

## Micro Chip and Mocking Bird

Peculiar Brother Bird #5

In the foothills of the Blue Ridge  
Our peculiar Brother Bird  
Met his match on being thorough  
In a young computer nerd,

Who was quite a whipper-snapper  
Just as smart as, well, a whip,  
And his name was Chip McMaster  
But his friends all called him *Chip*.

*Micro Chip* as some had dubbed him,  
Big of brain, but small of size -  
He could e-mail, surf, and download  
Without o-pen-ing his eyes.

Was a high-tech, hard-drive whiz kid  
And so clever, yes he was-  
That he built his own Computer  
That he named the Wiz of Oz.

Didn't have to go to college,  
For the college came to *him*,  
To upgrade their old computers  
And to train and tutor *them*.

Farren Brimstone was quite certain  
Micro Chip and Wiz of Oz  
Would enchant the local young folks  
And convince their Ma's and Pa's.

And so Dr. Brimstone hired 'im  
To bring falsehood to an end,  
And design a fail-safe program  
Endless torment to defend.

And so Chip took up the challenge,  
With his genius juices stirred,  
And created all new software  
That he called the *Mocking Bird*.

With his quick-draw browser finger  
On his high-speed DSL,  
He downloaded tons of info  
Off the web concerning hell.

Ev'ry council and confession,  
Quenchless fire and deathless worms,  
Etymologies of key words,  
And a glossary of terms.

And inserted works related,  
Dante, Milton, and their lore,  
Bavink, Munsey, Pink and Spurgeon,  
Walvoord, Bartlett, and much more.

Peterson and Harry Buis,  
Edwards, Gerstner, G.T. Shedd,  
John R. Rice and J.N. Humphrey,  
Both the living and the dead.

Put in per-ti-nent ideas,  
Greek and Hebrew language rules;  
Vines & Wuest & Strong's Concordance,  
And more cool and brainy tools.

Poems and tracts and polls and surveys,  
Art and myth and movie clips,  
Documents and songs and clichés,  
Cartoons, jokes, and comic strips.

Chronologic'lly he built-in  
Ev'ry creed of Christian truth,  
And a detailed sermon index  
Analyzing all the proof.

Alphabetic'lly he listed  
Ev'ry worthwhile art-i-cle,  
And more relevant quotations  
'Til it was completely full.

Then he organized it neatly,  
Each and ev'ry font and file,  
In a handy-dandy format  
And a user-friendly style.

And he tied it all together  
With internal master links,  
And examined it intently  
Just to work out any kinks.

Then there came the time to test it,  
Check its ease of function, too;  
Ask it any kind of question -  
See what *Mocking Bird* could do.

Micro Chip and Farren Brimstone  
Fed it info from the cults,  
And the Doctor was delighted  
With the pow-er-ful results.

And invited Benton Cherry,  
Willie Waver, Ernest Ladd,  
Sister Smoke and Okie Dokie  
To come see just what they had.

So they quizzed it and they queried,  
And they zipped from link to link,  
And it was so interactive  
That they couldn't help but think.

Benton Cherry was elated  
With this high-tech priest of proof,  
And was sure that what it stated  
Was the everlasting truth.

Okie Dokie thought it nifty -  
A Berean treasure chest! -  
And was sure it would be useful  
In a Bible study quest.

Sister Smoke was soon enamored  
With the throng of able minds,  
And rethought the subject matter  
Down more systematic lines.

Willie Waver loved the graphics,  
And the clever pop-ups, too,  
And was certain that it maybe  
Absolutely might be true.

Ernest Ladd was duly cautious,  
And though bias made him doubt,  
He was willing to continue  
Searching all the data out.

*Mocking Bird* was quite impressive  
With its output and its speed,  
And its answers were persuasive,  
As most everyone agreed.

And of any other effort  
It was certainly the best,  
And was ready for the challenge  
Of its full and final test.

And so Dr. Brimstone scheduled  
A debate with Brother Bird,  
But of Micro Chip's creation  
He had told him not a word.

Handbills posted through the foothills  
Advertised the coming duel,  
And invited all the Blue Ridge  
To the Element'ry School.

And anticipation swelled up  
Like a bullfrog 'bout to bust,  
'Til the dirt lot by the old gym  
Was just one big cloud of dust.

