

DEMONS (and evil spirits)

Who or what are they?

Difference between demons and Devil – many demons, only one devil, Satan

Luke 9.42 (and Luke 4.33; 8.29) demons and unclean spirits are the same thing

Are they the same as the evil angels? Some say yes, but it is not something that can be proven by Scripture, and it is doubtful.

Are they the spirits of evil people who have died? No. Spirits of the dead go back to God:

1. Luke 16.19-31 – Rich man and Lazarus
2. Ecclesiastes 12.7 – the spirit returns to God who gave it

Created spirit beings (compare to the Creation and all that is in it) – created good and became evil

Associated with Satan – Luke 13.11, 16 (woman with spirit of infirmity, bound by Satan)

What do they do?

1 Samuel 16.14-16 – a distressing spirit replaced the Spirit of the Lord on Saul

1 Kings 22.19-23 – some spirit being, seemingly not an angel, helped to deceive the evil Ahab to his own destruction

It is in the NT that we meet them in great numbers:

1. Matthew 12.43 – we learn that spirits could enter a man, or even many unclean spirits
2. Mark 5.9 – a man was possessed with a “Legion” of unclean spirits or demons
3. There are at least 9 cases of demon possession/unclean spirits discussed in detail in the NT
4. There are many others referred to but not discussed in detail
5. Often associated with:
 - a. disease, infirmity or lunacy
 - b. Luke 13 – woman who had spirit of infirmity and bent over
 - c. Matthew 17.14-21 & Mark 9.14-29 – Epileptic symptoms, loss of speech, and apparently deafness, all caused by a demon
 - d. But not all diseases were caused by demons – Matthew 4.24
 - e. With idolatry in the OT
 - i. Leviticus 17.7 – Israel was supposed to stop offering to demons
 - ii. Deuteronomy 32.17 – but they returned to it
 - iii. Psalm 106.37 – they even sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons
 - f. With idolatry in NT – 1 Corinthians 10.20-21
 - g. They are also associated with damnable doctrines – 1 Timothy 4.1-7

The Lord had complete authority over them – Matthew 8.31

He passed that authority on to His apostles – Matthew 10.8

They were apparently allowed to do what they did for a short period of time.

This allowed a demonstration of the power of the Son of God over all beings, spirit and flesh.

1. Man born blind was that way so that God's power might be shown – John 9.1-7
2. Man who was paralyzed used to demonstrate the Lord's authority to forgive sins – Luke 5
3. So demon possession and oppression was used to demonstrate the Lord's authority and power – Mark 1.27 "For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him!"

Where are they now and what is going to happen to them?

Zechariah 13.1-2 – Associated with the opening of the "fountain" for sin and uncleanness, God said He would cause the prophets and unclean spirits to depart from the land

Matthew 8.29 – "torment us before the time?"

Luke 8.31 – demons begged not to be sent into the abyss

They will eventually, if not already, be committed to the great abyss in hell where they will be tormented...forever