

## DEMONOLOGY

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the subject of Demons and what it means to us today.
2. Our study is about Demons
  - a. In some translations the word has been translated "Devils" when in fact it is better translated by the word "Demon". - Greek words "daimon" and "daimonion" should be translated - Demon
  - b. There is only one "Devil" but there are many "demons".
3. Demon Possession was a real, historical happening of the first century.
4. It is mentioned often in the Bible!!

### Discussion

#### I. DEMONOLOGY IS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

##### A. Old Testament

1. Deut. 32:17 asv "They sacrificed unto demons ..."
2. Ps.106:37 asv "They sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto demons..."
3. Saul was troubled with a demon described as an evil spirit - 1 Sam. 16:14-23

##### B. New Testament- ASV - devils, evil spirits, unclean spirits KJV - demons, evil spirits, unclean spirits

1. Daimon - Greek word
  - a. 5 times
  - b. Mt. 8:31 asv "And the demon besought him saying, if thou cast us out, send us into the heard of swine."

2. Daimonion - Greek word
    - a. Occurs 60 times
    - b. MARK 1:34 asv "And he healed many that were sick with divers diseases, and cast out many demons. And he suffered not the demons to speak, because they knew him."
  3. Word meaning possessed with demons
    - a. Occurs 13 times
    - b. (ASV) LUKE 8:36 "And they that saw it told them how he that was possessed with demons was made whole." KJV = DEVILS
  4. Demonical - one time - Jas.3:15 - Footnote in ASV - NKJV
  5. Unclean spirit or spirits
    - a. Occurs 21 times
    - b. Acts 8:7 asv "Far from many of those that had unclean spirits, they came out, crying with a loud voice: and many that were palsied, and that were lame, were healed."
  6. Evil Spirits - 6 times - Acts 19:12 ASV
  7. Spirit of Divination - Acts 16:16
  8. Spirit of Infirmary - Lk. 13:11
- C. At least 108 direct references to the subject of demonology in the N.T.

## 11. WHAT ARE DEMONS ?

### A. Major views:

1. Myth or superstition
2. Offspring of angels and women
3. Fallen angels
4. Result of some Pre-Adamaic Race
5. Departed spirits of wicked men which escaped tartarus

### B. Elimination of the first 4 views: They are false....

1. To say they are myths or superstition is to deny the Bible
2. They are not the offspring of angels and women
  - a. This comes as a mis-understanding of Gen. 6:1-4
  - b. But Christ teaches that angels are neither male nor female - They are incapable of offspring Matt. 22:30
3. Cannot be fallen angels:
  - a. Angels are never said to enter or possess anyone - demons did
  - b. Angels have no special desire for tombs of the dead, demons did
4. To say that they are the result of some pre-Adamic race is to reject the Bible -
  - a. Adam was the first man - 1 Cor 15:45
  - b. Some people look for a "gap period" between Gen.1:1-2

### C. **Demons are the departed spirits of what must have been especially wicked men, which in some way got out of Tartarus and possessed people in Bible times.**

D. Thoughts of some men from years ago

1. Josephus - "Demons, which are no other than the spirits of the wicked, which enter into men that are alive."
2. Philo - "The souls of dead men are called demons."
3. Many classical writers spoke of good and evil demons while the Bible only refers to evil demons.
4. Alexander Campbell:
  - a. He believed demons were departed spirits of wicked men.
  - b. Rule of interpretation that he followed: "Every word not specially explained or defined in a particular sense by any standard writer of any particular age and country, is to be taken and applied in the current or commonly received signification of that country and age in which the writer lived and wrote."
5. J. W. McGarvey - "In the Jewish usage of the term it is applied exclusively to the departed spirits of wicked men. This usage was adopted by Jesus and the Apostles, and consequently all that is said of demons in the N.T. agrees with it."

E. What is Tartarus?

1. Chart State of Man - Hades or Sheol place of departed spirits
2. Two compartments for the souls of men after Death -
  - a. Paradise - place for the righteous
  - b. Torment - or Tartarus - place for the evil, wicked
3. Tartarus is the place where all the spirits or souls of wicked men go after death. Also called Torment.

## F. Demons were spirits

1. Mt. 8:16 (ASV) "And when even was come, they brought unto him many possessed with demons: and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all that were sick:"
2. They are not physical
3. But when they possessed a human body they could cause physical or mental illness.

### III. DEMONS IN NON-CANONICAL WRITING [not inspired writings]

- A. Babylonians - "The Babylonians felt that demons were everywhere; that they lurked in every corner, watching for their prey. They appeared sometimes as serpents gliding noiselessly upon their victims, as birds horrid of mein forms, grotesque, malformed, awe=inspiring through their hideousness. To these demons all sorts of misfortune were ascribed - a toothache, a headache a broken bone, or raging fever, an outburst of anger, or jealousy, or incomprehensible disease."
- B. Rabbinical and other writings of the Jews are often far fetched - they said multitudes of demons are the offspring of Eve and male demons and Adam and female demons or Lilith the queen of female spirits; that they propagates themselves; resemble man; may assume any form but the reflection of their likeness is not the same as that of a man; may die; have wings; that the backbone of a person who did not bend or bow down in worship to God becomes a demon; they may be produced by a process of transformation from vipers, which, in the course of four times seven years, successively pass through the forms of vampires, thistles and thorns into Shedim or demons; that they may be found on water, oil, or anything else that has stood uncovered all night or that they may be found especially in dirty places; that Shedim (demons) have cock's feet, and to see their marks in the morning, strow ashes by the side of one's bed before retiring. Many diseases were said to be caused by demons: asthma, croup, canine rabies, madness, stomach diseases, leprosy, hearing diseases, etc. To

