

## An Unorthodox View of Demons

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**Objective:** Get you to think on your own by presenting common and uncommon viewpoints about scripture. I also want to dispel some myths about demons and their power. Misunderstanding breeds fear and satan would like nothing more than for you to think that he can do more than he really can.

**Method:** Offence – I'm really just trying to offend you so much that you do whatever it takes to (honestly) prove me wrong

### Key verses of this entire study:

- Proverbs 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron
- Philippians 2:12 - Work out your faith with fear and trembling
- Proverbs 25:2 - It is the glory of god to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter

### Groundwork:

- 1) Demons may or may not be what we have commonly come to believe
- 2) Demons are angels that were originally created to receive the love of God
- 3) Lucifer was the head of worship before the lord and then got hung up on his own beauty (the Bible even refers to him a star and speaks of his greatness and beauty)
- 4) 1/3 of the angels were cast down to earth and are what we call "demons" (Rev. 12:4)
- 5) A demon can reside inside a person
  - A. If they can control the person, the person is possessed
  - B. If they live inside of the person (but can't control their host), they are indwelling them
  - C. I do not believe that God's elect can be controlled (possessed), but I do believe that they can be indwelt.
- 6) There is a demonic structure that involves Satan as the head and various levels of command (Daniel 10:13 shows hierarchy in both the Angel and demon camps)
- 7) Some demons are worse than others (Matthew 9:33)
- 8) I believe that many are more harmless than we anticipate, and are just trying to avoid torture and punishment
- 9) At the cross, satan was rendered powerless and the control of the earth was returned to humans. The devil's only real power lies in his deception at this point. Unfortunately, we are easily deceived, so this is a constant struggle for many of us. (Matthew 28:18)

## Study Verses and what we learned:

- 1) Matthew 28:18 – All authority has been given to Jesus. If Jesus has it all, then what, exactly, does Satan have? I believe he has the power to deceive and that's it.
- 2) John 14:14 – His sheep can ask for anything in his name and he will give it
- 3) 1 John 4:18 – Perfect love casts out fear because fear is based upon punishment. So, if you fear the evil one or his minions, what are you believing you should be punished for? This leads us to – what did Jesus NOT die for on the cross? For more info, see the bible study on your blamelessness before God.
- 4) John 7:38-39 – God gives his believers living water
- 5) 1 Timothy 6:13 – God gives life to ALL THINGS
- 6) Deuteronomy 32:39 – God gives life and death, wounds and heals, and no one can take anything out of his hand
- 7) Matthew 12:43 – Jesus talking about when a demon is cast out (here's the short list from this case study):
  - a. The spirit was already in a man and has been cast out
  - b. It goes through dry and arid places (some translations use waterless)
  - c. It is looking for rest (from what? My opinion is the torture of being totally separated from the life giving force of God)
  - d. It will go back to the person and if the house is still empty (not filled with him), it will re-enter with even more evil spirits and make the person worse than they started. This is why we don't cast out demons without an understanding of how to fill the house.
- 8) Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39 – Legion
  - a. He had gone mad, living in the tombs
    - i. They were not trying to kill him, but the effect of having so many in him made him crazy
  - b. A Roman legion at the time was about 5300, but could have ranged from 2000-6000 depending upon the translation
  - c. The demons saw Jesus coming and knew who he was
    - i. They KNOW God (of course they do – they were created by him and for him and they knew Jesus)
  - d. They begged him to not send them into the abyss (look up Sheol for info)
  - e. Asked to go to the pigs, instead
  - f. He allowed them to go into the pigs (about 2000 according to Mark)
    - i. He had compassion by not sending them into the abyss – but why? If they are our arch enemies, why did he let them stay?
    - ii. I believe these were his creation and he has compassion and even pity for them, just as he does for us
  - g. Pigs ran down the hill, into the lake, drowned
    - i. If he knew they would all die, why allow the demons in? It just releases them back into the world to find new hosts
    - ii. I believe that when they entered the pigs, the pigs were shocked and started a "stampede." It seems to me that fat pigs on a slope are just going to go down

hill. Admittedly, I know nothing about pig farming, so maybe I'm completely wrong.

- iii. Demons can indwell any living animal (I'm assuming that pigs aren't that special). By the way, this shows that the pigs could be indwelt, but not possessed (since the demons couldn't stop them from running into the lake).

## 9) Mark 9:14-29 – Demonized boy healed by Jesus

- a. Demon causes boy to be mute and have seizures
- b. Father reports that the demon throws him into the fire and water
  - i. Does it make sense that a demon that wants a home would hurt it's host if it will have to go through "dry and arid" places again while looking for a new one?
- c. Disciples are unable to cast it out
- d. Jesus refers to the generation as "faithless"
- e. The father asks Jesus to help his unbelief
  - i. Crisis (especially when happening to a loved one) often brings us to a place of repentance long before we would have repented for ourselves
- f. Jesus casts the demon out and tells it not to re-enter
  - i. He doesn't "fill" the house in the recorded text, but this may have happened silently during this process
- g. Jesus tells the disciples that this "kind" only comes out with prayer
  - i. So, we know that there are different kinds and that they take different measures to remove
  - ii. We don't see where he prayed, nor what he asked. Perhaps this "kind" required the intervention of God, himself, showing that it was of a higher rank. This may also explain why it would be willing to harm it's host. It's safe to assume that if it reported at high levels, it would not risk disappointing it's "supervisors."

