

ATHEISM AT WORK

Creation Defies and Denies Its Creator

NO SOONER had God displayed His matchless creative power in constructing the universe, and set the myriads of celestial bodies in their spheres and sent them swinging through the realms of space, each in its never-varying splendor and regularity, than we find God's sovereign Word confronted with opposition. God had scarcely crowned His creation with His masterpiece, man, made in His own image, when the satanic being in the form of a serpent reared its head in the face of this last creation, and questioned the authority of the divine Word of God.

Satan's "Hath God said?" and "Ye shall not surely die," in open question and contradiction of the express statement and command of God, found a listening ear. Doubt and disobedience took root in these two human hearts. The seed of unbelief found entrance into the soul of man, and has grown, until after almost 6000 years we find the combination of unbelief and rebellion against God drawn up in formidable battle line. Today we are approaching the most dramatic spiritual conflict of all ages —the world's greatest encounter — wrong arrayed openly against unconquerable right. Atheism, which is unbelief in God and denial of God as a supreme, intelligent Being, has now taken on a more widespread defiance, and is marshalling forces for its last titanic struggle against faith, hope, and truth.

Reverting to Paganism

We might ask the question, "What price Atheism?" as we see individuals and nations reverting to a condition more revolting than the heathen paganism of medieval days, losing every vestige of principle and honor, to say nothing of losing the priceless treasures of faith and love of God. Atheists and materialistic evolutionists are endeavoring to cause men to sink to the level of the beast.

One need not be a psychiatrist or a student of human nature to be able to discern the spiritual condition of those who are in the foreground as leaders of atheistic movements. The director-general of the United States Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, an organization authorized by our Government for the purpose of giving the whole world the benefit of our educational, scientific, and cultural progress, has for at least thirty years been an outstanding enemy of the Christian faith. He openly declared: "It is impossible for me, and those who think like me, to believe in God as a person, a ruler." He further suggests that it might be well for us to go back to the paganism of the Greeks. What irreparable harm such false and blasphemous teaching will do to those who are looking to our so-called Christian nation for moral and spiritual guidance! Our Government will truly be a spiritually blind leader of the spiritually blind.

God Has a True Witness

In all the centuries of time God has never left Himself without a true witness. In spite of the gross darkness that threatens to cover the earth, we have the Word of God before us and also the record of the lives of godly men and women who have stood true to God and to the principles of right in the face of every opposition that could be conspired by Satan.

And above all, two thousand years ago we had the physical visitation to this world of the Son of God of whom the sacred writer John declares: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Jesus Christ openly met the archenemy of the souls of men and conquered him in every encounter. After overcoming Satan, the Son of God tasted death for every man, thereby overcoming the last enemy of man. In writing

of the earthly life of Jesus, Saint John says, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

That sublime life of Jesus — how it stands out in this world today! His life has never been equalled by anyone who ever trod this earth. How potent his words! At one time when officers were sent to arrest Him, they returned saying, "Never man spake like this man."

The Irrefutable Word of God

"Truth speaks for itself" nowhere more forcefully than when it vindicates the truth of every statement uttered and recorded in the Word of God. Whether it be prophetic, historic, or didactic, God's truth verifies itself, and needs not the affirmation of man to make it true. But man stands very much in need of that which faith in God brings into the human heart. An incident which is significant and to the point and which could be duplicated in application in every home where the Bible is read and honored, is told concerning two travelers who in the early days of this country found it necessary to ask for shelter for the night at a lonely house. Fearful for their possessions and their lives, they agreed for one to watch while the other slept. In a short while one man called to the other and said, "We can both go to bed and sleep; we have nothing to fear; those people are out there reading the Bible." Violence and bloodshed are certainly not the outgrowth of "reading the Bible"; but they are the outcome of atheism and a lost faith.

The Bulwark of a Nation

This wonderful nation was given birth that the persecuted of other nations might have "freedom to worship God." We read that in the early days, "the sounding aisles of the dim woods rang with the anthems of the free." We believe the spiritual privileges of our nation are a sacred birthright which we should hold as a sacred trust.