see them, take the afterbirth of a black cat which is the daughter of a black cat both mother and daughter being firstborn - burn it in the fire, and put some of the ashes in your eyes. Before using them, the ashes must be put into an iron tube, and sealed with an iron signet. Rabbi Bibi successfully tried this experiment (so it is claimed), but was hurt by the demons, on which he was restored to health by the prayers of the Rabbis.

- C. N.T. demonology does not have these exaggerated features, and wild speculation that runs wild in non-canonical writings. The contrast is at once obvious and lifts the N.T. to a higher level. It is the word of God, the non-canonical writings are not.

#### IV. **DEMONIAC** [One possessed with demons]

A. Demoniac in the N.T. is a person possessed or seized by a demon or unclean spirit -

1. Mt. 4:24 (ASV) **"And the report of him went forth into all Syria: and they brought unto him all that were sick, holden with divers diseases and torments, possessed with demons, and epileptic, and palsied; and he healed them."**
2. (KJV) MATT 4:24 **"And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them."**

B. Different effects over the human body:

1. Cause dumbness - Mt. 9:32-33
2. Blindness - Mt. 12:22
3. Insanity - Lk. 8:
4. Personal injuries - Mk. 9:18
5. Physical defects and deformities - Lk. 13:11-17
6. Supernatural strength - Lk 8:29

C. Distinction between

1. Demonized and Epileptic - Mt. 17:15
2. Demonized and lunatic - Mt.4:24
3. Diseases caused by demons and the same disease not so caused

D. These demons possessed men, women, a daughter, and a son.

E. There is nothing given in the N.T. as to why demons entered particular individuals!

F. Jesus commissioned his disciples to cast out demons

1. Mt. 10:1, 8 - Mk. 16:17
2. Peter, Philip, and Paul cast them out in the book of Acts
  - a. Peter - Acts 5:12-16 Unclean spirits
  - b. Philip - Acts 8:5-8 unclean spirits
  - c. Paul - Acts 19:11-12 evil spirits

## V. WHAT ABOUT DEMON POSSESSION TODAY ?

### A. Some say they do

1. L.B. Wilkes argues that demon possession takes place today
2. Alexander Campbell said that they do not except perhaps in remote areas where the Gospel has not gone.

### B. Demon possession was a 1st century occurrence

1. Not much is said about demons before and after the appearance of Christ on the Earth
2. It seems that God allowed demon possession in a pronounced way during the public ministry of Christ.
3. It was to show that Christ had power over the spiritual world as well as the physical.
4. Christ had control over the physical:
  - a. Nature - Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus caused the sea to be calm
  - b. Disease - Mark 3:1-6 - healed man with withered hand
  - c. Material things - Jn. 2:9 - turned water to wine
  - d. Death - Jn. 11:44 - Lazarus
5. He also demonstrated his power over the spirit realm
  - a. Lk. 11:20 (ASV) "But if I by the finger of God cast out demons, then is the kingdom of God come upon you."
  - b. The authority of Jesus over evil spirits amazed the people.
  - c. Col. 2:15 (ASV) "having despoiled the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

C. Information in New Testament is skimpy about demon possession today

1. Lk. 10:17-19
2. This states what would soon be the complete fall of Satan in the area of demon possession.
3. If demon possession takes place today the devil has risen again in this area of power.
4. No one can oppose him on earth today for no one has the power to cast out demons.  
Eph. 4:11-13
5. We cannot believe that God has left us helpless in this area
6. I Cor. 13:8-10 Miracles have ceased
7. It is reasonable to believe that with the passing of the apostles and their power, passed also the age of demon possession.
8. With the termination of the supernatural era of the early church, demon possession, and the gift of expelling them, ceased.
9. Demons exist but they do not have the power to bodily possess people today as they did in Jesus' day.

D. The Devil exerts great influence today

1. He influences us today through various ways.
2. People are influenced by sin but they are not demon filled.
3. Today Satan can enter the hearts only of those who allow him to do so.
4. Only with man's permission can Satan enter man's heart.
5. The excuse "the devil made me do it" is only that, an excuse. We choose what you do. If We choose sin it is because we allowed the devil to make us do that.

## Conclusion

1. The intellectual modernist says he has never seen a demon, no one in this present age has ever seen a demon, therefore since demons are beyond the range of experience in this age they did not exist in Biblical times.
2. Foolish reasoning. Can't prove everything in this way. By such reasoning we could prove that George Washington never existed.
3. The Bible is authentic and therefore we believe the doctrine of demonology. There were demons in the first century and Jesus showed his power over them.
4. Many things of spirit world beyond our range of knowledge.
5. We must be content to leave the secret things to God. Deut. 29:29 "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."
6. Some day we will learn the answers to our question about these and many other matters.

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