

Demonology

Introduction

A proper analysis of this subject is required today because there is so much absolute rubbish taught about demons, both in the church and in the world. This false teaching results in two extremes: 1) those who think that demons are super-powerful, that the Devil is omnipotent, and something to be afraid about; 2) those who teach that demons are nothing and should be ignored.

Jesus did not ignore the spiritual opposition set against him, and he described this as 'strong' (Matt 12:29), but he also showed his power and authority over all demons (including Satan), even as a man during his humiliation. In fact his ministry began by thoroughly defeating Satan in the wilderness on his own without heavenly intervention.

We need to examine exactly what demons are, what their origin is, how they are overcome and what their end is.

This study (unlike most others) will not use anecdotes to establish doctrines and principles; it will only derive principles from Scripture. However, I may use anecdotes to illustrate points already established as sound doctrine by didactic means.

The origin of demons

Demons are simply fallen angels. They are the angels that rebelled against God in the heavenly revolution led by Satan, thus beginning an eternal war in heavenly places; initially war in heaven but afterwards a war conducted against the church on Earth from the aerial heavens.¹

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. Rev 12:7-8

'Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time'. Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. Rev 12:12-13

Revelation informs us that a third of the angelic host rebelled with Satan:

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Rev 12:3-4

The dragon is Satan. The stars of heaven are the angels.

¹ Scripture speaks of three heavens: 1) the atmosphere; 2) the cosmos or the spiritual realm; 3) heaven as the secluded dwelling place of God.

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Rev 12:9

The timing of the expulsion of Satan from heaven is disputed, but it seems that it occurred at the cross:

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.' Rev 12:10-11

'Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself'. Jn 12:31-32

Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Col 2:14-15

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Heb 2:14-15

He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. Rev 20:2

The cause of their fall

We are not told the details but the implication is that the pride of Satan (1 Tim 3:6) led him to rebel against his creator thinking that he could be God (hence the first temptation to Adam was of the same nature). This proud rebellion led all his followers falling into judgment.

The everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Matt 25:41

God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment. 2 Pt 2:4

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day. Jude 1:6

The nature of demons

Since demons are angels under God's judgment, then they have all the properties of angels. I will not make a full analysis of this here having done it elsewhere; in short:

- They are created beings (Psalm 148:2, 5; Rev 4:11).
- They are personal beings (Dan 8:16ff.).
- They are finite and imperfect (Job 4:18; Matt 24:26; 1 Pt 1:12). [But the elect angels are holy.]
- They are spirits originally created to serve God (Heb 1:14; Ps 103:20-21).
- The word 'angel' means 'messenger' in Hebrew and Greek. That is, heavenly intelligent agents used by God to carry out his will. [Note that the 'Angel of the Lord' is sometimes not an ordinary angel but a manifestation of the divine presence, a foreshadowing of the incarnation (Gen 18:2, 22, 19:1, 32:24, 30; Josh 5:13, 15).]
- As spirit beings they are immaterial.
- There are many thousands of them (Angels are numbered in myriads [10,000, Dan 7:10] and legions [3-6,000, Matt 26:53]. Demons form a third of the innumerable [Heb 12:22] heavenly host).
- They have ranks (Dan 10:13; 1 Thess 4:16).
- They recognise the Lord Jesus as the Son of God (Lk 4:41).
- They follow their leader Satan and as such mimic his wickedness; thus they are liars and deceivers and exult in death and iniquity (Jn 8:44; 1 Pt 5:8; Heb 2:14). They especially hate Christ and the church (Rev 2:10, 9:11, 12:18).

Demons do not have prescience

For centuries shamans, witches, diviners and soothsayers have consulted demons in order to know the future. There are cases, and I have witnessed this personally, where demons passed on information to people that could not be known under normal physical circumstances. Is this not prescience?

No it is not.