When delegates from the thirteen colonies met in Philadelphia in 1787 for the purpose of framing a constitution for the United Colonies they realized it was a great undertaking. Benjamin Franklin, addressing the convention, said, "The longer I live the more satisfied I am that there is a God who governs the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, certainly an empire cannot rise without His help. I therefore beg leave to move that hereafter prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberations be held in the assembly every morning before proceeding to business." It was unanimously carried, and the result was that out of that convention came a constitution which has guarded and guided the liberties of this nation for more than 150 years. "In God We Trust" indicates the source of the strength and stability of our country. It is our bulwark.

Socialism

Atheism is closely connected with Socialism. A writer who has seen Socialism in action declares that "it is imprisonment all-inclusive." "There is no property not subject to capture, no endowment that may not be seized, no contract that may not be overridden, and no governmental obligation that may not be indefinitely postponed. . . . It takes the heart out of young men, and out of every woman who runs a home and not an office. It is not only politically false but morally destructive." It has been well said that "Communists are Socialists who take Socialism seriously."

We know that what has taken place in other countries can happen in America if God is forgotten and the Word of God is forsaken. Atheism, immorality, crime, and depression go hand in hand. The results of atheistic teaching are Communism and its kindred forms of government. And it also accounts for crime and depression. We believe the strength of any person or people depends upon their adherence to the immutable, irrefutable Word of God. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Here is something more dependable and lasting than even the most dependable of men's creation in any form. Here is something that cannot be repealed by any power or powers of man or men. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14: 34).

The Lamp of Faith

Faith in God is essential to human happiness and human progress whether it be in an individual or a country. Take faith from the heart of a nation and its life takes on suspicion, fear, cruelty, despotism, violence, bloodshed, anarchy, and chaos. The individual assumes the same qualities, for with absence of faith there is no fear of God; and then comes disregard for human life or the rights of others.

What the natural light is to the world, faith is to humanity. Darkness has been called "absence of light." Light is necessary for the physical life of this world. Obliterate the sun's

rays and life would soon become extinct upon the earth. Remove faith from the human heart and eventually all is night — black — terribly black; nothing remains but despair. The lamp of faith is a priceless treasure; and happy is that man who has it burning in his heart.

Spread of Atheism

Since the introduction of the question, "Hath God said?" satanic agencies have multiplied down through the centuries. And today we see the hydra-headed monster of atheism lifting its vicious heads and sending its deadly virus into human hearts. The blood-red cancerous roots of Communism ramify through the governments. Some nations are completely under its sway. And what is even more subtle, starting with seemingly innocent modernistic teaching, the fundamental truths of the Word have been set aside and unbelief is eating its way into the very vitals of the churches. Scoffers, materialistic evolutionists, and unsaved men in the pulpits who are boring from within, deny the reality of a sovereign and omnipotent Creator, deny the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, deny the atoning and cleansing power of the Blood of Christ shed on Calvary, deny His resurrection from the dead, deny the verbal inspiration of the Bible, deny the Lord's coming again, deny the necessity of the new birth, and deny that Christianity is a life. Communism, which is absolute defiance of God and the Bible, is not only countenanced but is recommended by those who are called "Christian." How depraved is the heart of man that it becomes such fertile soil for the propagation of the plans and purposes of those who deny or defy the Creator of Heaven and earth!

Keeping One's Faith

We know that the omnipotent God is viewing from the battlements of Heaven this mighty conflict of the forces of atheism against His people. We also know that atheism, with all its "mighty" leaders, will come to a final defeat. God's Word has decreed it. The very Word of God which they hate will issue forth like a flame of fire and bring them and their rebellion to an end when a defiant and unbelieving creation meets its Creator face to face.

"Fierce and long the battle rages, But our help is near; Onward comes our great Commander, Cheer, my comrades, cheer!" wrote the inspired song writer. Great indeed will be the reward of those who have stood true to God down through the centuries and held their faith in God inviolate, when the "Great Commander" comes. But the greatest reward of the Christian will be the approval of God and the fellowship of Christ and the angels of Heaven throughout an endless eternity. Therefore, we conclude with the words of Paul: "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:3, 4).