order, which God has decreed. Even those who may be God's people do not stop to consider whether it is His will that things should continue as they have been for over six thousand years.

The symbolisms of Scripture, rightly understood, are always forceful. When the holy spirit used a frog symbolically to represent certain doctrines or teachings, we may be sure that the true application will fit well. A frog is a small creature, yet it puffs itself up until it almost bursts in its efforts to be recognized. It has a wise look, even though it does not know much, and whenever it utters a sound, it croaks. The three most prominent characteristics of a frog, then, are an air of self-importance, superior wisdom, and a continual setting forth of preposterous claims. Applying these symbols, we learn that this evil spirit, this influence, will come from the religious and civil authorities. Their spirit will be boastful, and an air of superior wisdom and knowledge will be proudly assumed — all will speak in harmony. They predict dire results to follow, involving the interests of both the present and the future life, if their counsel is not heeded. Despite the conflicting creeds, these major differences will be ignored in their general proposition that nothing ancient must be investigated or repudiated, but that all things must remain as they are.

It is an erroneous claim that God sanctions the proclamations of mainline religions, and that kings rule by Divine right. Any persons or teachings in conflict with these boastful and unscriptural claims are branded as belonging to a cult and that they are not Christians. These proclamations come forth from the pulpits and platforms and through the press. The nobler sentiments of some will be strangled by the philosophy of the same evil spirit, which spoke through Caiaphas, the high priest, respecting our Lord Jesus. As Caiaphas declared it expedient to commit a crime in violation of justice, both human and Divine, in order to be rid of Jesus and His teachings, so this frog spirit will approve of every violation of principle necessary to self-protection.

The croaking of these erroneous spirits of doctrine will gather the kings and princes — financial, political, religious, and industrial — into great armies. The spirit of fear, inspired by their declarations, will scourge the passions of otherwise good and reasonable men to fury and desperation. In their blind adherence to these evil doctrines, which are rampant in religious and secular factions, they are willing to sacrifice life

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itself on the altar of what they mistakenly suppose is righteousness. As we understand the Scriptures, these combined forces of Armageddon will temporarily triumph — free speech, free mails, and other liberties which have come to be the very breath of the people of our day may be shut off under the plea of necessity, safety, the glory of God, the dictates of religion.

In the symbolic language of the Bible an earthquake signifies social revolution. The declaration of the Revelator is that this conflict and unrest that is now prevalent throughout the earth will be “such as was not since men were upon the earth.” Our Lord Jesus and the Prophet Daniel described it as “a Time of Trouble such as was not since there was a nation” (Matt. 24: 21; Dan. 12: 1; Rev. 16: 18, 19).

THE OPPOSING FORCES AT ARMAGEDDON

The false teachings will gather together the great, the rich, the learned, and the rulers of the earth. At this juncture Divine Power will step forward and marshal the hosts to Armageddon to the Mount of Destruction. The combining of forces, coming together in bigger numbers, betrays their fear; they are attempting to prevent disintegration of the “powers that be” — fighting for their own existence and the good of all as they view it. But the very thing which they sought to avert by federation will be the very thing which they will hasten. Other Scriptures tell us that God will be represented by the great Messiah and that He will be on the side of the good. Thus we read, “At that time shall Michael [the God-like One — Messiah] stand up” — assume authority. He will take possession of His Kingdom in a manner little expected by many of those who erroneously have been claiming that they were His Kingdom, and authorized by Him to reign in His stead. The Scriptures declare, whomever you choose to obey becomes your master (Rom. 6: 16). Some may be rendering service to Satan and error while claiming to be serving God and righteousness, and some of these may be serving ignorantly, as did Saul of Tarsus, who

“verily thought that he did God service” in persecuting the Church. The same principle holds true in reverse. As no earthly king holds himself responsible for the moral character of each soldier who fights in his battles, so the Lord does not vouch for the moral character of all who fight “on His side” of any question. The same principle will apply in the approaching Battle of Armageddon. God’s side of that battle will be on the side of right and truth — Anarchists, Socialists, and hotheaded radicals of every school of reason and of unreason will be at the forefront of the contest. The majority of the poor and of the middle class prefers peace at almost any price. They have no sympathy with terrorism and anarchy, even though many terrorists and anarchists come from their ranks. Most instinctively realize that the worst form of government is better than none — that anarchy is insanity.

