

Faith Bible Institute

PO Box 100

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DEMONOLOGY

Introduction to Demonology

LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS:

*If attending classes, keep a notebook of the class lectures

*Read all books and booklets when assigned

- Write a 250-word paper on each of the following topics. You may research the topic using your Bible and/or other books that are available to you. Please use Scripture to back up your statements.
 - A. The Origin of Demons
 - B. Demon Possession
 - C. The Characteristics of Demons

Directions: This is your test. Please circle T for True or F for False.

F or T 1. Demons sometimes appear in the feminine form in the Bible.

F or T 2. Unsaved people can cast out demons according to Matthew 7:22-23.

F or T 3. It is possible that Legion had at least 2,000 demons within his body.

F or T 4. The spirits of devils can not work any miracles.

F or T 5. Angels or demons vary in power.

F or T 6. There is only one heaven.

F or T 7. The sons of God in Genesis 6 are angels.

F or T 8. Demons are the disembodied spirits of a pre-Adamic race.

F or T 9. Angels are deathless.

F or T 10. Demon possession is a condition in which one or more demons live in the body of a human being and have complete control over the victim's will.

F or T 11. A mark of demon possession is speaking with a loud voice.

F or T 12. Demons cause people to attempt suicide.

F or T 13. According to the Scriptures, a Christian can be demon possessed.

F or T 14. Exorcism appears many times in the Bible.

F or T 15. Exorcism and casting out devils is the same thing.

Please mail, fax, or e-mail this assignment with the False or True portion of the test in order to receive credit.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMONS

Demons and their characteristics present a very interesting subject for study. Instead of speculating about demons, let's look at what can be known; what the Scriptures do reveal.

- **Mark 5:1-20 is the definitive passage on demon possession and its effects in the Bible.**

Mark 5:1-20 And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, Who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any *man* tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For he said unto him, **Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.** And he asked him, **What is thy name?** And he answered, saying, My name *is* Legion: for we are many. And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. And they that fed the swine fled, and told *it* in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. And they that saw *it* told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and *also* concerning the swine. And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts. And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, **Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.** And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all *men* did marvel.

- **Some of the details about demons the Bible reveals in this passage are:**

1. Devils want to be near dead human bodies or tombs (vs. 2, 3, 5).
2. They can cause unusual strength (vs. 3-4).
3. They can make a person unreasonable or immune to sensible persuasion (vs. 4).
4. They cause excessive crying (vs. 5).
5. They cause sadistic and masochistic behavior (vs. 5).
6. They have an affinity for heights (vs. 5).
7. They recognize Christ as "the Son of God" and appeal to Him (vs. 6-7).

8. They know they deserve torment and dread it (vs. 6-7).
9. They have names (vs. 9).
10. More than one can possess the same body (vs. 9).
11. They desire to stay in the same geographical region or "country" (vs. 10).
12. They would rather indwell an animal body than none at all (vs. 12).
13. They can cause animals to kill themselves (vs. 13).
14. They desire to be in a body when it dies (vs. 13).
15. They have a desire for water (vs. 13).
 - **Mark 9:17-29 gives us even more details about devils:**
16. They can cause dumbness and deafness (vs. 17, 25).
17. They cause rabid animal like behavior (vs. 18).
18. They can indwell from childhood (vs. 21).
19. They cause suicidal behavior (vs. 22).
20. They resist leaving a body and violently "rent" it while leaving (vs. 26).
21. There are different kinds of devils. Some have more power than others (vs. 29).
22. Some can only be removed by prayer and fasting of believer (vs. 29).

Since demons belong to the same class of beings as angels and Satan, all these creatures have much in common.

I. THEIR PERSONAL NATURE

A. They Are Genuine Persons

Demons are not forces or concepts that merely exist in our minds. Demons exist; their reality does not depend on the existence and ability of human beings to conceive of them.