What happens is that the demonic order, like the heavenly order, is filled with rank and file individuals. This forms a network of demonic communication over the whole Earth. Since they are spiritual beings, and communicate telepathically, they pass information on to one another very quickly. Thus a demon in one town could see a person travelling to meet his friends in a distant town. Hours before he arrives, the demon in the distant town communicates to the people there (e.g. in a séance) that the first person is coming. When he turns up, it seems as if the demonic communication was a true prophecy. It was just advance observed information.

Demons pretend to be dead people

Many clairvoyants and mediums claim to speak to dead souls to impart comfort to bereaved people. Most of these are just fake charlatans but some actually communicate with demons. The demon then impersonates the dead person to push some agenda (e.g. to lure towards suicide).

All communication with the dead is false; dead souls cannot pass information on to this world. They await judgment in Hades. [Dead Christians are in heaven with Jesus.]

Names used to describe demons

Demons / Daemons / Daimons

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' Matt 7:22

And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, 'You are the Christ, the Son of God!' And He, rebuking *them*, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ. Lk 4:41

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe -- and tremble! Jm 2:19

For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, *which* go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Rev 16:1

Greek *daimonion*, a spirit, a being inferior to God, superior to men; evil spirits or the messengers and ministers of the devil. A heathen god, minor divinity (Acts 17.18); regarded as a supernatural and independent being neither human nor divine.

Principalities and powers

Far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. Eph 1:22

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Eph 6:12

That now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*. Eph 3:10

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Col 2:15

Who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him. 1 Pt 3:22

Note

Principalities and powers can sometimes refer to elect angels (Eph 3:10) and to men in positions of rulership (Rm 8:38).

Principalities

Greek *arche* meaning: beginning, origin; the person or thing that commences, the first person or thing in a series, the leader, principality, rule, magistracy.

Powers

Greek *exousia* meaning: power of choice, the ability or strength with which one is endowed, which he either possesses or exercises; the power of authority; the power of rule or government; spiritual potentates.

These words are references to the ranks in the hierarchy of satanic organisation covering the Earth. There are grounds (Dan 10:13, 20) for assuming that nations have certain orders of demons responsible for it.

We can safely assume that areas where the people are given over to demonic idol worship have a higher concentration of demonic activity than areas where the Gospel is received and supported. Missionaries have confirmed this.

Unclean spirits

And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Matt 10:1

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man. Matt 12:43

Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. Lk 4:33

An unclean spirit is a demon that uses unclean temptations to control a person, such as immorality and sexual deviations.

Lying spirit

The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' 1 Kg 22:22

The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you. 1 Kg 22:23

Foul spirit

And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!' Rev 18:2

Evil spirit

And the evil spirit answered and said, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?' Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. Acts 19:15-16

Distressing spirit

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said to him, 'Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skilful player

on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.' 1 Sam 16:14-16

Spirit of divination

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Acts 16:16

Divination

Greek *pythia*, origin: in Greek mythology the name of the Pythian serpent or dragon that dwelt in the region of Pytho at the foot of Parnassus in Phocis, and was said to have guarded the oracle at Delphi and been slain by Apollo. Thus it came to represent divination or prophecy.

A spirit of infirmity

And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, 'Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.' And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. ... 'So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound -- think of it -- for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?' Lk 13:11-13, 16

In this case (not every case of infirmity) the woman was made sick as a result of satanic control. She was bound by Satan.

Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them. Lk 4:38-39

The fact that Jesus rebuked this fever as if it were a personality has led many to suggest that this sickness was demonically inspired. However, that is not necessarily the case. Matthew does not mention a rebuking or a demon (Matt 8:14-15).

Note

It is not safe to give names to demons outside of Scriptural authority. Thus the plethora of names used in Pentecostal and Charismatic churches have no warrant; such as 'spirit of rejection', 'spirit of smoking' and so on.

Never, when raising someone from the dead, does Jesus rebuke 'the spirit of death'. This phrase is common in Pentecostal and Charismatic circles (copying classic Pentecostals) in their so-called raisings from the dead of dubious validity. Not one modern raising from the dead has ever been verified and the people claiming to have done this have very questionable moral behaviours. Just as most Charismatic healing is fake and merely temporary analgesia caused by a dopamine high, so also Charismatic resurrections have never been verified. A true resurrection would be front-page news.

