

Questions for Lesson 16: Demonology

1. Why is it so important that man's "free moral agency" not be interfered with?

Answer: God's purpose in creating man would be destroyed. Man must be free to choose and to bear the consequences of his or her choices. Otherwise we become mechanical puppets with no semblance of being in God's image.

2. Why did God allow demons to exist?

Answer: First of all, to demonstrate Christ's total power over all forces--physical, nonphysical, and metaphysical. Secondly, it was to provide man with a choice so that the miracles of Christ would not overwhelm the people of that time and destroy their free moral agency. This is why demons are not found in the Old Testament or in today's world.

3. Is it the intent of this program to say that people cannot be controlled by Satan?

Answer: No! We are only saying that turning oneself over to Satan is voluntary, reversible, and not the kind of phenomena that we read about in the biblical cases of demon possession and exorcism.

4. What contrasts exist between the method used in exorcisms in the Bible, and those done today.

- Answer:**
- a) Time -instantly in the Bible--hours to weeks today.
 - b) Method -command vs. ritual today.
 - c) Power -totally upon authority of Christ in the Bible--human credentials emphasized today.

5. What characteristics did demon-possessed people in the Bible have that are seen and understood as natural today?

- Answer:**
- a) Convulsions as seen in epilepsy.
 - b) Blindness which can be physically or psychologically caused.
 - c) Deafness which can be physically or psychologically caused.

6. What similarities are there between demonology and exorcism, and the whole question of miracles?

Answer: Both phenomena were designed to fulfill a purpose no longer valid today.

7. Was Job demon-possessed?

Answer: No! Satan afflicted Job, but Satan was never able to control what Job did. Job could have cursed God and died as his wife encouraged him to do.

8. What promises are we given which are incompatible with demon possession?

- Answer:**
- a) Resist the devil and he will flee. (James 4:7).
 - b) God will provide a way of escape. (1 Corinthians 10:13).
 - c) Satan is chained. (Revelation 20:1, 2).
 - d) Jesus was tempted in every way as are we. (Hebrews 4:15).

9. Why do people claim to be demon possessed?

Answer: In some cases, they are sincerely overwhelmed with life and its problems. In some cases, they do not want to be responsible for what they have done. In some cases, they are emotionally stampeded by others into believing that they are in need of special help.

10. Where did demons come from?

Answer: Most Bible scholars believe they are angels cast out of heaven with Satan when he rebelled against God. (Revelation 12:1-5, Jude 6, 2 Peter 2:4, Isaiah 14:12-15)