A comparatively small number, God’s consecrated people, will at heart be longing for Messiah’s Kingdom. These will wait patiently for the Lord’s time and be of good courage, knowing the outcome delineated in the “more sure word of prophecy,” to which they have done well to “take heed, as unto a light shining in a dark place, until the Day dawn” (2 Pet. 1: 19). The masses, conscious of their own weakness as compared to the rulers and princes — financial, religious, and political, who will then hold sway — will be restless. Through the ballot and the peaceful readjustment of earth’s affairs they will seek for the elimination of evil, for the placing of monopolies, utilities, and the supplies of nature in the hands of the people for the public good. The crisis will be reached when the hitherto upholders of law shall become violators of that law and resistors of the will of the majority as expressed by the ballot. Fear for the future will lead the well meaning masses to desperation and with Socialism falling, anarchy will be the result. This is the extremity toward which multitudes are being driven by the force of circumstances propelled by selfishness. Bleak indeed is the outlook for the near future, but do we not have the infallible Word of God assuring us of a glorious outcome?

Divine Wisdom has withheld until our day the great knowledge and skill which is breeding both millionaires and discontents. Had God lifted the veil a thousand years ago, the world would then have lined up for its Armageddon. But that date would have been too soon for the Divine Purpose, for God has His own times and seasons, and has appointed the Seventh Thousand-Year Day of the world’s history for the Reign of Christ. Therefore in kindness God veiled our eyes until the time when the gathering to Armageddon

would immediately precede the inauguration of Messiah’s Kingdom (Rev. 11: 17, 18).

St. Paul, writing prophetically of this time, declared that it would be one of trial and testing to many professed Christians, for the reason that they received not the Truth in the love of it (2 Thes. 2: 10, 11). They preferred their own erroneous theories and therefore God will give them over to a strong delusion, permitting them to believe the lie which they preferred, and to suffer for missing the Truth which they did not love. Thus they will be on the losing side, “fighting against God.” Many Christians have labored under a delusion respecting God’s Plan in claiming that Christ set up His Church in Kingdom power and that the Church has been reigning on the earth as His representative throughout the Gospel Age. On the strength of this delusion, Jews and so-called heretics have been persecuted to death as opponents to Christ’s Kingdom. Meantime people thoughtlessly prayed, “Your Kingdom come; Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.” We knew that the Redeemer had said that He would come again to take His Bride and joint-heirs, but we ignored the Scriptures. Revelation symbolizes this condition as an intoxication; all were drunk with the false doctrine (Rev. 17: 2). It is this false doctrine, the frog spirit that croaks, that aggravates and propels into Armageddon. For the past one hundred years the forces have been mustering for the conflict. As the belligerent parties have crossed each other’s paths, incidental skirmishes have taken place — strikes, riots, worldwide scandals, wars and intrigue, corporate and court scandals — depressions and dictatorships have shaken public confidence. Bitter and angry feelings are more and more manifest.

According to Scripture the great battle must follow the occurrence of numerous events — a prominent prophecy already fulfilled is the return of the Jews to their Palestinian homeland. At the very close of Anarchy, which marks the end of Armageddon, will be “Jacob’s trouble” in the Holy Land (Jer. 30: 7). Then Messiah’s Kingdom will be set up and manifested to every eye. Thenceforth in the Land of Promise, Israel will gradually rise from the ashes of the past to the grandeur God has in store. The all-powerful but invisible Kingdom of Messiah, Christ and the Church, will begin to roll away the curse of death and to uplift mankind through its Divinely appointed princes — the Ancient and Youthful Worthies (Heb. 11; Psa. 45: 16). Then will be fulfilled the Promise: “In thy Seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

* * *



WHY A HUMAN BEING?

Q Why was it necessary for Jesus, the Son of God, to become a human being?

A We read in John 1: 14 (*American Revised Version*) that “the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.” Thus He who is termed “the beginning of the creation of God” (Rev. 3: 14), was made flesh — became a human being. He left the glory that He had with the Father before the world was (John 17: 5), “and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2: 7, 8). He “was made a little lower than the angels [a human being] for the suffering of death” — “that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb. 2: 9).

