

There Be Demons!

There is an Enemy

The Bible is not superstitious, but nuanced

Matthew 4:24-25 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Some types of evil require an explanation that goes beyond the modern worldview

The story of W.H. Auden

The Path of the Enemy

Demon-possessed?

The Greek word is best translated “demonized,” which means to come under the influence of demonic activity.

No one is above the enemy’s influence!

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Openings for the enemy

**Unforgiveness – 2 Corinthians 2:10-11*

**Pride – 1 Timothy 3:6*

**False teaching – 1 Timothy 4:1*

**Idolatry – 1 Corinthians 10:20-21*

Controversy/Division – 2 Timothy 2:24-26

**Anger – Ephesians 4:26-27*

Fear – Hebrews 2:14-15

Lies – John 8:44

**Occult – Deuteronomy 18:10-12, 1 Samuel 28*

**Greed – 1 Timothy 6:9-10*

*The * indicates which of these are warned against for believers.*

The allure of strength, power, position, pleasure

Vs. 29 – For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.

*Mark 5:3 says, “No one could bind him **anymore.**” (emphasis added)*

The Goal of the Enemy

Details about the man

Naked, alone, living among the tombs, driven to the desert

The Defeat of the Enemy

A future defeat of evil

Luke 8:31 – The abyss, sometimes translated “bottomless pit”

Luke 8:28 – Don’t torment me [before the time] (compare to Matthew 8:29)

The abyss is a place of “gloomy darkness,” which in Jewish thought is located beneath the earth

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

Jude 6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.

Revelation 17:8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction.

Grace and strength for the humble

James 4:6-8 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts...

Questions for Personal Study

1. Is it hard or easy for you to believe in evil spiritual activity? Why?
2. As we saw, the Bible is full of warnings of how the enemy can gain a foothold in your life. Which one is the biggest weakness for you?
3. Why is sin alluring? How do the devil’s promises always backfire?
4. How can a person have freedom and victory in Jesus?