Names of demons and angels in occult literature, especially Jewish Kabbalism, have no Biblical validity and should not be copied. Such would include Metatron and Azazel.

Characteristics of demons

The teaching of Scripture is that demons are powerful and must be guarded against and contended with, but are not omniscient, omnipotent or omnipresent. They are not divine and are far inferior to God. Under the direction of the Lord, we can overcome demons by the power of God and our faith.

Their strengths

They have superhuman intelligence and power

Mighty angels. 2 Thess 1:7

You His angels, who excel in strength. Ps 103:20

They have some power over man

For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, *which* go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Rev 16:14

Note

Demons have power to gather kings into satanic alliances and to instigate war.

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. Mk 5:1-5

Note:

- They could force a man away from society to live amongst tombs.
- They strengthened the man so that none could bind him.
- He was strengthened to break iron shackles.
- He was made to cry out loud.
- He was made to self-harm.

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said to him, 'Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skilful player on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.' 1 Sam 16:14-16

And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played *music* with his hand, as at other times; but *there was* a spear in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the spear, for he said, 'I will pin David to the wall!' But David escaped his presence twice. 1 Sam 18:10-11

Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand. Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night. 1 Sam 19:9-10

Saul's pride and rebellion against God led to him being afflicted with an evil spirit. This spirit caused him distress. This distress was sometimes so severe that it led Saul to seek to murder David (thus it was not an elect angel). The statement that it was from God merely means that this evil spirit was allowed to come upon Saul by God's permission to afflict him in chastisement.

NB: this distressing evil spirit led Saul to prophesy. That is, to act in a manner like a soothsayer prophesying. Prophecy can have an evil source.

Examples

In history individuals have been so affected by a demonic force that they have exhibited supernatural strengths. There are cases where a woman was bent over backward over a sharp object and pummelled with blows but was unaffected. There are cases where a man was prone and hit with hammers but felt no pain. A woman was once balanced with her head on one chair and her feet on another and was hit with blows to her chest but remained rigid and did not fall.

Sometimes a demoniac will exhibit unusual behaviours. I have seen a demonised girl slither at speed across the floor like a snake in a way that no human could do by choice.

I have also seen a very slight small girl throw off, with ease, a group of four strong tall men.

Multiple demons can control a single human being

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds *it* empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation. Matt 12:43-45

Then He asked him, 'What is your name?' And he answered, saying, 'My name is Legion; for we are many.' Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, 'Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.' And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine

(there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. Mk 5:9-13

Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are -- the Holy One of God!' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be quiet, and come out of him!' And when the demon had thrown him in *their* midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, 'What a word this *is*! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.' Lk 4:33-36

And certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities -- Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons. Lk 8:2

Since demons are immaterial, many can occupy a space given to them (cf. Eph 4:27). The issue is not the location but the giving over of the soul to demonic things, such as lusts. It is the consent that allows demons that feed on that lust to reside and control.

Demons lie

We have already seen that demons lie and are called 'lying spirits'. Their leader, the Devil, is the father of lies. This means that no communication from some spirit can be trusted and should not be acknowledged.

This also means that conversing with evil spirits is pointless; they will just lie. This proves that the common practice of asking a spirit its name in order to cast it out is ridiculous. Why would it answer correctly, even if it has a name?

They fear God

And suddenly they cried out, saying, 'What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?' Matt 8:29

'Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are -- the Holy One of God!' Mk 1:24

And he cried out with a loud voice and said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.' Mk 5:7

Even the demons believe -- and tremble! Jm 2:19

Their weaknesses: they are incorporeal

Forget all the Hollywood nonsense, all the horror stories and all the occult lore; demons cannot do physical things because they are immaterial. Their power lies in their empowerment of people and their deception to temptation and fear.

They cannot take on physical form and kill people, for example. If they could, they would have killed the entire church centuries ago.