And the crowd filled up the bleachers  
As the doctor took the stage,  
And our brother sat behind him,  
Like a bird inside a cage.

While the doctor gave his "Welcome,"  
And his "Introduct'ry Word,"  
Micro Chip snuck in the back way  
With the cryptic *Mocking Bird*.

And he stayed behind the curtain,  
Out of everybody's sight,  
And installed a power-booster,  
And was raring for the fight.

Larry Barry, Big B Baptist,  
Had agreed to act as though  
He was their side's chosen spokesman,  
And was really "in the know."

And the Doctor orchestrated  
Ev'ry detail from the start  
As the MC-Moderator  
To co-or-dinate each part.

And he had a sand-filled timer  
And he'd turn it upside-down,  
And when all the grains had emptied  
He would start another round.

Micro Chip would slip the answers  
To the waiting Larry B,  
Who would read them off so smoothly  
Like a great authority.

And the *Mocking Bird* was brilliant,  
Reeling off the facts so fast,  
And providing quick quotations  
From the heroes of the past.

*Everlasting* was the key word  
Larry Barry harped upon,  
*Everlasting* and *eternal*,  
And *forever*, on and on.

"And the creeds and great confessions  
Larry said, "Do all confirm  
That the soul is as immortal  
As the never-dying worm.

"And the story of the Rich man  
And of Lazarus, as well,  
Clearly speak of endless torment  
In an everlasting hell.

"If the *life* is 'everlasting'  
Then the *punishment* is too,  
For the same word modifies it,  
And thus proves it to be true.

"So the torment's *everlasting* -  
*Without end* without a doubt -  
*Everlasting* as *forever*  
Isn't hard to figure out!

"And the torment is 'forever' -  
'Day and night,' to say the least -  
Of the Devil (that is, Satan),  
The false prophet and the beast.

"And just *where* does all this take place?  
Well... *where is it?* I inquire -  
It's the *same* place where the lost go -  
In that dreadful 'lake of fire.'

"And the smoke ascends *forever*  
From the torment mentioned in  
Revelation, chapter fourteen,  
Where it's obvious again.

"And the fire is everlasting -  
*Everlasting fire* its name -  
And *unquenchable, eternal*,  
Say identically the same.

"And as Gerstner oft has stated,  
Sins against the Infinite,  
Or an infinite transgressing,  
Demands endless punishment.

"And philosophy and reason,  
And just jurisprudence side  
With the Biblical expressions  
Of a wrath that will abide.

"So the torment's *everlasting* -  
*Without end* without a doubt -  
*Everlasting* as *forever*  
Isn't hard to figure out!"

In the foothills of the Blue Ridge  
With the help of *Mocking Bird*,  
A whole gym of all the hill folk,  
Were impressed with what they heard.

"I agree," our Brother answered,  
That the PUNISHMENT, indeed,  
Is *eternal, everlasting* -  
That's exactly what I read.

"*Everlasting* modifies *it*,  
But the point I hope you get -  
Is just what is *it* describing;  
Of just what is meant by *it*.

"*It's* the *noun* that we're debating,  
Not the *adjective*, you see,  
*It's* a *noun*, and not a *verb*, Sir  
Upon which we disagree.

"*It* is punish-*ment* eternal,  
Not eternal punish-*ing* -  
*It's* *destruction* everlasting,  
*Not* an endless suffering.

"*It* is final, full *consumption*;  
*It* is called the 'second *death*,'  
*It* is what is meant by *perish*;  
*It* is what the Scriptures saith.

"We agree on *everlasting*,  
But an everlasting *what*?  
Is the punishment *destruction*,  
Is *it* that, or is *it* not?"

"You assume that *it* is torment -  
But you should not so assume,  
For the Scriptures say DESTRUCTION  
Is the sinner's final doom.

"For a similar expressing  
You may readily consult,  
How 'redemption' is 'eternal,'  
Not the *process*, but *result*.

"For Christ 'once for all' obtained it  
ONCE for all, and in the past,  
And that *it* is past-tense purchased,  
Yet that *it* will ever last!

"Thessalonians confirms it,  
Just the way it's worded there -  
'*Punished with*, yes, EVERLASTING...'-  
But now notice this with care:

"*Everlasting* modifies it-  
Punished with *what* punishment?-  
Yes, *destruction* everlasting;  
Thus DESTRUCTION is the *it*!

