

# The Great Controversy — Study Guide

(Formally published as Thought Questions and Notes on GREAT CONTROVERSY  
BY D. E. Robinson)

## References

References at the end of questions refer to page and paragraph in “Great Controversy.” Thus “19:2” gives reference to paragraph 2 on page 19. Each paragraph is considered a unit and is assigned to the page on which it begins, though it may run over to the following page. Because of a difference in the paging of two current editions—due to the larger number of illustrations in one edition — two sets of references are given. The second reference, in brackets, is to the 1926 and 1927 special and subscription editions. The reader may identify the edition he is using by noting the date of the last copyright registration, which is found on the back of the title page.

## Chapter 31 — Agency of Evil Spirits

1. What is the evidence for the existence of angels before the creation of man? What is said of their number? What instances are recorded of their power? 511:1-3 [581:1-582:1]
2. To whom were they sent on messages of mercy? 512:1 [582:2]
3. What do we know regarding the ministry of the guardian angels? 512:2 [583:1]
4. Why is such grace and protection needed by the children of God? 513:1 [583:2]
5. What is the origin of the evil spirits, or angels? At what period were they especially active, and why? 513:2,3 [583:3-584:1]
6. Describe the encounter of Christ with a “legion” of these evil spirits. What benefits resulted from this conflict? 514:1-515:1 [584:2-585:2]
7. On what other occasions did Christ bring deliverance to those under the power of unclean spirits? 515:2 [585:3]
8. What instances show that the victims of demon possession were not always great sufferers? 516:1 [586:1]
9. What class of people are in the greatest danger from the agency of evil spirits? 516:2-517:1 [586:2-587:1]
10. What precious promises are given for the assurance of Christ’s followers? 517:2 [587:2]

## Chapter 32 — Snares of Satan

1. What is Satan's great objective as the conflict nears its close? Over whom is he most concerned? 518:1,2 [589:1,2]
2. What plans does he lay to nullify the efforts of God's ministers? 518:3-519:1 [590:1,2;]
3. How do fault-finders serve his purpose? When are they especially diligent? 519:2, 3 [590:3-591:1]
4. How does Satan plan to introduce heresies among church members from within? In what popular liberal teaching is there grave danger? Why? 520:1, 2 [591:2, 3]
5. What wrong motive in the study of Scripture has led to discord and confusion? How are Bible passages often misinterpreted? 520:3-521:1 [591:4-592:1]
6. Under what conditions is Bible study positively dangerous? What is the result of withholding or not studying certain portions of the Scriptures? 521:2 [592:2]
7. What portions of the Bible are so clear that they may be understood by all? What hope is held out for every honest soul? 521:3; 526:2; 528:2 [592:3; 598:1; 599:5]
8. How does "Liberalism" contribute to lawlessness? How has scientific research led to skepticism? Is there real contradiction between science and the Bible? 522:1-4 [593:1-4]
9. What should be our attitude toward unrevealed mysteries, beyond finite comprehension? 523:1; 527:1,2 [594:1; 598:2-599:1]
10. What class of Bible readers have "no shield from delusion"? 523:2 [595-1]
11. List five common errors, with reasons why they are dangerous. 524:1-525:2 [595:2-596:4]
12. What is the usual course of those who wilfully reject one principle of truth? What plausible reason have many infidels for their unbelief? 525:3,4 [597:1,2]
13. How are others by their own attitude led to infidelity? (Four classes) 526:1 [597:3]
14. What is the real cause for distrusting God? What is necessary for the maintenance of saving faith? 527:3-528:1 [599:2-4]
15. Why does God not shield His people from Satan's temptations? How may temptation be successfully overcome? When was Israel safe from Balaam's attempt to curse them, and what wrought their downfall? 528:3-530:2 [600:1-601:3]

## **Chapter 33 — The First Great Deception**

1. What motives led Satan to tempt our first parents? How might Eve have been saved from his wiles? What false hope was held out to her that led her to yield? 531:1-532:1 [603:1-604:2]
2. How did the results of disobedience to God prove Satan's assurance to be false? 532:2,3 [604:2-605:1]
3. What was forfeited by transgression, and how may it be received? 533:1 [605:1]
4. How does popular theology echo the words of the tempter in Eden? How has Satan thus led to the maligning of God's character? 533:2-536:3 [605:3-608:3]
5. To what opposite extreme are some driven by the revolting doctrine of eternal torment? What illustration is given of the perversion of one text to teach this error? 537:1-539:1 [609:1-611:1]
6. What erroneous teaching has been responsible for many suicides? What scriptures clearly teach that unrepentant sinners will not inherit the kingdom of God? 539:2-541:2 [611:2-613:1]
7. Why cannot a service prompted by fear of God's vengeance be acceptable to Him? 541:3,4 [613:2,3]
8. How can it be shown that it is just and merciful for God to exclude impenitent sinners from heaven? 542:1-543:3 [614:1-615:3]
9. How is the second death distinguished from the first (1) in point of time, (2) in its duration? 544:1-545:1 [615:4-616:1]
10. How may the theory of consciousness in death be shown to be revolting in its implications both as to the righteous and to the unrighteous? What is the testimony of Scripture? 545:2-546:3 [616:2-618:2]
11. What observations regarding popular belief about man's condition in death were made by Tyndale and Dr. Adam Clark? How is the doctrine of the resurrection nullified? 547:1-3 [618:3-619:1]
12. To what time do the Scriptures point for the entrance of the righteous into the happiness of heaven? What must precede the bestowal of rewards or punishments? 548:1-549:1 [619:2-620:2]
13. How did the doctrine of natural immortality find its way into the Christian church? What was Luther's teaching regarding the question? 549:2 [620:3]
14. How are the death and the resurrection of the righteous related? Could God's plan for them be bettered? 449:1 [621:1]

## Chapter 34 — Spiritualism

1. What is the basic principle of Spiritualism, or Spiritism? It is the logical conclusion of what false premise? 551:1,2 [623:1,2]
2. What physical manifestations seem to give support to the claims of Spiritism? When these are accepted so what they seem to be what fatal deceptions follow? 552:1,2 [624:1,2]
3. Houdini claimed that he could by sleight-of-hand, duplicate any spiritistic phenomena, and believed them all fraudulent. Sir Oliver Lodge maintained that he had unmistakably communicated with his deceased son. Where does the truth lie, according to Scripture, and known facts? 553:1,2 [625:1,2]
4. What pleasing appeal is made to the cultured and refined, relating to their future progress? How is this supposed progress shown to be downward rather than upward? 553:3-555:2 [627:1-628:2]
5. What teachings through the “spirits” are pleasing to the self-indulgent and the sensual? 555:3 [628:3]
6. What plain Bible statements would, if believed, be a safeguard against the deceptions of Spiritism? What evidence do we have that the practises of Spiritualism are not new but ancient? 556:1,2 [629:1,2]
7. What teachings that have come through the “spirits” undermine the basic principles of the plan of salvation? 556:3-557:2 [629:3-630:2]
8. In what modern guise is Spiritism even more dangerous than formerly? 558:1 [631:1]
9. What are the dangers of investigating the claims of this deceptive movement? How will the true Christian meet them? 558:2-559:2 [632:1-633:1]
10. What strong tests of our faith in God’s word may perhaps come to us individually as we enter more fully into “the hour of temptation”? What help would be sent, if necessary, for our protection? 560:1,2 [633:2,3]
11. What is the explanation of the anger of the nations and universal preparation for war? How many will finally be found in the ranks of Spiritism? 561:1-562:2 [634:2-635:1]