



DEMONS #1

By
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How widespread is belief that demons exist today?

- Common among Catholics, Pentecostals and charismatics
- Not common among brethren

How widespread is belief that demons exist today?

- Not as common in denominationalism
 - But in Christianity Today a few years back,
 - “Whether Christians use the formal rites of Roman Catholicism or the vigorous prayers of charismatic and Pentecostal believers, exorcism is God’s good gift to the church.
 - Through exorcism, God graciously delivers people from demonic powers, which seek a person’s total physical and spiritual destruction So long as we live in this fallen world, we may be sure that demons not only exist, but will make bullying and presumptuous challenges of God’s authority” (Nov. 13, 2000, p. 45)

What were demons?

What are/were demons?

- The most common New Testament term, daimonion, is translated *demon* in the American Standard Version (*devils*, King James Version).
- Sometimes they are called evil spirits, unclean spirits, foul spirits, angels of the devil, world rulers of this darkness, and hosts of wicked spirits in heavenly places.

What are/were demons?

- Demon possessions was not common outside the life of Christ
 - Demons mentioned only 4 times in the O.T.
 - Over 100 references to the subject of demonology in the N.T.

What were they like?

■ Demons were "spirits. "

- "They brought unto him [Jesus] many possessed with demons: and he cast out the spirits with a word" (Mt. 8:16).
- Since "A spirit has not flesh and bones" (Lk. 24:39), demons were not physical beings.

What were they like?

■ Demons were unclean, evil spirits

- They were controlled by "the prince of demons," i.e., Beelzebub or Satan (Mt. 12:24)

They were intelligent

■ Demons were not atheists; nor polytheists

- James 2:19 (NKJV)

- You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!

- Their faith was a "dead" faith (James 2:14-16)

They were intelligent

■ Demons knew that Jesus was a NOT a mere man

– Mark 1:23-24 (NKJV)

- Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? ***I know who You are--the Holy One of God!***"

They were intelligent

- Demons conceded the divine authority of Christ.

- Luke 8:31 (NKJV)

- And they begged Him *that He would not command them to go out into the abyss*. Demons did not deny personal responsibility.

They were intelligent

■ Demons believed in the existence of hell

– Matthew 8:29 (NKJV)

■ And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? ***Have You come here to torment us before the time?***"

– James 2:19 (NKJV)

■ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and ***tremble!***

What did they do?

What did they do?

- Some say that there was no such thing as demons or demon possession. The Bible is just describing mental illnesses.
- Demon possession was separate from illnesses.
 - Matthew 4:24 (NKJV)
 - Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were ***demon-possessed***, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

Examples of what they did

■ Caused a man to be mute

– Matthew 9:32-33 (NKJV)

- As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.
- And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

Examples of what they did

■ Caused blindness

- Matthew 12:22 (NKJV)
- Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.

Examples of what they did

■ Caused anti-social behavior

- Matthew 8:28-34 (NKJV)
When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.
- And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"
- Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine."
- And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.
- Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.

Examples of what they did

- Caused convulsions (Mk. 9:14-29)

Examples of what they did

■ They inhabited *men*

– *Matthew 9:32 (NKJV)*

As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.

■ *Women*

– *Luke 8:2 (NKJV)*

and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities--Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,

■ *Little children (Mk. 7:25-30)*

One thing to remember

**Demon possession did not cause
moral lapses**