1. *Intelligence.* They possess intelligence, knowing who the Lord was while He was on earth (Mark 1:24) and knowing their own eventual doom (Matt. 8:29). They also know what the plan of salvation is even though they cannot accept it (James 2:19).
2. *Emotions.* They can exhibit emotion, especially when confronted with judgment (Luke 8:28; James 2:19).
3. *Wills.* They can give expression to their wills (Luke 8:32).
4. *Personality.* They are described by personal pronouns (vv. 27-30).

B. They Are Spirit Beings

In contrast to flesh and blood beings, demons are spirit beings (Eph. 6:12). Nevertheless, they are localized, since, as creatures, they are limited and not infinite as God is. Generally they are invisible to human beings, though on occasion their presence was apparent through various means (Acts 19:15; Rev. 9:1-12; 16:13).

II. THEIR INTELLECTUAL NATURE

Demons show great intelligence as would be expected from such a high order of beings. They knew who Jesus is (Mark 1:24). They realized their own eventual doom (Matt. 8:29). They know the plan of salvation (James 2:19). They develop and promote systems of doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1-3), an activity that will apparently increase as the end of the age approaches.

Intelligence can be enhanced by experience. Every demon, of course, has existed throughout all the span of human history. Though each one has not observed everything that has transpired throughout history, their longevity gives an added dimension to their native intelligence. They have observed human beings in almost every conceivable situation; therefore, they can accurately predict what individuals will do in most circumstances.

III. THEIR IMMORAL NATURE

A. In Their Beings

Demons are designated as "unclean spirits" (Matt. 10:1), as "evil spirits" (Luke 7:21), in one place, as "the spirit of an unclean demon" (Luke 4:33), and "spiritual forces of wickedness" (Eph. 6:12). All of these terms clearly indicate the immoral nature of demons.

B. In Their Goals

Immorality is whatever is inconsistent with good, but good must ultimately be defined in relation to the will of God. Therefore, the immoral activities of demons may include anything that opposes the will of God.

Here are some observations of one who was deeply involved in spiritism. "The spirits I encountered at seances were, for the most part, very moralistic. They encouraged us not to smoke or drink or do anything else that would harm our minds and bodies. Ministers were told to preach morality, good manners, and civic pride. I knew ministers who actually had spirit messages taken down by their secretaries and then used them from the pulpit! The spirits often talked about an ethical Jesus, but never about the Savior who died a sacrificial death for sin."

"In contrast to the high moral and ethical tone of the séances in our home, I attended some where the spirits were blasphemous and sensual" (Ernest 38).

The immoral goals of demons must include both the promotion of evil immorality and good immorality. This is completely in line with Satan's goals and his desire to counterfeit what is right.

IV. THEIR POWERFUL NATURE

A. Strength

At times demons can exhibit superhuman strength as they work through human beings. The demon-possessed maniac of the Gadara was able to break all shackles and chains (Mark 5:3). The sons of Sceva were overpowered by the demon-possessed man in Acts 19:16.

B. Intelligence

I have already mentioned their superior intelligence. But the question always arises, do demons know the future? Certainly they can understand the plan of God for the future as they find it in the Bible. Does Acts 16:16 indicate they can predict the future? Evidently not, for the word "fortune-telling," used only here in the New Testament, must be understood in a bad sense; that is, "pretending to foretell the future." Used in other places it invariably refers to the words of lying prophets or those who practiced evil arts that were forbidden by the Law.

C. Presence

Demons are not infinite; they are limited and they are creatures, albeit superhuman ones. Apparently they are not present everywhere; yet they are not so restricted as humans are by the normal barriers of space (Luke 8:30—a legion of demons dwelt in one man). The very fact that demons can enter human or animal bodies shows they can pass through barriers that would restrict human beings.

In conclusion, demons are not humans; neither are they God. But they are superhuman with superior intelligence and experience and powers. To deny the existence of demons is not skepticism; it only displays ignorance of the Word of God.

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