

Demons

(from Demons: The Answer Book)
(by Lester Summeral)

Who Is the Devil and What Are Demons?

For still our ancient Foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Martin Luther
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Scriptures, the source of information

Satan is directly mentioned more than two hundred times in the Bible.
He enters the realm of human activity in Gen 3.
He is the oppressor of the good in Job 1.
In Mat 4 he audaciously tempts Jesus.
His final incarceration and eternal confinement are described in Rev 20.
His fall and works are described in Ez. 28:12-19.
Created an archangel, he was of the highest order in creation.
Is 14:12-14 describes his fall and Rev 12:7-10,12 adds more of a description.

Satan's Power

Ez 28:14. describes him as the anointed cherub that covers. The Cherubim were in the most holy place of worship in OT days. Two formed part of the mercy seat or covering of the ark of the covenant. The anointed cherub had to do with the very holiness of God.

Satan Was Beautiful

v. 12 .. covered with gold and the most precious gem .. he was perfect in beauty

Melody and Music

v.13, Ez 28 .. refers to him as having to do with creating music and musical instruments .. originally for the praise and worship of God.

Still a dignitary

Even in a fallen state .. Satan is still one of the most keen and intelligent personalities created by God .. Jude 9

Lucifer, the Devil, Is a real person

The devil is an actual personal entity .. a person. Personal names and titles are given to him - Rev 20:2.
Personal acts and attributes are ascribed to him - Is 14:12-15.
Jesus dealt with him as a person - Mat 4:1-11; and waged war against him as a person - Lk 13:16.
Paul describes the believers battles with him as with a real person - Eph 6:10-18.
He is ever spoken of as possessing personal characteristics- heart, pride, speech, knowledge, power, desire, lusts, etc.

What are Demons?

The scripture speaks of angels as being aligned with devils. In Mat 25:31-46, Jesus speaks of everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels - v.41.

A more explicit description is found in Rev 12.

These angels are the demons or evil unclean spirits of which the Bible speaks. The name comes from the Latin word *daemon*, meaning *evil spirit*, and from the Greek word *daimon*, a *divinity*.

Demons are Ageless

Large numbers roam the earth and air. Since they do not die, they have been in the world since the beginning of time.

Demons are personalities

They are personalities without bodies, and are highly organized. Being fallen, they desire to dwell in a body in order to manifest themselves. Their desire and motivation is to destroy what God lives in and to thwart his purpose. They can not just possess anyone. There must be an open door in a person's life.

Paul warns of demon power

Demons are highly organized and from "high places" they have their abode and base of operation - Eph 6.

Jesus Casts Out Demons

Jesus took the existence and work of demons for granted. He constantly dealt with them and cast them out of people - Mt 15:22,28; and he gave the disciples authority over them to set people free - Mt 10:1, Lk 9:1, Mrk 16:17.

Demons Name Themselves

(Mrk 5:9)

They are also liars and vary in power and wickedness .. they also have an understanding of who they are dealing with.

James 2:19 tells us they believe in God and tremble (ie; they know that God is real and who he is).

They also possess the power of will - Mt 12:44; opposing saints and have doctrines - Ro 8:38, I Tim 4:1.

The chief thing to remember is they are under the sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Habitation of devils

Satan and the demons that serve him, inhabit and seek to dominate the nations of the world. That is what is meant by Satan being called "the God of this world".

Rev 18:2 - refers to ancient Babylon having become "the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit." Isaiah (ch 14) describes the devil as the one who "has weakened the nations", (v 12). In (v 16), Lucifer "made the earth to tremble and did shake kingdoms".

The Devil Has Not Changed

The devil was very real to Martin Luther, and a letter the reformer wrote in 1524 contains the telling line: "I am having a terrible time with the Satan of Alstedt [a Saxon town]."

Certain cities today are the devil's dwelling place. A missionary once told that when he delivered an Indian woman possessed of a demon, the evil spirit told him, "I am from Cali in Calcutta."

When asked how the spirit entered her, it answered, "She worshiped in our temple in Calcutta."

Evil spirits seem to be drawn to the cities.

Man and Animal Life - The Devil's Habitations

Beasts may also be possessed of demons. In (Mat 8:28-32), Jesus sent the legion of spirits into a local herd of swine. Immediately they became insane and filled with a suicidal spirit abnormal to animals.

