

THE DEVIL – THE UNHOLY GOD – Part 3

II Corinthians 4:4

“The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

In our previous two studies we covered the following: **The Devil's Origin, The Devil's Original State, The Devil's Downfall, The Devil's Nature and The Devil's Names.** We continue with:

THE DEVIL'S DOMAIN.

Where is the Devil? An often repeated phrase that we hear is this: "The devil made me do it." If the Devil personally makes people do certain things, he must be in close proximity to them. But is he?

Where does the Devil live? Is the Devil everywhere? Is the Devil personally present with everyone? Let us answer these and other questions from the Bible. We see from scripture that the devil moves about quite freely within the restrictions that God has placed upon him.

1. He Moves About Freely.

In Job 1:6, 7 we read, *“Now there was a day when the sons of God (some translations: “angels of God”) came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”*

“Satan” means “adversary.” “Devil” means “accuser.” This is one and the same person who came into the presence of God with the angelic messengers of God, as Job's adversary and accuser. It is interesting to notice that God singled out Job as the subject of conversation. We read in Job 1:

“Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?” So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.” (Job 1:8-12)

2. He Occupies The Realm of Spirit Beings.

In Ephesians 2:2 the Devil is said to be *“the prince of the power of the air.”* The NIV reads, “the ruler of the kingdom of the air.” That is, of the demons who dwell in the atmosphere. The Scriptures abundantly teach that there are fallen, wicked spirits; they dwell somewhere in the universe. That there is an invisible spirit world is clear from the Bible's teachings. The devil is the ruler of the unseen kingdom of evil spirits.

3. His Presence in Universe is Focused Upon The Earth, the Abode of Mankind.

II Corinthians 4:4 says that he is *"the god of this world."* The reference here is not to the material world for "The earth is the LORD's" (Psalm 24:1) but the world of mankind. The world of unsaved mankind at large is under his control and direction; they follow his plans; they obey his will; further his purposes and are his obedient subjects. He has dominion over this world's system. Therefore, the Devil, if not personally, he is, through his hosts of demons, present all over the world. His influence is world-wide.

I John 4:4 states *"greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."* He and his evil spirit beings are focused upon the place where humans, God's crown of creation, are located.

4. He is Personally Present in Only One Place at a Time Since He Does Not Possess The Divine Attribute of Omnipresence.

In Revelation 2:13 Jesus, speaking to the church in Pergamos, said: *"I know your works, and where you dwell even where Satan's seat is."* (NKJV) *"I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is"* (NASB)

Bibles scholars generally agree that the Devil moves his base of operations from time to time. Wherever the greatest satanic activity is taking place is possibly where he has his throne at the time. Matthew Henry wrote: "His *circuit* is throughout the world, his *seat* is in some places that are infamous for wickedness, error, and cruelty."

THE DEVIL'S DEMONS.

Since the devil is not everywhere at the same time -- that is he is not omnipresent, he has many helpers doing his devilish work. They are called "demons."

There are skeptics who say that this idea of the existence of demons is but folklore, myth and superstition. However, that there is a world of demonic spirit beings all around us is obvious from the Bible's teachings.

1. There are demons.

Matthew 12:22-24 – *"Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, **the ruler of the demons.**"*

These spirit creatures hate God and all of God's saved ones. They are committed to harassing, opposing and hindering God's people and God's work

2. There are many of them.

In Mark 5 Jesus cast demons out of a demon possessed man in Gadara. Here is the account:

Jesus *"said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many." Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the*

*swine, that we may enter them.” And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (**there were about two thousand**); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.” (Mark 5:8-13)*

In Mark 5:9 the demons said, *“my name is Legion: for we are many.”* A Roman army legion varied over time but they were typically composed of approximately 6,000 soldiers.

When the devil fell from heaven he led a host of fallen angels with him. Jude verse six reads, *“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness on to the judgment of the great day.”*

3. Demons are dangerous.

The description of demons in scripture should put all believers on guard against demons. They are called:

- *“unclean spirits”* – in Matt. 10:1 we read that Jesus gave the disciples power *“gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out.....”* The moral filth we see increasingly around us is encouraged by demons. The blatant display of nudity, pornography, illicit sex, vile language, heinous crimes, etc. is evidence of demon activity.
- *“evil spirits”* - Luke 7:21 says that Jesus *“cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits....”* Anywhere in the world that there is an outbreak of evil you can be sure that it was aided and abetted by “evil spirits.”
- *“wicked spirits”* – Matt. 12:45. Why so much wickedness in the world? There are “wicked spirits” instigating and encouraging wickedness.