Satisfaction of Justice Essential

The justice of God’s law is absolute: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth and a life for a life (Ex. 21: 23-25). If there was to be any salvation for the human race, it was necessary that a perfect man should die for the perfect man Adam, who forfeited human life for himself and the race in his loins when he sinned (Rom. 5: 17-19; 1 Cor. 15: 22). Therefore the Son of God was carnated, “became flesh,” that He might become that ransom (corresponding price), which would redeem Adam and his race. He became a perfect man, as Adam was — hence a corresponding price. He was “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners” (Heb. 7: 26). Joseph was not His father, else He would have been born in sin, helpless to give a ransom for Adam and his race (Psa. 49: 7). God was His Father, and He was born of a virgin. Well may we thank God for the birth of Jesus as a human being — He who is our only hope of salvation (Acts 4: 12).

DATE OF JESUS’ BIRTH

Q Is December 25 the date of Jesus’ birth? Do the Scriptures indicate that we should celebrate His birthday?

A “Christmas Day,” in celebration of our dear Redeemer’s birth, has for many centuries and in many lands been observed on December 25, but it is now largely recognized that His birth occurred about October 1 — see *The Time is at Hand*, pp. 54-62 and *The Bible Standard* No. 265 (a copy free on request, in which the exact time of His death and resurrection is also given). The December 25 date more properly corresponds with the date of the annunciation to Mary, nine months before Jesus’ birth.

The Scriptures give no instructions to celebrate Jesus’ birthday, though they direct us to commemorate His death (Luke 22: 19; 1 Cor. 11: 24). However, since it is proper to think good thoughts and do good deeds on any day, it is surely not improper to remember our dear Redeemer’s birth at the December 25 season in a special way, providing it is done in the proper attitude of appreciation of the Heavenly Father and His only begotten Son.

Christmas Day a Joyful Occasion

We see nothing in the Scriptures that forbids making Christmas Day a joyful occasion. The exchange of little tokens of love in the family and among friends, and giving to the poor, in remembrance of our beloved Savior, God’s great gift of love to all mankind, is surely appropriate (John 3: 16; 2 Cor. 9: 15). Through Him all of God’s gifts are promised and will be bestowed (2 Cor. 1: 19, 20; Eph. 4: 8). Sadly, the Christmas season has become more and more abused by commercialization. Many have more or less taken Christ and His spirit of unselfish giving out of Christmas (meaning Christ’s

He who had been the mighty Logos, a spirit being, became a helpless little babe, a human being.

festival), and have made it a season of selfish gift-trading, worldly pleasure, and even drunkenness. Thus Christmas has to them lost more or less of its true significance. Also, many parents have, by wrong or lack of proper instruction, allowed Santa Claus to more or less take the place in their children's minds and hearts that should be occupied only by God and Christ (see *The Bible Standard* No. 297 — a copy free on request).

JESUS — YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

Q In Heb. 13: 8 we read: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Does this mean that Jesus Christ has been, is, and will eternally be exactly the same in every respect?

A Such an interpretation of this text is incorrect, for, though in many essential aspects there has been absolutely no change in Jesus, in other respects He has undergone certain definite changes.

After the prehuman Jesus was brought forth as "the beginning of the creation of God" (Rev. 3: 14), He, as the Word, or Logos, became God's Agent in creation (John 1: 3). This called for changes in His activities from time to time. For example, He had already been active in creating the heavens and various kinds of vegetation, lower animals, and so forth, on earth, when God said to Him, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." This implied a change of work on the part of the prehuman Jesus, and there were many other changes of work on His part before He became flesh.

The First Great Change

In due time, in harmony with God's Plan, the Logos willingly divested Himself of His prehuman honor and nature and became flesh. "He was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor"; He "took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men"; "He took not on him the nature of angels"; He "was made a little lower than the angels." "He also himself likewise took part of the same [flesh and

blood]" (John 1: 14; 2 Cor. 8: 9; Phil. 2: 7; Heb. 2: 9, 14, 16). These Scriptures show that Jesus experienced a great change of nature at the time He was made flesh. He who had been the mighty Logos, a spirit being, became a helpless little babe, a human being.