Parts of the human body can be habitations of devils. Several times our Lord cast out spirits of deafness and dumbness from people. The spirit of infirmity will even move from one part of the body to another - seeking to avoid giving up its place in a person's body. An evil spirit takes over a certain part of the body and does not relinquish it until someone rebukes it with divine authority.

Many try to explain away demon possession to day. They attribute disorders and illnesses to mental illness or simply physical causes.

Demon Worship

W.B.Smith - "It is most significant that all specific demon activity referred to after the ascension of our Lord is to be found in relation to the end of this age." He concludes we are right in believing that demon activity will be prevalent, powerful, and violent. In the closing days of the age, demons set the stage for the Antichrist, and the chief 'props' in this grand deception are religion and demon worship. Jesus told his disciples that false christs and false prophets would arise, showing 'signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect' (Mrk 13:22)

Rejection of truth destroys one's sense of truth and lays a person open to "deceivableness of unrighteousness" (II Thes 2:10).

An empty and confuse soul becomes a sign to the devil, "House to let", and he takes up the vacancy (Lk 11:24-26). "As the soul of man becomes increasingly depleted spiritually and the idea of God grows dimmer and dimmer in the souls of men, man's soul becomes, as it were, an undefended fortress into which these evil powers have easy access." - W.B. Smith

Inexplicable Cases of Demon Possession

Consider a person injured in an automobile collision. Although the injury was physical, a few months later this person becomes irritable and unbearably antisocial. The devil often moves in through physical weakness.

Going to the Devil Step by Step

Yield not to temptation for yielding is sin,
Each vict'ry will help you some other win;
Fight manfully onward, dark passion subdue,
Look ever to Jesus - He'll carry you through.

H.R. Palmer - "Yield Not To Temptation"

The devil seldom takes a life all at once. He does it a little at a time. They often follow a pattern.

A. Regression

To regress is to go backward in spiritual force and power. Men and women are built for progress, advancement, and understanding. When this goes into reverse it is the first warning that negative powers are evident.

B. Repression

To repress is to deny expression.

C. Suppression

To suppress means to abnormally squeeze down, to crush, to conceal, as to suppress information. It represents another step toward deterioration of emotions and the destruction of complete personal happiness.

D. Depression

Depression is a broken spirit. A person is pressed down until his spirit is crushed.

Depression is dangerous because it often brings about an abnormal state of inactivity. There is an inner sadness. Problems seem too desperate and complex to be solved. A point is reached where a person stops even trying any longer. Hope is lost. This is a big step toward satanic control of the personality.

E. Oppression

To oppress is to weigh down with something that isn't able to be carried.

Jesus came to the earth to heal all were oppressed of the devil (Acts 10:38).

The devil uses many means to try to crush your spirit. Through people, disasters, woes, and sometimes by a display of demonic power that makes you feel helpless. He may weigh you down with an overwhelming sense of responsibility for all the actions in your family and community. There is also the condemning feeling that all your trouble is a punishment from God because of some great sin.

D. Obsession

Jesus was obsessed with His own destiny of saving the world. but there is also a negative obsession that destroys human personality.

By definition, it is an act of an evil spirit in besetting a person or impelling him to unreasonable action. It is also a persistent and inescapable preoccupation with an idea or emotion. This preoccupation usually has no relationship with reality.

Jealousy can prey on the mind, distorting reality, fueling suspicion and distrust.

Hatred can dominate a persons thinking so that they can not even think straight.

Sins can become an obsession with us.

An obsessed person eventually loses their will power. They have no strength to resist and becomes a slave. Will power is one of the great gifts God has given us.

F. Possession

A demon possessed person is under the absolute control of the devil. They virtually have no mind of their own. Satan is the master of all their thinking and doing.

Demon possession can be recognized in several ways. One is through the devils use of the person's voice. Sometimes it is manifest by forms of insanity, temporary and complete. Doctors working in mental institutions know that a persons mind may be clear at one time and at another time the person becomes like an animal. It can also be observed in the eyes. Spiritual discernment is the surest because there is a tremendous clash of spirits.

Satans power is also "contagious". Those under his power often want to bring others under it too. Like the drug addict or the pervert that aggressively prey on the unwary.

Possession often results from associating with others that are demon possessed.