

Matthew 8d

Commanding Enemy Forces

Matthew 8:28

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. ²⁹ 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?”

³⁰ Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.”

³² And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

³³ Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴ And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.

This is a difficult topic, but

Let's talk about the reality of Demons and Possession

**Remember that Jesus is ministering in Galilee,
a Spiritually Potent area**

- Mt Hermon - The Curse
- Bashan Range - Serpent
- Huleh Valley - Valley of the Shadow of Death
- Dolmen Fields - A place of communing with the dead
- The Serpent Mound - Just above galilee
- Caesarea Philippi - The Gates of Hell (Bottomless pit)



Jesus goes here to

To display His power over this realm

DEMONISM OVER TIME...

In Ancient Times...

Deuteronomy 32:15b

Then he forsook God who made him,
And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.
¹⁶ They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods;
With abominations they provoked Him to anger.
¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, not to God,

Into the End Times...

Revelation 9:20

But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

In the Time of Christ

Demons were thought to be the Spirits of Giants
cursed to roam the earth, disembodied.

Enoch is at least a good representative of the idea in Jesus' time.

ENOCH 15

Now the giants, who have been born of spirit and of flesh, shall be called upon earth evil spirits, and on earth shall be their habitation. Evil spirits shall proceed from their flesh, because they were created from above; from the holy Watchers was their beginning and primary foundation. Evil spirits shall they be upon earth, and the spirits of the wicked shall they be called. The habitation of the spirits of heaven shall be in heaven; but upon earth shall be the habitation of terrestrial spirits, who are born on earth.¹

I found EVIDENCE of this in the OLD TESTAMENT

The OLD TESTAMENT word for Demon is REPHAIM

Rephaim - רפאים - Giants (h7497)²

Deuteronomy 3:13

... (All the region of Argob, with all Bashan, was called the land of the giants.)

¹ <https://book-ofenoch.com/chapter-15/>

² <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h7497/nkjv/wlc/0-1/>

Rephaim - רפאים - Spirits of the Dead (H-7496)³

Strong's: The ghosts of the dead, shades, spirits

Psalm 88:10

Will You work wonders for the dead?

Shall the (*Rephaim*) arise and praise You? Selah

How do people become possessed?

It seems people give permission,
to take up residence in their lives.

- PASSIVELY - Through a lack of resistance
- ACTIVELY - Through opening oneself to possession

Why would people "Open themselves" to possession?

Demons can offer incredible strength in a person.

- Demon Possessed GIRL (Tony)
- The DEMONIAK himself...

Mark 5:4

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.

But the offer is DECEPTIVE.

Their true desire is to control and torment!

Mark 5:5

And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

Notice:

"Have You come here to torment us before the time?" (v. 29)

Luke 8:31

... they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

They know their destiny!!

They know His power!



³ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h7496/nkjv/wlc/0-1/>

Here's something weird:
Jesus asks THE MAN his name.

That's not how you do exorcisms! You ask the demon its name.

But look who answers!

Mark 5:8

He answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

This is a complete loss of identity!

Think of the term here! LEGION

This is a MILITARY term. Like troop... battalion

That's because there is a battle!

- I have seen the other side
- We came under attack, the moment we got into ministry⁴

How does Jesus fight this battle?

Matthew 8:32

And He said to them, "Go."

All it takes is a simple command, and the man is restored!

Mark 5:15

Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

Think!

What general commands the forces of his enemy?

WHAT GENERAL COMMANDS
THE FORCES OF HIS ENEMY?

Mark 1:21

For with authority He commands EVEN the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.

**There is nothing in heaven or on earth,
outside of his command**

But the strangest part of the story is:

"(The people) begged him to depart..." (v. 34)

Why??

Because of the pork industry??

Maybe.

But that may not explain why EVERYONE wanted him to leave.

Let's dig a little deeper.

- **Why do people today make deals with the devil?**
- **Why is the music industry so demonic?**
- **Why are politicians and movie makers and influencers so demonic?**

They seek for power.

They seek for fame.

They seek for wealth.

Why is Galilee covered with the evidence of demonic ritual?

***Could it be that Jesus threatened
more than just their pork industry?***

I believe that this town had taken the bait!

**But they are unable to see that demonic interest leads,
not to power, but to insanity and demonic oppression.**

But did you notice??

Jesus Commanded the demons to leave...

But he let the people choose their destiny

We have a choice!

Joshua 24:15

choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve,

***Don't we make little bargains every day
with the darkness?***

Consider...

James 3:15

(Speaking of divisions in the church) This wisdom does not descend from above,
but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

How much more... the temptation to sin

THINK!

How do Demons factor into Satan's big plan?

His plan is... Entrapment!

- We already have a weakness or sin...
- Demons tempt us into all kinds of evil
- The Accuser accuses us before God

All they want to do is steel kill and destroy

***How long will it be before we have to pay the bill
for our little deals with the darkness?***

Joshua 24:15

As for me and my house, we will serve YAHWEH.