The character of demons should alert both saved and unsaved to the activities of demons. Yet, there are those who are aggressively involved in demon worship. The word “occult” is often used to refer to those who are involved with the devil and demons. “Occult” is from the Latin word “occulere” and means “to conceal.” The English word “occult” means “That which is secret, hidden; relating to supernatural, mystical, or magical powers.”

Deut. 29:29 reminds us that *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God.”* However, in my lifetime I have seen a drastic increase in interest and involvement in the occult, that is, those who intrude into the forbidden area of the spirit world. A rise in occultism is one of the signs of the end times.

Black magic, witches, witchcraft, sorcery, astrologists, wizardry, mediums, etc. have become very popular among young people. Practitioners of “black magic” attempt to constrain and command demons to do their bidding. They seek to deploy them to obtain their goals. Some followers of the occult worship demons, and some refer to their religion as “demonolatry” and refer to themselves as “demonolators.”

Listen to God’s view of such participation in demon activities recorded in Deuteronomy 18:9-13 - *“When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who*

conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you."

I saw in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin newspaper an article about a man named Gib Thomas, who is a tattooist. He has had a tattoo parlor for over 50 years. In an interview he said, "Sanctity is out, Satanism is in. The trend now is toward the hideous. The most popular design of all, the one that everyone who comes in here wants, is the devil. I put 1,000 devils on them for every head of Christ. Everyone wants to rebel."

Let us not forget that the devil is the original rebel and led a great host of angels to rebel along with him. He has not ceased his rebellious activities to this very moment and uses his demons to encourage rebellion against God and God's people.

4. The demons are organized.

The devil's opposition forces are well organized and busy assist in him and his battle against God and God's people. Matthew 12:24 says that the devil is the ruler of demons calling him "*Beelzebub the prince of devils.*" The demons have as their ruler or prince, the devil.

There are different ranks of authority in the devil's legions mentioned in Ephesians 6:12 - "*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers of the darkness** of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*"

The devil has a kingdom and it is well organized:

- "principalities" are the highest ranking officers under Satan;
- "powers" are leaders with a somewhat lower ranking;
- "rulers of the darkness of this world" are a special band of evil spirits who spread malicious wickedness all over the world.
- "spiritual hosts of wickedness" comprise the vast army of the Devil's demons.

5. What about demon possession?

Demons are disembodied spirits. Some of them desire to inhabit a body. Consequently, when they find an open and willing person, they move into that person's body.

A. What is demon possession?

Demon possession occurs when an actual demon, enters and occupies the body of an unbeliever. Demon possessed persons are usually grossly immoral, speak blasphemously, filled with hatred, extremely vile and in some cases exhibit supernatural strength. They obviously have been mastered by a supernatural force.

B. Demons and the unsaved.

Demons can control the body or the mind or both of the unsaved. Demons can inflict physical illness as is seen in Matthew 8:16 -- "*When the evening was calm, they brought to him many*

of that were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick."

Also, Matthew 12:22 -- *"Then was brought to him one possessed with a demon, blind, and dumb; and he healed him....."*

However, we must be careful not to attribute all illness and sickness to demon influence. We are sick because of sin. Infirmary, illness and death are part of the original curse when Adam and Eve sinned. Romans 5:12 states: *"As through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."*

Some mental derangement is the result of demon possession. The man in Gadara is proof: *"Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him not even with chains, because 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. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones."* (Mark 5:1-5)

The unsaved have no defense against the Devil or demons.

C. Demons and the saved.

Believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and our bodies are His temple.

- I Cor. 3:16-17 *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."*
- I Cor. 6:19-20 *"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."*
- I John 4:4 *"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

Ephesians 4:30 should settle the question for we read: *"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption."*

Believers in Jesus Christ can be oppressed and influenced by the Devil but not indwelt by him or by demons.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Eph. 6:10-11)

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