Their power lies in their ability to seduce, to lure, to ensnare, to entrap, to deceive and to delude. Their great weapon is fear.

They can be resisted

Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Eph 6:11

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 1 Pt 5:8-9

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Jm 4:7

It is the job of Christians to resist the devil and his minions.

Even before the cross, Jesus gave his disciples the ability to cast out demons from people:

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Matt 10:8

Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: Mk 3:14-15

How much more those who are filled with the Spirit and united with Christ after the cross and ascension able to resist the enemy?

Demon possession

Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed [*daimonizomai*], epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. Matt 4:24

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed [*daimonizomai*]. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. Matt 8:16

At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed [*daimonizomai*]. Mk 1:32

For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed [*echo*]; and many who were paralysed and lame were healed. Acts 8:7

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed [*echo*] with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Acts 16:16

Demon-possessed

Greek *daimonizomai* meaning: to be under the power / control of a demon.

Echo (possessed)

To have, i.e. to hold; to have (hold) possession of the mind; to be closely joined to a person or a thing.

The term 'demon-possessed' is unhelpful. Demons have no authority over God's creation, especially mankind, except what the individual gives them through seduction. Ordinarily, the hold of demons over people is to tempt them into committing some sort of action. When the individual repents of this action, then the hold of the demon is broken. Therefore, most commonly, the control of a demon over a person is temporary.

However, when a person gives more and more control to a demon, such as by becoming addicted to a certain sin, such as gambling, the demon can have virtually full control of that person driving them deeper and deeper into evil and self-delusion. When an individual is so controlled through sin, he is fully under the control of a demon and becomes demonised; that is, under the power of a demon. Wicked psychotic people are often demonised for example.² Full demonic control is when the demon has power over the whole soul of a person, dominating their volition, emotions and intellect. Temptation is usually just the influence of a demon over the will or the emotions; demonic control is controlling the whole soul.

An example of full control over a person is seen in the demon 'possession' of the Gadarene demoniac. This person had been driven mad by this control and was living like an animal.

In serious cases of yielding to demonic temptation, a person is so demonised that a demon, or many demons, dwell in the person continually.

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds *it* empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation. Matt 12:43-45

When a man's will has been completely given over to a demon that has not only resided in his soul but invited a number of other demons to join him, then it is very nearly impossible for that person to free themselves. This is when, and only this case, that another person with faith must cast the demons out. In the modern world, however, what happens is that the person is institutionalised and treated with anti-psychotics and anti-depressants. They then live a meagre existence of subdued, sedated listlessness. The demonic control is given various medical names such as paranoid schizophrenia (which is to say that they don't know what it is). Most of the people inhabiting mental hospital wards are demonised people that need spiritual freedom not drugs.

Demons and Christians

True Christians cannot be demonised

The common Charismatic practice of delivering Christians from demons and having specialised ministries of exorcists is completely unbiblical. I affirm strongly – a genuine

² Some people can be innocently psychotic. That is, ordinary people so mentally ill that they do not see the real world but are in a world of their own.

believer cannot be demonised. Sinners without Christ can be demonised but Christians with Christ cannot.

Why?

The first reason is that one of the Doctrines of Grace is Perseverance. God promises to bring a genuine elect Christian through to the end without falling away. This does not mean every churchgoer but every elect person in Christ. If perseverance, or the preservation of the saints, is true then God will not allow one of his children to be completely controlled in their soul by a demon.

Secondly, God in three persons lives in the heart and spirit of a true Christian. He will not share his abode with a demon.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. Rm 8:9-10

You are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will dwell in them And walk among *them*. I will be their God, and they shall be My people'. 2 Cor 6:16

Christ lives in me. Gal 2:20

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Eph 3:17

Christ in you, the hope of glory. Col 1:27

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 Jn 4:4

Thirdly, the cross was fully efficacious in delivering a person from the domain of the Devil. Converted people are free from Satan.

