

Angels & Demons

Lesson 6: Demon Possession

Review Lesson 5: How do we see New Age in our culture today?

Introduction: The following is commonly spoken in the cemetery during a Christian committal service: *“May God the Father who has created this body, may God the Son who by His blood has redeemed this body together with the soul, may God the Holy Spirit who by Baptism has sanctified this body to be His temple, keep these remains unto the day of the resurrection of all flesh.”* What truths and comforts do you find in these words?

Perpetual Note: Today and in the next few lessons, we will take a peek into the occult and other things like that. We are looking at how Satan influences the world. How there are doors that are open to his influence. While we, as God’s people, may already know the danger of these things, we don’t want practice them even inadvertently. It is good to be aware that we may be alert and of sober mind as our enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking to devour us.

1. The influence of the evil one in Bible Times

- a. Which would you say is one of, if not *the*, greatest threat of the devil and why:
 - i. Temptations
 - ii. Causing Physical Suffering & Affliction
 - iii. Demon Possession
 - iv. False Teaching
- b. Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23. We only have this one possible case of demon possession reported in the bible before Christ’s birth. We say possible because it is not clear. What are some evidences from the Scripture that this is either Demon Possession or Demon Obsession? Evidence against?

2. Demon Possession during Christ’s time on earth

- a. Read through the following passages and list out the different symptoms of demon possession recorded:
 - i. Mark 5:2-4
 - ii. Luke 9:39
 - iii. Luke 4:33-34
 - iv. Mark 5:9
 - v. Mark 16:9
- b. After reading these passages, what connections can we make between physical and spiritual pains like diseases, ailments, mental illness, etc. and demon-possession/obsession? What conclusions can we not make? (Matthew 4:24)

- c. See the list on the last page for more symptoms that pastors have recorded from their dealings with the demon-possessed.
- d. True or false: Demons can possess places as well as people (see Mark 5:12,13)
- e. What about Christians? Is it possible for a Christian to be possessed by an evil spirit?
 - i. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 - ii. John 10:28
 - iii. Romans 8:38-39
- f. Skim through Mark 5:1-20 (again). How does Jesus comfort you when it comes to the fight against demons? (see also Psalm 121, Psalm 23, Matthew 4:1-11,)

3. Does demon possession still happen today?

- a. Demon possession seems to have been rare before Christ's time. Then, when Christ was on earth, the devil and the demons tried everything to stop the plan of salvation. However, today, it remains a real but rare phenomenon that can happen.
 - i. Notes: A Lutheran pastor who works with the possessed in a large-metropolitan-area states that he has worked with some fifty cases over two decades. A Roman Catholic priest who assists with exorcisms in NYC states that they perform about one exorcism each year.
- b. Background of the demon-possessed often have similar circumstances:
 - i. Some have been involved with satanic activity (devil worship, witchcraft, divination, Ouija boards). They walked right into the devil's cage.
 - ii. Another common thread is unrepented sin that stands out in the person's life (I.e. Judas' greed, Saul's jealousy, etc.)
 - iii. A final factor is generational involvement in the occult. A parent or grandparent or other relative was heavily involved in worshipping the devil or practicing his evil arts.
- c. Why is it important for us to know what we looked at today?
- d. If you are ever confronted with demon possession, what would you do? What would be some wise things to consider?

List of symptoms of possible demon possession

1. Levitation
2. Possessed gravity (impossible to move)
3. Sudden change in personality, voice, or appearance.
4. Ability to speak in other languages
5. Superhuman strength
6. Supernatural knowledge
7. Extremely foul language or lifestyle
8. Violent behavior
9. Aversion to Christian symbols (or Christ's name)
10. Overwhelming stench
11. Freezing or extremely hot temperatures
12. Objects flying around the room
13. Slamming of doors
14. Scratching noises
15. Wallpaper peeling off the wall