

The "Bridie Murphy" mystery, generated by a Pueblo, Colorado, housewife who, under hypnotism, imagined she was an Irish miss of the last century is still in the air. But now that the first furor has died down (instigated, we suspect to promote the book), and a more sober view has been taken of the incident, the picture is changing.

Time magazine reported this week that a Denver Post reporter who went to Ireland to investigate the story and try to find records of "Bridie Murphy" or some of the people she mentioned, had found little evidence to support the story. He has found that some of the Irish words of "Bridie" were mispronounced and that some American slang terms crept into "Bridie's" talk. Also, some of the objects she mentioned could not possibly have been in Ireland at the time she was supposed to have lived.

We suspect, as do others, that "Bridie" was simply speaking out of vague memories of things she had heard from her Irish relatives.

Brother Sheets proceeds to show the folly of the theory of reincarnation.—Editor.

REINCARNATION OF RESURRECTION

By Harry Sheets

THE theory of reincarnation is as old, practically, as the rebellion against God. It came to us through questionable sources and today forms the basis of much of pagan religions. A return to the simple truth of the Bible would enable us to see through such a thing and realize its utter impossibility. This whole delusion started in the Garden of Eden when the woman decided to believe the serpent instead of God.

God had told the first pair that they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He warned them against eating of this tree. He said, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17). The serpent raised a doubt in the mind of Eve by saying, "Ye shall not surely die." Eve believed the serpent rather than God. Belief in this falsehood brought death to the people of the world. Death has been a constant companion ever since that fateful day.

We would think that mankind would so understand the trouble and danger that comes from belief in such a teaching that they would avoid it with all diligence. But such is not the case! More people believe the serpent today than believe God, and this has resulted in many false teachings. Among these false teachings is the now current belief that a person can be reincarnated after a lapse of many years.

God said that sin would bring death. Paul wrote to the Romans: "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). The Old and the New Testaments tell the same story. The question is not whether sin results in death, but what is death? What is the condition of man in death? The Bible is the only reliable source of information on this subject.

God gave us a definition of death when He spoke to Hezekiah. Isaiah 38:1 reads: "In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live." "Thou shalt die and not live" tells the whole story. Death is the very opposite of life. Death is the cessation of all life and of all life processes.

Solomon, who possessed unusual wisdom and knowledge, given to him by God as a special blessing, left us this information concerning people who have died. "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing" (Eccl. 9:5). In the very next verse, Solomon added, "Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; *neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.*" From this verse we learn that when death takes us under its cold, icy grasp we are incapable of loving, or hating, or envying, for those things have perished. Furthermore, we cannot participate in anything that transpires after we are dead. This would rule out the possibility of reincarnation. An Irish girl who lived some hundred years ago, cannot possibly have anything to do in this earth again before the time of the resurrection.

Solomon summed up life by saying, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Eccl. 9:10). It is evident that no one, when once dead, can do anything about the future. He cannot come back to dwell in another person. He cannot do anything to atone for past sins. Death is not another opportunity to start life over again in an attempt to accomplish things in which we failed while living. Most of us could use such an opportunity, it is true, but none has been offered to us.

Isaiah said: "They that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth" (Isa. 38:18). That "pit" has reference to the grave is evident from the first portion of the verse. It reads: "The grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee." This last thought harmonizes with the words of David in Psalm 6:5, "In death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" Death brings an end to our efforts for salvation and leaves us only resurrection as an opportunity for future life.

The Bible conditions all hope of future life upon resurrection and not upon reincarnation. Notice the reasoning of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:13, 17, 18. "If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen ... If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." Resurrection, not death, holds the key to the future.

Not even the most powerful king or dictator who ever lived, or ever will live, can do us any good after he is dead. This is ably pointed out in Psalm 146:3, 4. "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."

If we would accept God's Word that sin brings death and that death brings an end to life, we would not be deceived into believing the current articles about reincarnation. Neither would we contribute to a spiritualist medium to recall some loved one from the dead to converse with us.

When we believe that the serpent told the truth when he said: "You will not surely die," we throw ourselves open to much deception. It is common belief that people do not really die. If we were to take the serpent's lie and change the word "surely" to the word "really" we would have the modern version. That is the only difference between the original and the modern version. God pronounced death upon those who believed the

original falsehood. Do you suppose He is any more pleased with us when we believe the modern version of the serpent's lie?

People are determined to believe that there is a portion of man that survives death. That God's Word is to the contrary means nothing to them. For this reason it is easy to deceive people. Paul has left this witness about the last days: "The coming of the lawless



one by the activity of satan will be with all power and with pretended signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are to perish, because they refused to love the truth and be saved. Therefore God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false, so that all may be condemned, who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thess. 2:9-12, R.S.V.). You will notice that those who are deceived are those who refuse to believe the truth. God helps them to be further deceived because they are marked for death. They have willfully believed the falsehood of the serpent and so are condemned. The serpent's lie brought death to Adam and

Eve and it could bring death to us.

This reincarnation idea that is causing such a stir at the present time is based upon falsehood. All it can possibly do is further delude people and lead them further from the truth. We would not be deceived if we could accept the fact that there is no conscious part of man that survives death.

Theology tells us that man has an immortal soul, but the Bible no place confirms such a thought. In fact, the Psalmist states that "none can keep alive his own soul" (Psalm 22:29). Ezekiel stated that "the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4, 20). Jesus warned that we are to "fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28). If the soul were immortal, the words just quoted would be untrue.

We are told to "seek for glory and honour and immortality" (Rom. 2:7). Paul would not have requested us to seek for immortality if we possessed it in any form. Immortality is to be received at the coming of Jesus. When immortality is received there will be no more death. (See 1 Cor. 15:51-55.) If we will remember that man must die and stop living until the resurrection day, we will not be deceived by these things that are being taught today. We may not be able to explain these strong delusions that will come through the deception of Satan, but at least we will not be deceived.