

# ANGELS AND DEMONS: DEBUNKING THE MYTHS

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Lesson 11 w/Answers

Demonology: Part 2

We conclude our eleven-lesson study of the Angels, Satan, and the Demons with an examination of demon possession. Perhaps no greater misunderstanding exists regarding this topic than anything else you may study in the Bible. Superstition, lack of knowledge and understanding, and the media all combine to transform demon possession into a wide range of fictional activities and events targeting commercial markets. All the while, and behind it all, Satan and the demons continue their real work, amused I'm sure by our lack of real understanding in this area.

Once again, let's try to set aside all that we think we know about demon possession and look at what the Bible tells us about it. In doing so, we will finish this course of study by debunking the myths around demon possession.

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## *Consider the following questions and exercises:*

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1. Define the following terms:
  - a. Paranormal
    - i. ANSWER: Unexplained phenomena or experiences outside the range of scientific explanation.
  - b. Poltergeist
    - i. ANSWER: A spirit that haunts a specific person using invisible and physical activities such as noises and causing inanimate objects to move.
  - c. Ghost
    - i. ANSWER: A spirit from the dead that haunts a specific location.
2. What is the basic difference between a poltergeist and a ghost?
  - a. ANSWER: According to folklore, a poltergeist haunts a particular person, using invisible tricks, noises, moving inanimate objects, etc.; whereas a ghost haunts a particular location.
3. Why do the definitions of poltergeists and ghost not correlate with our understanding of demons (or Satan, for that matter)?
  - a. ANSWER: Satan and the demons are enemies of God. They are not in the business of scaring people for the sake of it. Anything that Satan or the demons do is specifically targeted at God and His people for specific reasons related to their rebellion. Further, as we have discussed in previous lessons, they cannot compel us to do anything— they can only tempt or influence.
4. Define demon possession.
  - a. ANSWER: The control of an individual by an evil spirit for the specific purpose of opposing God and His people. Demon possession often includes violence, physical pain or challenges and differing voices.

5. As far back as the early Egyptians, demons were seen in everything and were regarded to be the cause of all manner of disease and illness. By the time of Christ's earthly ministry, it was clear that people were beginning to understand the difference. Read Matthew 4:23-24 and Luke 8:26-35, what does each of these passages show us about the differences?
    - a. Matthew 4:23-24
      - i. ANSWER: This passage indicates that even in New Testament times, people understood that "diseased" and demon-possessed were two separate issues; they knew the difference.
    - b. Luke 8:26-36
      - i. ANSWER: In this passage, we see that there was an understood distinction between insanity and possession or demonic-influence.
  6. What did Christ demonstrate in Matthew 12:22-28?
    - a. ANSWER: He demonstrated his power to cast out demons. This inherently validates several facts to us: (1) demons are real and do possess people, thus needing to be cast out; and 2) only Christ has the power to cast them out.
  7. What is significant about Christ's instructions in Matthew 10:7-8?
    - a. ANSWER: Christ gave to his followers that same demon-exorcising power, and he has given it to us as well.
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While we have examined a few instances above for which Christ cast out demons, there are many examples of this in the New Testament. I have included a compilation of them that I found on Wikipedia as an attachment.

And so we conclude our study of the angels, Satan, and the demons. My prayer is that through it all, God has opened your eyes to the spirit world around us and the to the truths about His ministering angels and the evil of Satan and his followers.

In Christ,

**Wes**

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## Lesson 11 Examples

## Demons in the New Testament

The New Testament mentions several episodes in which Jesus drove out demons from persons, believing these to be the entities responsible for those mental and physical illnesses.

- Matthew 4:23-25: Demon-possessed persons are healed by Jesus (also Luke 6:17-19).
- Matthew 7:21-23: Many will drive out demons in Jesus's name (also Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 5:16).
- Matthew 8:14-17: Jesus healed many demon-possessed (also Mark 1:29-39; Luke 4:33-41).
- Matthew 8:28-34: Jesus sent a herd of demons from two men into a herd of pigs ("about two thousand" pigs, according to the account at Mark 5:1-20; both Mark's account and Luke 8:26-39, mention only the one man).
- Matthew 9:32-34: Jesus made a demon-possessed mute man speak; the Pharisees said it was by the power of Beelzebub (also Mark 3:20-22).
- Matthew 10:1-8: The Twelve Apostles given the authority to drive out evil spirits (also Mark 3:15; Luke 9:1).
- Matthew 11:16-19: "this generation" said that John the Baptist was possessed by a demon (also Luke 7:31-35).
- Matthew 12:22-32: Jesus healed a demon-possessed blind and dumb man (also Luke 11:14-23; Mark 3:20-30).
- Matthew 12:43-45: Jesus told an allegory of nasty spirits coming back home, that is, to the human body where they have lived before (also Luke 11:24-26).
- Matthew 15:21-28: Jesus expelled a demon from the body of the daughter of a Canaanite woman (also Mark 7:24-30).
- Matthew 17:14-21: Jesus healed a boy by driving out a demon from him (also Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-49).
- Mark 1:21-28: Jesus expelled a nasty spirit from a man (also Luke 4:31-37).
- Mark 9:38-40: A non-Christian is seen driving out demons in Jesus' name (also Luke 9:49-50).
- Mark 16:9: Jesus had driven seven demons out of Mary Magdalene (also Luke 8:2).
- Luke 7:21: Many people are cleansed from evil spirits by Jesus.
- Luke 13:10-17: Jesus expelled a spirit of disease from the body of a woman on the Sabbath.
- Luke 13:31-32: Jesus continued to cast out demons even though Herod Antipas wanted to kill him.
- Luke 22:3: Satan entered into Judas Iscariot (also John 13:27).
- John 7:20: A "crowd of Jews" that wanted to kill Jesus said he was demon-possessed.
- John 8:48-52: "The Jews" said Jesus was a Samaritan and demon-possessed.
- John 10:20-21: Many Jews said Jesus was raving mad and demon-possessed, others said he was not.
- Acts 5:3: Satan filled the heart of Ananias.
- Acts 5:16: The Apostles healed those tormented by evil spirits.
- Acts 8:6-8: At the teaching of Philip the Evangelist in Samaria, evil spirits came out of many.
- Acts 8:18-19: Simon Magus offered to buy the power of laying on of hands.
- Acts 10:38: St. Peter said Jesus healed all who were under the power of the devil.
- Acts 16:16-24: Paul and Silas were imprisoned for driving a future-telling spirit out of a slave girl.
- Acts 19:11-12: Handkerchiefs and aprons touched by Paul cured illness and drove out evil spirits.

- Acts 19:13-20: Seven sons of Sceva attempted to drive out evil spirits by saying: "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." But because they did not have faith in Jesus, they were unsuccessful and were actually driven from that house by the possessed.
- Revelation 18:2: The Whore of Babylon is a home for demons, evil spirits and unclean birds.

Source: Wikipedia—Demonic Possession.

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