"And it's not the word 'destroying,'  
For it's 'punished,' as in past;  
The *destruction* thus resulting  
Is the *it* that e'er will last!

“And the fire is everlasting -  
Yes, the *fire*, without a doubt -  
But the *chaff* is said to burn up  
In the fire that won't burn out.

“Yes, God's fire is everlasting,  
And it shouldn't be thought odd  
That the fire of God's *eternal*,  
For it is the fire of *God!*”

“It does not need to be started -  
And you couldn't if it would -  
But it falls already blazing,  
Without earthly fuel or wood,

“And God's fire is called *eternal*,  
Not the cities which it burned,  
As in Sodom and Gomorrah,  
For to ASHES they were turned.

“It's the *fire* that's everlasting,  
Not the *stubble* or the *chaff* -  
It's the *fire* that is eternal,  
Not the objects in its path.”

Then a flustered Farren Brimstone  
Was a little more than gruff,  
When the sand-filled timer emptied,  
And the Doctor growled, “Enough!”

And while Brother Bird was talking  
Micro Chip was on the sly  
Tweaking *Mocking Bird* to come back  
With a dynamite reply.

And ol' Larry was imposing  
As he read the slipped-in notes,  
And he sounded real convincing  
In repeating others' quotes.

But he got a mite-bit haughty  
And a little debonair,  
When he gestured with such gusto,  
That he tumbled in his chair.

And he landed on the curtain,  
And the curtain slightly stirred,  
And revealed the monkey-business  
In the sight of Brother Bird.

But the monkeys were uncertain  
If the bird had seen or not,  
So they awkwardly proceeded  
With their sneaky little plot.

And they focused on the wording  
Of the legendary creeds  
As the fruit of Bible doctrine  
And the root of noble deeds.

“These were hammered by the faithful,”  
Larry Barry said with pride,  
“On the anvil of conviction  
Of the martyrs who have died.

“Godly pastors; gifted teachers;  
Theologians of renown -  
Have the truth of endless torment  
To their children handed down.

“Are we smarter than our fathers,  
The reformers, wise and good?  
Do we know more than our elders?  
Do we really think we could?”

And then Brother Bird retorted,  
“These dear 'fathers' weren't the norm,  
For they challenged creeds in their day,  
And were agents of reform.

“Would they say that they had figured  
Ev'ry single doctrine out -  
When with teachings of their own time  
They had entertained some doubt?”

“And we're not in full agreement  
With their words upon our shelves,  
and these 'fathers,' bless their memory,  
Disagreed among themselves!”

Then it heated up intensely,  
Back and forth and toe to toe,  
And the Birdies and the monkeys  
Really put on quite a show!

Larry: “It's no PUNISHMENT to *perish*-  
That's just what the sinners want!”  
Bird: “Ask the inmates out on death row  
And they'll tell you that they don't!”

Larry: “But a final, swift destruction  
Cannot be the word's intent.”  
Bird: “The *destruction* of Gomorrah  
Scriptures calls a *punishment!*”

Larry: “But *annihilation* isn't  
Anything of which to fear!”  
Bird: “If we thought a bomb were present,  
We'd be getting' outta here!”

Larry: “Will our children follow Jesus  
If Hell's torments have an end?”  
Bird: “Do you think they're truly Christians  
If they wouldn't then, my friend?”

Larry: “*From the presence* means *away* from-  
It's *away*- so face the facts!  
Bird: “*From the presence* means *He's present*-  
In the context and in Acts!” (3:19)

Larry: “But the WORM - it *never dieth* -  
Not a worm down in a hole!”  
Bird: “It is *carcasses* the worms eat -  
And the worm is not the soul!” (Is. 66:24)

Larry: “What of *weeping* and of *wailing*?  
And it says, '*where* there shall be' -  
Bird: “It says '*there shall be,*' my brother,  
And yet not eternally!”

Larry: “*Pain* is what the fire pictures -  
*Pain* is what the flames will bring.”  
Bird: “But the objects in the picture  
Illustrate a different thing!”

Larry: “In the book of Revelation  
It is *un-mis-tak-a-ble!*”  
Bird: “It's the last and not the first book,  
And most *al-le-gor-i-cal!*”

Micro Chip was working gamely  
Just to keep up with the flow,  
But at times he needed Larry  
Just to go a little slow.