To open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me. Acts 26:18

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Col 1:13-14

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Heb 2:14-16

Fourthly, a genuine believer is in Christ. No demon would want to come anywhere near someone who has Christ. They are terrified of Christ.

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Rm 8:1

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus. 1 Cor 1:30

You are the body of Christ, and members individually. 1 Cor 12:27

If anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Cor 5:17

No deliverance ministry

There is no example in the NT of any believer being delivered from an evil spirit, not one. Neither is there any example of the office of an exorcist in the church. There is no person who delivers spirits from Christians. The whole practice is a lie and is based on occult mysticism and paganism. Many pagan religions and sects have exorcists, as does the Roman Church.

Christians can be deceived by demons

There are multiple warnings in the NT to be careful to avoid deception. Indeed, one could make an argument that it is one of the most common doctrines in the NT. Jesus and all the apostles warned about the dangers of being led astray. Thus any idea that Christians are impervious to deceit is folly.

Demons are constantly trying to lead believers astray so that they can pervert the course of church activities. They do not want the church to be successful in the Gospel and so they pervert leaders and people.

This temptation to deceit takes many forms. It can be moral or doctrinal. It can be about church authority or about ordinary ministry. It can target the family or target a man's work. It can attack the will, the emotions or the intellect. This is why believers must be on the lookout for deception all the time and focus their minds on the truth at all costs.

It is absolutely vital that Christians set their mind on Christ and on the truth.

For more on the perils of deception see my booklet, *'Deception: the deadly virus'*.

The end of demons

What is the end of demons? In one word, it is Hell.

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels'. Matt 25:41

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Rev 20:10

Conclusion

The Bible's teaching on demons is clear. Demons are mentioned very many times in Scripture, under various names, and their existence is evident.

Although they have a certain power, they are not to be feared by Christians who are able to overcome them by prayer and faith. In severe cases, such as long-term victims, by prayer and fasting (Matt 17:21; Mk 9:29).³

³ 'Fasting' does not appear in the eclectic (Alexandrian) text.

Appendix One

Demons mating with humans

My paper 'Can demons mate with humans?' explains this subject fully so I will just give a concise explanation here. It needs to be mentioned because the matter has become so widely accepted. It is a fallacy. It derives from a false exposition of Gen 6.

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years'. There were giants [*nephilim*] on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown. Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. Gen 6:1-5

This revolves around who the sons of God are.

The argument goes: the sons of God are angels. Some angels / demons were attracted to some human women and they married them. The result of this progeny was the Nephilim (giants) who were superhuman and wicked. Some go on to say that these Nephilim are the root of those in control today.

This is just riddled with nonsense from start to finish. I will simply give bullet point answers.

- Angels or demons cannot mate with anyone because they are spirits. They have no corporeal body.
- Angels do not mate in any case; Jesus said so (Matt 22:30; Mk 12:25).
- This situation is before the flood. Everyone in that world was destroyed except Noah and his family. There were no Nephilim that survived. However, giants did arise again in the period after the flood and some were still around in the time of David (Goliath), but most were killed in the Israelite invasion of Canaan.
- 'The 'sons of God' are never categorically identified as angels. Three passages in Job may suggest this but do not make it certain at all and this is a poetic epic not didactic teaching. They are specifically identified as humans in Matt 5:9; Lk 20:36; Rm 8:14, 19 and Gal 3:26. Angels are servants of God that have not been redeemed; they are not sons with an inheritance (this is why angels do not sing). Only a human can be a son of God through identification and union with Christ in redemption.
- The passage is explaining the degeneration of mankind in the run up to the flood. What is in view is the corruption of the godly line through Seth, who replaced Abel. This line was ruined by intermarriage with sinful people of the line of Cain. The result of this union was that 'the wickedness of man was great in the earth'.

The idea that Genesis teaches that demons mated with humans to produce wicked supernatural spawn is utter nonsense. God has put limits on 'kinds' (species) so that different species cannot reproduce together. Wherever man has tried to force this the result has been a sterile animal e.g. a mule (the offspring of a male ass and a mare).

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