

DEMONS

A lot of questions have come regarding the subject of demons. It is not a favorite subject, but an important subject. Wise will be the Christian who understands the purpose and power of demons.

We begin by noting that neither the word *demon* nor *demons* is in the Bible. This may shock you as it did me when I first made the discovery. However, this does not make the fact of demons any less real nor urgent to be understood. The dictionary I use describes demon as “an evil spirit or devil capable of possessing a person and tormenting someone.” In this discussion we will use devil and demon to be the same unless, of course, we are speaking of THE Devil.

Who are demons?

Much speculation abounds as to who demons are. For sure, they are real beings. They are a spirit that may or may not be, at a given time, dwelling in a body. The Greeks believed they were the souls of dead, evil people. Some Christians have written that they believe demons are spirits departed from the bodies of a pre-Adamic race. This cannot be accurate, for Adam was the first race.

Most likely demons are fallen angels who sided with Satan when he arose against God. Read Isaiah 14:12-14 to see Satan’s uprising. It is believed one-third of the heavenly angelic host sided with Satan in his uprising. Matthew 12:24 reads “*But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.*” This verse points to Satan as being “the prince” of the demon kingdom. Demons work for and report to the Devil!

Some of the fallen angels remained free to assist the Devil while others are locked up as we read in II Peter 2:4 “*For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*” When

we see some of the amazing feats angels have performed in the Bible, we should fear and tremble at the very thought of a demon.

What are demons like?

Demons are spirit beings. However, there are not omnipresent. That is, they cannot be everywhere at the same time as can God, the Son of God, and the Holy spirit. They can be localized as we read of a demon being in a child in Matthew 17:18 *“And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.”* In the parallel passage to Matthew 17:18 found in Mark 9:25 it is said *“When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.”* This demon went into the child and became known to be a “foul spirit” which caused the child to be “dumb and deaf.”

In Mark 1:24 it is seen that demons know Jesus: *“Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.”* This gives us more proof that demons are fallen angels. Since once residing in heaven with Jesus, they very well should know him.

Demons know and believe in God as stated in James 2:19 *“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”* Demons are organized to the extent they have their own doctrine (some churches don't even know what they believe): I Timothy 4:1 *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”* This verse gives us the origination of devil worshippers. Wicked men and women adopt the demon's spirit and demon's doctrine and demon's bible.

What are the activities of demons?

- They seek first and foremost to thwart the plan of God. Their assignment is to destroy good and uphold evil.
- They can inflict disease as recorded in Matthew 9:33 *“And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.”*

- They can possess people and cause crazy behavior, that is, mental derangement, as recorded in Matthew 17:15 *“Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.”*
- Demons can possess animals as seen in Mark 5:13 *“And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.”*
- They promote their doctrine which means they promote **false doctrine**: I Timothy 4:1 *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”* Cults are agents of demons. Devil-worshippers are agents of demons. The bazaar activity of the occult in today’s society is easily explained. Look around at the unnatural, purple-haired freaks laden with tattoos and body piercing. They are demon-possessed. It will worsen. In areas of open cult worship described to me by a missionary friend some years ago, young boys and girls are burned on open altars as sacrifices daily in the villages. In areas where the occult is mostly hidden, as in most of America, could this explain the rash of missing children?

Demon possession

Demons can play two roles in the lives of people- they can possess a person and they can influence a person without possession. I believe Mary Magdalene was demon *possessed*, for she had 7 devils in her: Mark 16:9 *“Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.”* The number “7” in the Bible indicates completeness. Thus, she was completely occupied (possessed) by demons. The Maniac of Gadara had enough demons in him to occupy 2000 swine. For sure, he was demon possessed. He cut himself with stones, lived among tombs, and cried night and day. What else other than demon possession could cause him to behave in such a way? What else but demon possession causes people to behave like wild animals today?

Can a saved person be demon possessed? A saved person is indwelt with God's Spirit when saved. Demons, therefore, cannot possess a saved person. However, demons can influence them. Note what the Lord did to Saul in I Samuel 16:14 "*But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.*" Some saved folk have done some dreadful and disgraceful acts. Only demons can explain the behavior.

Crimes in today's world are more horrific than ever. Each day brings more shocking news. The first theory in an effort to explain the actions of the suspect "maybe he had an abused childhood." Then the analysts begin to wonder who the suspect "hangs around with." Maybe, just maybe, it is demons!!

Their destruction

Some glorious day the Devil and all his fallen buddies who sided with him will meet their destruction: Matthew 25:41 "*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*"