

Subject: *Biblical Truth about Satan – Part 6*

Scripture: *Mark 5:1-20*

This is the story of a madman who became a missionary. This man lived in a cemetery among the tombs and was unusually violent and out of control. With supernatural power he broke chains and cut himself with sharp stones. He was under the control of demons, but Jesus cast out the demons and gave him a new life. When this demon-possessed man saw Jesus he worshiped but then he also complained and was defiant. He had what we might call a split or double personality. This story opens to us the world of demons and spiritual evil.

We have considered what the Bible says about Satan. In this message we are to examine what the Bible teaches about Satan's army of demons.

1. The Reality of Demons

There is the danger of making two mistakes. First, we can neglect and underestimate what the Bible says about demons, or second, we can become so obsessed with demons that we imagine that a demon is involved with every sin and form of evil. We should learn what God reveals to us and not go beyond that.

- A. Demons are mentioned over 100 times in Scripture (16 OT references and 87 NT references). The Bible uses the terms "demon," "spirit," "evil spirit," "unclean spirit," and "deceiving spirit." Most of what we know about demons is found in the Gospels.
- B. Scripture reveals reliable truth about demons because it is inspired by God and is always trustworthy (2 Tim. 3:16). It does not contain sensational or exaggerated ideas about demons found in most literature outside the Bible.

2. The Nature of Demons

- A. Demons are fallen (evil) angels that operate under Satan's leadership

***Revelation 12:7-9**⁷ And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Satan is not equal to God, but equal to Michael the archangel.*

- B. Demons are created spirit beings

They are called "unclean spirits." They are created spirit beings, like the holy angels (Col. 1:16). Since they are created beings, they are accountable to God. As spirit beings, they are invisible. The actual appearance of demons is never described in Scripture.

- C. Demons are powerful and active beings

The demon-possessed man in Mark 5 could not be controlled by human power and he could not be changed by human power. But Jesus changed him, so that he was calm, clothed, and coherent (in his right mind). Demons are active and mobile. As Satan roams the earth, it is assumed that demons are active with him. Demons can live in people, be cast out, and later return (Mt. 12:43-45). They are localized, not omnipresent like God. Demons now have access to heaven like Satan (Job 1-2), but they will eventually be removed (Rev. 12:7-13).

D. Some demons are confined and others are free

2 Peter 2:4 *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment*

Jude 1:6 *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Some demons are chained until the day of their final judgment and doom, while other demons are free to operate in this world. Some demons are confined in the bottomless pit but will be released (Rev. 9:1-3, 11). Four special demons will be released from the Euphrates River (Rev. 9:13-15).*

E. Demons understand and believe Biblical truth

Demons are fundamental in their theology and believe many things:

James 2:19 *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. Demons believe there is one true God. There is one devil, but many demons.*

Mark 1:23-26 ²³ *And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, ²⁴ Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. ²⁵ And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. ²⁶ And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.*

Matthew 8:29 *And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?*

Demons called Jesus is the Holy One of God, the Son of God, and the Son of the Most High God, and they know He has the authority to destroy them.

3. The Activity of Demons

A. They cause physical illness (Lk. 13:10-16)

B. They influence the mind (Mk. 5:15)

James 3:15 *This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.*

1 Tim. 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

C. They attack and indwell people

2 Corinthians 12:7 *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

There are many examples of demon oppression and possession in the Scripture. Demon attack or oppression from outside a person. Demon possession occurs when a demon lives inside a person (Mk. 5). Satan entered Judas Iscariot (Jn. 13:27).

D. They promote false worship and teaching (Deut. 32:17; 1 Cor. 10:20-21; 1 Tim. 4:1)

E. They perform false signs and wonders (2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 16:13-14)

F. They deceive false prophets (1 Kg. 22:19-23)

4. The Defeat of Demons

A. Demons were exorcised (cast out) by Christ's authority

Matthew 12:22-28 ²² Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. ²⁵ And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: ²⁶ And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. ²⁸ But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Casting out demons was evidence that Christ had divine power.

B. Demons were defeated and humiliated by Christ's death

Colossians 2:14-15 ¹⁴ Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; ¹⁵ And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

C. Demons can be defeated by God's power and armor

Ephesians 6:10-13 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Believers are involved in spiritual warfare and need spiritual armor.

D. Demons will be ultimately punished in everlasting fire

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT SATAN – PART 6

The Reality and Activity of Demons

1. The _____ of Demons

A. Demons are mentioned _____ in Scripture
(16 OT and 87 NT references)

B. Scripture reveals _____ about demons (2 Tim. 3:16)

2. The _____ of Demons

A. Demons are fallen (evil) angels that operate under _____

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B. Demons are _____

C. Demons are _____

D. Some demons are confined and _____

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Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

E. Demons _____ Biblical truth

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(Deut. 32:17; 1 Cor. 10:20-21; 1 Tim. 4:1)

E. They perform _____
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D. Demons will be ultimately punished _____
(Mt. 25:41; Jude 6)