Other great changes came when He reached 30, the age of manhood under the Law Covenant. He then consecrated Himself to do the Father's will (Psa. 40: 8; Heb. 10: 7), even unto death, was baptized by John at Jordan, and was begotten of the holy spirit (Matt. 3: 13-17). He began His ministry, which was very different from His former vocation as a carpenter.

An Even Greater Change

An even greater change took place after His death, when He was born from the dead in the resurrection (Col. 1: 18; Rev. 1: 5). He was "put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit," "being made so much better than the angels"; "God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name" (1 Pet. 3: 18 — *American Revised Version*; Heb. 1: 4; Phil. 2: 9). He was changed from human to spirit nature, partaking of the Divine nature (John 5: 26; 2 Pet. 1: 4). When He appeared to His disciples after His resurrection it was evident that He was different. He appeared to them in a variety of different forms (Mark 16: 12) — a gardener, a traveler — they did not even recognize Him at first. Also, He appeared to Saul of Tarsus in His glorious spirit body.

How Jesus has not Changed

Since it is evident from the Scriptures that Jesus has experienced changes of nature, and as God's Agent has repeatedly changed from one kind of work to another, how are we to understand Heb. 13: 8?

We understand that it means that He is still the same person, the same great being, with the same identity, with His great love, deep sympathy, for His people — the changes of nature and work He has experienced have not altered Him in any manner or degree in these respects. During the "today," that is, the Gospel Age (Rom. 8: 36; 2 Cor. 6: 2; Heb. 3: 13, 15), He is the same in these respects as He was in His previous existence as the Logos during the "yesterday," that is, the Jewish Age, which is also called a day in the Scriptures (Isa. 65: 2; Rom. 10: 21), and He will continue to be the same in these respects "forever" — throughout future eternity.

* * *

Servants of God and Man

The twelfth in a series of articles on godly men and women from around the world, whose lives have shaped the cultures in which we live

ADONIRAM JUDSON

1788-1850

Missionary to Burma

Adoniram Judson was born in Massachusetts in 1788, the son of a Congregational minister. He became the first American Baptist missionary, his field of service being in Burma. In addition to his missionary work, he was a lexicographer and Bible translator.

Early Life

At age three young Judson was already reading. One of his favorite activities was to gather other children together and conduct a religious service, undoubtedly having the desire to follow his father's example. As he approached the teenage years his thirst for knowledge led him to seek out books that most adults refused to give him, thinking he was too young. His father, recognizing his ability, encouraged Judson's desire for knowledge and, perhaps due to a little fatherly pride, believed his son would be a great man.

At age 16 Judson entered Providence University (later Brown University). He was a dedicated student and upon graduation three years later received the highest honors in his class. The secular exposure of his college experience took its toll, however, for during those years he became an infidel.

Conversion

Shortly after college graduation, with a desire for adventure and an interest in traveling through several states, Judson departed on horseback. He joined a troupe of strolling players and for several weeks lived, as he later described it, a wild life.

Having parted with the troupe Judson went to a country inn for lodging. The innkeeper apologized that the only available room was next to a seriously ill young man who was probably dying. Proud that he was an atheist, Judson explained that he would take the room because he had no fear of death. But during the night Judson heard the groans of the dying man and could not sleep. He thought of going to speak to the man, but did not think there was anything he could say that would comfort him. He wondered if the man was a Christian or a Free Thinker like himself.



In the morning Judson learned that the man had died. What shock and dismay it was when he discovered that the young man was a close friend and classmate from college, in fact, the one who had led him into infidelity. For hours he pondered over the fate of his friend, realizing that if death ends all, his friend would be lost forever. He decided to go home immediately and asked his parents to help him establish a lasting faith, something they rejoiced in assisting him to do.

Shortly afterward Judson was admitted to Andover Seminary and in December of 1808 he dedicated himself to Christ. A few months later he became a member of the Third Congregational Church at Plymouth.

Entering the Missionary Field

Almost immediately Judson longed to become a missionary. He began meeting with friends who had the same desire and they would pray that the Lord would open up the door to fulfill their longing to serve

Him in that field. Judson faced much opposition from the start. One time he was offered a good position in Brown University and even though his mother was overjoyed, he was determined to become a foreign missionary, believing it to be the Lord's will for him.