Then our brother had an idea,  
Since computers cannot lie,  
He would ask of certain details  
That it wouldn't dare deny.

“It's repeated by so many  
That our Lord said more of hell  
Than he ever did of heaven -  
Is it true, or can you tell?”

Micro Chip zoomed through the program  
And slipped Larry this on cue:  
“Forty-seven different writers  
All confirm that it is true.”

But then Brother Bird responded,  
“I'm not asking the amount  
Of the parrots who have said it -  
But a real objective count

“And with judgment as their message,  
And repentance as their goal,  
Did the prophets ever speak of  
Endless torment of the soul?”

“And with Paul and the apostles  
When they preached the gospel plain,  
Did they mention hell or torments,  
Or a place of endless pain?”

“In John's gospel is there any  
Word of endless hell to fear?  
It's the one book in our Bibles  
There to make the good news clear.”

And the prophets and apostles  
Do...not warn...of endless hell,  
And then Paul...and in John's gospel  
There's...no word...of it, as well.”

“And pray tell me,” begged our brother,  
“And please open up my eyes  
If the unbelieving sinner  
Ever really truly DIES?”

And then Micro Chip was stymied  
By the contradict'ry words  
From the hundreds of quotations  
In the files of *Mocking Bird*.

For McCheyne (yes, Robert Murray),  
Said, “Eternal hell's the death  
That the sinners are to die, and  
Yet they *never die*,” he saith.

And the words of Jeremy Taylor:  
“They shall burn eternally”-  
But now listen to his statement:  
“*Without dying*,” so saith he.

“You will *live*,” yes, “*live forever*,  
But just *where*?” asks Ricky Jones;  
John L. Barry is just as certain  
That “in Hell men will *live on!*”

William Dowell said “souls and bodies...  
Souls and bodies that CANNOT...  
*Cannot perish*, but will suffer...  
Suffer in a hell so hot.”

“For the wicked *live forever*,”  
One J. Angus is so sure,  
And “*alive* all o'er” quotes Wesley,  
And feel pain “at ev'ry pore.”

Micro Chip then saw the wording  
Of the Scriptures disagreed  
With these LIFE and DEATH descriptions  
In the sermons and the creeds.

And our brother sensed the tension  
When he dealt the fatal blow:  
“I have only one more question-  
Just one more before we go.”

“If God says, 'The wicked *perish*:  
Then I say they surely do,  
And He means it as He's meant it  
As He's used it through and through!”

“And I've emphasized the *perish*:  
For it's PERISH I have read!  
And I've said it is just simply  
What the Bible clearly said.

“Can you give me one example  
Of a use of *perish* when  
Scripture means it as a process  
That will never have an end?”

Then he took the sand-filled timer  
And he turned it upside-down,  
And he said, “Let's all be patient  
Until one such use is found.”

And the seconds trudged to minutes,  
And the minutes slowly passed,  
As the grains of sand fell downward  
From the first until the last.

Speedy Micro Chip was flying  
On the keyboard and the mouse,  
While a nervous Dr. Brimstone  
Tried to occupy the house.

Then an “error” message came up  
Right before the screen went dark  
And the hard drive went *ka-plooeey*,  
And shot out a blinding spark.

And the spark ignited wiring,  
And a fire began to rage,  
And the Doctor, Chip, and Larry  
Promptly exited the stage.

But our brother, now in danger,  
Grabbed a fire ex-tinguish-er,  
But he couldn't quench the burning  
Of the red-hot *Mocking Bird*.

But the rest he safely put out,  
While the *Mocking Bird* burned on,  
And its smoke rose up for...*ever*,  
Though it burned up and was gone.

In the foothills of the Blue Ridge,  
This peculiar *Mocking Bird*  
Found DESTRUCTION EVERLASTING  
As the *punishment* incurred.

Benton Cherry was deflated;  
Ernest Ladd was not surprised;  
Farren Brimstone, aggravated;  
Willie Waver hypnotized.

Larry Barry was defensive;  
Okie Dokie was amazed;  
Sister Smoke was apprehensive;  
But so many were unfazed.

But young Micro Chip upgraded,  
Through this endless torment strife,  
To a high-tech, hard-drive whiz kid  
Holding forth the Word of *Life!*

And he built a new computer,  
And a clever CD-Rom,  
And he's helping on the website  
Of our [brotherbird.com](http://brotherbird.com).