## 10) Acts 16:16 – Paul with the fortune teller

- a. She follows him around shouting that he has come to save the people
- b. He is finally annoyed to the point that he takes action
  - i. We often "blame" Paul for loosing his cool and casting the thing out, but look at it from the other side – how long suffering had he been that this happened for several days? Perhaps he understood Jesus' view of the fallen and had compassion, but was finally pushed to the edge over a long period of time.
- c. The fortune teller is set free, but the owners are incensed and file charges
  - i. She made a lot of money and was probably well kept, this was not a bad gig for her
  - ii. I don't think that demons can see the future, but they can certainly make it look like they can
  - iii. Side topic for another day – I believe that people are given gifts and strengths by God (even when they may misuse them) and that there is a very strong possibility that she had a prophetic gift. My assumption is that after she is released, God used her to perform many great prophetic acts in his honor. This goes with the idea that the gifts of God are irrevocable (Romans 11:29).

- d. Paul and Silas land in jail, story continues
- e. Again, it does not appear from the text that the demon was trying to hurt her in any way. It looks like it just wanted a place to live and was even trading some form of favor for that.

## So, what's the take-away?

Before we get into this, I want to repeat that this is a VERY unconventional view of demons and based upon my own opinions and believed conversations with God. Interestingly, I asked Jesus, "So, what if I'm wrong?" His reply, "We'll be wrong together." That's certainly good enough for me to walk down just about any road...

I believe that there is an accepted idea that satan is the head and demons follow his ruling. He WAS the ruler of the world, but Jesus returned the keys when he was resurrected. I believe that from the moment that he took the keys back from satan, the only true authority or power that satan has is his ability to deceive. I believe that this power can be great when he is successful, but that Jesus' power to bring perspective, truth, and choice will always win.

In looking through these and other stories that involve demons, I believe that we can make a case that many of the "foot soldiers" are just trying to avoid punishment and get rest. But how does this work?

I believe that all living things are alive only because of the will of God. We have no ability to live on our own, apart from the life that he gives us. The fallen angels, by definition, would be death. I believe that the torture of being permanently separated from god is what they are trying to avoid and that they find a human host to get as close to the force of life as possible. This gives them "rest." To be without the water of life is to be "dry and arid."

I don't believe that any human can understand the true hellishness of a complete and total separation from god, as every one of us (saved or not) still receives his life giving water. We have no context for the suffering of demons...but I believe that Jesus did. I think that's why he allowed them to go into the pigs instead of the abyss. I'm guessing that the abyss would be permanent removal from earth and what essentially amounts to a life sentence (eternal life).

I believe that Jesus did everything necessary to give us total authority over the enemy. As a matter of fact, where is there any battling in any story involving demons? True, the apostles couldn't cast out the mute demon from the boy, but that wasn't a lack of authority as much as a lack of understanding the "kind" of the demon they were facing. I believe that had they understood more (as perhaps Peter did after Jesus has ascended back to heaven), they would have been successful in liberating the boy.

So, no matter what "kind" or "strength" of demon, the simple fact remains that Jesus is alive, has full authority over ALL things, and is the solution. As his, we have nothing to fear. Satan would

like for us to remain ignorant and thus, in fear, but Jesus wants to live freely. No fear. No condemnation. Blameless before God, and giving thanks in all things.

So here are a few last thoughts about demonization...

- 1) Jesus is the answer and the cure
- 2) He protects you in all things (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
- 3) Some demons may mean to harm, but for the most part, they are trying to avoid their own suffering
- 4) They cannot possess a believer, but may indwell them
- 5) When they indwell or possess, they bring death to the body and we will see physical signs of their presence (mental and/or physical)
- 6) Jesus will give us direction about how to handle them
- 7) Even though we have the authority to cast them out, we should be cautious for the sake of the individual. If they are cast out, the house must be filled with the presence of Jesus. Better yet, let's fill the house with Jesus so that they will be driven out and avoid the whole mess.
- 8) Demons reside in us due to agreements and lie based beliefs. Basically, our will (subconscious or conscious) allows them to stay. When we take our beliefs to Jesus (take every thought captive (2 Corinthians 10:5)), he will renew our minds and change our beliefs. This will also remove their reason to stay.
- 9) Although this particular study focused on demons, our daily walk should not be. Our focus should always be on Christ and the pursuit of his love and relationship with us. If that's where our heart is, things like demons will only be small bumps in the road.

## Homework

Simple – talk this over with your parents, pastors, and/or religious teachers. What are their views? What are yours? What part of this study seems accurate and what does not?

- 1) Opinions are only so helpful – support ideas with scripture
- 2) Make sure that scriptural references are used IN CONTEXT (meaning that the idea of the verse should line up inside of the context of it's paragraph, chapter, book, and the Bible as a whole).
- 3) How does this view coincide with God's heart? How are ideas like love and compassion expressed through this knowledge?
- 4) If you were going to tell this (concisely) to a friend, how would you do it? What are the key points that they should know?
- 5) Ask God for any other knowledge or understanding he'd like for you to have:
  - a. Go to a quiet place
  - b. Feel the idea of this in your heart. It may be the feelings you feel when you think about a demon, or being indwelled, or just the general power that you may believe satan still has
  - c. Ask Jesus to speak to you through the Holy Spirit and show you what you need to know. Something like, "Jesus, what do you want me to know about this?"
  - d. Wait, listen, feel – keep your heart open and allow him to speak
  - e. Check any answer that you get with scripture. Is it biblical? Does it make you feel better, bring clarity, instill peace? Does it bring confidence to you?
  - f. Write it down – don't forget what he tells you! It's important!