When Judson and his friends expressed their desire to the teachers at the Seminary, the American Board of Foreign Missions was organized. Judson was sent to England to meet with the London Missionary Society in the hope that the two organizations could establish a joint missionary venture, something that failed to materialize. Upon returning, he received an appointment as a missionary to Asia.

Journey to Asia

In February of 1812 Judson married Ann Hasseltine, a fully consecrated woman of God, and the two began their long four-month journey by ship to India. On the trip they had plenty of time for Bible study and came to accept the Baptist teaching of adult water baptism. This proved to be a trial for Judson for it meant that he was cutting ties with the Board that had sent him. When news of his changed belief reached America, the Baptists were aroused to organize the American Baptist Missionary Union.

Picture: Courtesy of Special Collections/University Archives,
The Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library, Bucknell University

Many difficulties faced the Judsons upon their arrival in India. Wherever they attempted to settle down, the East India Company forced them to depart. They travelled throughout many different countries until they finally settled down in Rangoon, Burma. Burma would not have been their first choice, for at that time the country was under the cruel and despotic rule of the King of Burma, yet they trusted in the Lord's providential care and leading.

Work in Burma

The first challenge the Judsons faced was to learn the Burmese language, something that took many years to master — and it was done without the aid of a teacher or books! Eventually Judson wrote a grammar book of the Burmese language, followed by the translation of the book of Matthew into Burmese. He then wrote and distributed tracts explaining various Bible truths, and as a result of that work, the first serious student of the Bible in Burma expressed interest.

Judson began preaching the Word of God through conversation, followed by the presentation of more formal public discourses. Eventually the first Burmese convert was baptized, and in due time many more were won for the faith.

Fruitful Service Followed by Trials

As is often the case, service in the Gospel brings various trials. Judson faced persecution to the point where he considered relocating to some place where they would be under English rule, but the little church he had formed persuaded him to stay. The Judsons eventually moved to Ava where they were blessed again with numerous opportunities of service. When war broke out between Burma and India the Burmese government suspected the Judsons of being spies and Adoniram was sent to a prison for 21 months. The conditions in prison were horrible and he was forced to wear heavy fetters on his legs and ankles the entire time.

His courageous wife, Ann, went to the prison every day and brought food to the prisoners. She gave birth to a child and eventually brought it to see Adoniram. When the child became seriously ill she pleaded to have her husband released. He was finally released but in a few weeks was cast back into prison. Judson's beloved wife died a few months later and the following year his child died, leaving him without a family.

Though Judson's heart was broken, he resumed his missionary work zealously. He and many of his co-laborers

relocated to Maulmain and mission work continued to win over many converts to Christ. Additionally, he began translating the Old Testament. By this time Judson had been in the mission field for 18 years without a vacation, but despite the Mission Board urging him to take some time off, he refused on the ground that the work needed to go forward. Eventually a church in the jungle was formed and Judson began sending out native Christians two by two who would then report back to him several days later.

Another Companion Found

After eight years, Judson married Sarah Hall Boardman, the widow of a missionary associate. Sarah was a Bible translator, author, and hymnist, and before her first husband died, she had founded a school for girls among a mountain tribe in Tavoy. In 11 years of marriage Adoniram and Sarah had eight children, one of whom died in childbirth. Their nonstop labors caused their health to fail and while travelling back to America with three of their children, Sarah died.

Back in America Judson received a hero's welcome. Because his work had generated much interest he was in demand as a speaker, but he resisted the acclaim and his shyness made it uncomfortable for him to speak about himself and his work.

He commissioned Emily Chubuck, a professional writer known by the name "Fanny Forester" to write the biography of his second wife, Sarah. Working together, they fell in love and married. Emily travelled back to Burma with Judson where she finished the biography. They had two children.

Judson's health continued to decline despite his efforts to regain it by taking a restful voyage in the Indian Ocean. He died at sea, and they lowered his body into the water in respectful silence, but without a word of prayer.

