

## Demon Possession

### Introduction:

1. The Bible teaches that the enemy of man is real while also describing the tactics he uses in seeking to destroy lives and souls.
2. But what about the supernatural power of demon possession?
3. At death, one's spirit is separated from his body (James 2:26).
  - a. The body begins the process of decomposition into dust (Gen. 3:19).
  - b. The spirit returns to God, in punishment or peace (Ecc. 12:7; Luke 16:22-23).
4. While in the Hadean Realm these spirits are conscious, but they have no more knowledge of the happenings on earth (Ecc. 9:5-6).
5. After death, there is no return to the earth until the resurrection at the last day (Job 7:9-10; John 5:28-29).
6. How, then, does the Bible explain demon possession?

### I. What Are Demons?

- A. Demons are not devils.
  1. The KJV often uses the word "devils" for demons.
  2. There is only one devil – Satan – but there are many demons.
- B. The word 'demon' likely means, "A *knowing one*."
- C. The Bible does not state explicitly the origin or identity of demons.
  1. **Disembodied spirits of a pre-Adamic race**
  2. **Beings created by the cohabitation of angels with men**
  3. **Fallen angels**
  4. **Spirits of wicked men who have died**
- D. The first two of these ideas contradict Scripture.
- E. One cannot be dogmatic, but the last option is most likely correct.
- F. Demons are spirits (Matt. 8:16; Luke 24:39).
  1. Thus, they are sentient beings possessing will (Matt. 12:44).
  2. They are capable of movement (Matt. 12:45).
  3. They possess knowledge and can communicate (Luke 4:34).
  4. They have awareness of religious matters (Jam. 2:19).
- G. Demons are evil (Matt. 12:43-45).
- H. Demons are real.

### II. What Are the Results of Demon Possession?

- A. Demon possession was not mental illness.
  1. Sometimes mental illness was a result, but demon possession was the cause!
  2. "And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils" (Mark 1:32).
- B. Physical maladies:
  1. Fierceness (Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39)

## The Occult

2. Dumbness (Matthew 9:32-33; Luke 11:14)
  3. Blindness (Matthew 12:22)
  4. Convulsions (Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43)
- C. Emotional maladies (Mark 5:5; Luke 8:26-27, 35)

### III. Why Did God Allow Demon Possession?

- A. Demons are under God's control (Luke 8:31-32; Matt. 8:16; Mark 1:34).
- B. The Bible does not state specifically the reason.
- C. However, Jesus proved that He was the Son of God by demonstrating His power over every facet of existence.
  1. Nature
  2. Disease and illness
  3. Material world
  4. Physical laws of nature
  5. Death
  6. Sin
- D. Is it not reasonable to think that Jesus would also prove His power over Satan – even in the spiritual realm? (Cf. Luke 10:17-18; Matt. 12:22-31)
- E. Though demon possession was terrible, God allowed it for a limited time to prove the deity of Jesus and His place as our Savior (cf. Job).

### IV. Does Demon Possession Happen Today?

- A. No!
- B. Modern examples of 'demon possession' are not like those in Scripture.

1. Then – Public	Now – Private, secret
2. Then – With a word	Now – Months of rituals, etc.
3. Then – Human illness	Now – Supernatural maladies
4. Then – Deity respected	Now – Blasphemous and cursing
5. Then – To confirm word	Now – Truth not preached or taught
6. Remember, Jesus never performed an "exorcism" (cf. Acts 19:13-16)!	
- C. Jesus was victorious over Satan and limited his power (Zech. 13:1-2; John 12:31; Col. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8).
- D. The age of miracles has ended (1 Cor. 13:10; 10:13; Jam. 4:7; Eph. 6:12-13; 1 John 4:4).

### Conclusion:

1. Satan is a powerful and dangerous enemy of man.
2. Yet, the Lord Jesus is greater and mightier than the devil and his servants!
3. The supernatural power of demon possession has ended.
4. The truth of salvation has been revealed!
5. In Christ, Satan can be defeated, and victory can be found.