Concluding Thoughts

Adoniram Judson's original goal was to build up a congregation of 100 converts, but at the time of his death over 7,000 Christians had been baptized and 63 congregations had been formed under the direction of 163 missionaries, native pastors, and assistants.

Judson's missionary work was directly responsible for the organization of two missionary organizations and indirectly influenced the establishment of many others. His life of missionary service and suffering for Christ's sake is edifying to all who are seeking to serve and suffer for their Savior.

* * *

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announcements

MEMORIAL DATE FOR 2005

Our Lord's Memorial is Tuesday, March 22, after 6:00 p.m.

BIBLE STANDARD CHANGE IN 2005

Over the past several months the LHMM headquarters staff, including the publication department, have experienced the loss of several members through death, retirement, and other reasons. This has necessitated the shifting of responsibilities and training of new personnel. For this reason, we have decided for the year 2005 to publish *The Bible Standard* magazine every other month, with the hope that we will be able to resume it as a monthly in 2006. We plan on keeping the current 16-page format and the subscription price will remain at \$12.00 for 12 issues and \$2.00 for a single issue. A \$12.00 subscription will provide six issues in 2005 and continue into 2006 to complete 12 issues.

GENERAL CONVENTIONS FOR 2005

At-a-glance

France: to be announced

Germany: to be announced

Nigeria: *Osusu Amukiri*, June 24-26; *Umunkiri*, September 25; *Aba, Abia State*, November 25-27

Poland: *Poznan*, April 30-May 2; *Bydgoszcz*, July 8-10; *Lodz*, July 11-13; *Krakow*, July 14-16; *Susiec*, July 14-16; *Wroclaw*, August 26-28

Ukraine: *Orlowka*, June 26-28; *Lwow*, August 19-21

United Kingdom: *Hyde*, August 5-7; *Sheffield*, October 29, 30

United States: *California*, March 11-13; *Massachusetts*, May 20-22; *Ohio*, July 22-24; *Illinois*, September 23-25.

Please note: All United States conventions will conclude by noon on the final day of the convention.

Details

United States

California, March 11-13 (Friday-Sunday)

Site: Country Side Suites, 204 N. Vineyard Ave., Ontario CA 91764; telephone (800) 248-4661 or (909) 937-9700; Sales Fax (909) 937-3414. *Rates and Reservations:* singles and doubles, \$75.00; all rooms plus 11.85% tax; check-in after 3 p.m.; check out noon. Any cancellations of guaranteed reservations must be done 24 hours prior to arrival. Free and frequent shuttle bus is available (only 5 minutes from airport to hotel). Please make room reservations through the Class

Secretary, Mrs. Mary Detzler, 6941 Abel Stearns Ave., Riverside CA 92509; telephone (909) 779-0331.

SERVICES BY VISITING MINISTERS

Richard Blaine

Waycross, Georgia, December 19

Robert Herzig

Springfield, Massachusetts, December 5; New Haven, Connecticut, January 16

Leon Snyder

January: Cincinnati, Ohio, 23; Iuka, Miss., 24; Boonville, Miss., 25; Keystone, Fla., 30; New Port Richie, Fla., 31;
February: Sebring, Fla., 4; Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 6; Waycross, Ga., 10; Marietta, Ga., 12-13; Wilmington, N.C., 15; Reidsville, N.C., 16; Roanoke, N.C., 17; Manteo, N.C., 18; Norfolk, Va., 19-20; Sand Ridge, W.V., 21; Canton, Ohio, 22; Muskegon, Mich., 27

Baron Duncan

Pittsfield, Massachusetts, December 12

Tom Cimbura

Broomfield, Colorado, January 16

Jack Zilch

Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 2

Robert Stenrod

Sand Ridge, West Virginia, December 11, 12; Cincinnati, Ohio, February 20

Evangelists' Services

Robert Branconnier, Fort Lauderdale, Florida,

December 12; New Haven, Connecticut, December 19; Pittsfield, Massachusetts, February 13

Jon Hanning, Louisville, Kentucky, January 22, 23; North Canton, Ohio, February 13

David Lounsbury, New York City, New York, December 19

Roger Mullen, Boston, Massachusetts, January 23

William Sturges, Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, December 4, 5; North Canton, Ohio, January 23

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