

**Winter Texan Bible Study 2019 ~ Pastor Bill Waddell**  
**Prophecies of Daniel, Lesson 5 ~ February 5, 2019**

Daniel 10 - This is the final of four visions that Daniel receives and this one lasts through to the end of his book. First question: Why is this in here? Where is the moral instruction in this? Where is the encouragement? Where's the pep talk? The Bible has a lot of that, but it isn't all that it has.

This war is spoken of more frequently, and maybe more clearly in the New Testament in places such as Ephesians 6:10-12 ~ *"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."* If you are unaware of this, you are missing a lot of what's going on!

1. We are going to embark on a study of demonology not to glorify but to de-glorify them and what they do.

Two extremes to always avoid:

- "There are no such things as demons or evil spirits, it was an ancient classification of mental illness or other physiological, psychological or chemical problems." Paul seems to think they are very real (previous verse). Jesus held multiple conversations and multiple confrontations with the devil and demons indicating they are real, intelligent, sentient beings.
- The other extreme is to see demons as responsible for every last mishap and bad thing in the world. To think that every time you're sick, it's Satan or that anything bad or that every bad person is somehow possessed. Our world is fallen and bad stuff happens there; one cause can be demonic but it's one of a multitude of causes. People can be quite evil all by themselves. How do we hold the middle ground? The Bible! Let's make sure we don't come short of it and we don't go beyond it and what it says.

2. First major point: There is a spiritual conflict that has been going on since the beginning. Forces of good have been in conflict with the forces of evil, namely Revelation 12:9 ~ *"And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."*

Satan has been allowed to have and retain dominion on the earth for a time. If God wanted to stop him, He easily could; but Satan is here doing what our choices have allowed him to do. We sin and chose the dominance of a dark lord over the Lord of all. Acts 26:18 ~ *"To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."*

I John 5:19 ~ *"Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.'"*

There are only two sides and neither are neutral: either the kingdom of God or the kingdom of Satan, child of God or the child of Satan, possession of God or a possession of Satan.

Hebrews 2:14-15 ~ *"Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself also likewise partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who, through fear of death, were subject to slavery all their lives."*

Ephesians 2:1-3 ~ *"And you were dead in your trespasses and sin in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."*

I John 5:19 ~ *"We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."*

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3. The Conflict has escalated beyond the angels. There has been a heavenly invasion: I John 3:8 ~ *“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.”* Jesus came to set sinners free! It is a deliverance every time; “we have a deliverance ministry” - so does everybody who preaches the Gospel of Salvation through the finished work of Christ. Colossians 1:13 ~ *“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”* Jesus came to save sinners and sinners are slaves of Satan and in bondage to him. So if Jesus is to forgive them, convert them, rescue them, save them. Now that Jesus has created the breach and provided the way out for deliverance the power of deliverance is the message of His deliverance, namely, the Gospel.

Romans 1:16 ~ *“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”* (not our little incantations, castings and bindings)

Matthew 12:43-45 ~ *“Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places, seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. Then it goes, and takes along with it, seven more spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of the man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”*

Luke 11:20-22 ~ *“But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own homestead, his possessions are undisturbed; but when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes from him all his armor which he had relied, and distributes his plunder.”*

4. Take a look at an incident of Jesus plundering what Satan had possessed. Turn to Luke 4:31-36. Several things to take careful notice of here:
- This is the first miracle listed in Luke; why? It follows a train of thought from the previous incident in Luke 4:18-19; but before that in Luke 4 Jesus had been in the wilderness battling temptation by the devil himself and conquering him by the word of God. It's the first miracle listed because it is the major theme of Jesus' ministry, to destroy the power of the evil one I Jn. 3:8; to deliver us from his power.
  - Where does He find this demon-possessed man? In the Synagogue! He's probably a member of the community; probably well known; a functioning member of society. Why would they let him in there otherwise?

This assaults our typical view of demon possession. We think they are the crazy people out there. There are some things that point us that way in the Bible such as the demon possessed man in the tombs or the boy who had demon that threw him into the water or the fire at times. Demons don't always cause lunatic behavior, they can also make a person very religious. Jesus called the Pharisees sons of the Devil; He illustrated them by saying that they would be like one from whom a demon left only to return with 7 more demons more wicked than the first. They can make the person they control appear very prosperous; the Pharisees were educated and wealthy; Demons were behind the rulers of Persia and Greece and yet these are praised as some of the greatest minds that have ever been.

We think that the possessed are the markedly wicked people out there. They can be but don't have to be; this man was a member of the local religious organization; on two occasions the possessed were children. Nowhere does the Scripture comment upon the moral nature of the one possessed, not even the man with a legion of demons.

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5. Definition of Demon possession:

Everyone who is not a believer is under demonic dominating power - I John. 5:19. Possession is a very specific and relatively rare form of dominance in which the unbeliever is controlled and cannot stop it. The demon controls what they do where they go, what they say, they are trapped in their own bodies and someone else is running their hardware.

- Possession is a fluid thing. Demons come and go at will (Saul the king: “an evil spirit came upon him and he...”).
- A demon’s goal is to keep people out of the kingdom of God, to keep that which they possess. This may be through overt control as in what we classically understand as demon possession, or it may be just through deception: II Cor. 4:3-4. Teachings, deceptions, blindness is the primary ploy and not overt control. How many deceived people have you met as compared to the number of people who manifested demonic character. Satan and demons would much rather operate through people who have influence over large numbers of people (heads of state, government officials, teachers).

Look at the creators of false religion throughout the world; these guys almost without exception claimed to have received their revelations from angels...every time these angels are talking just like Satan did in the early part of Genesis. In Genesis 3:4-5 Satan does two things here: one, he says what God has said isn’t true; two, he calls into question God’s character. We should expect the majority of demon possession to be literate, articulate, convincing, religious, with seemingly sound and well thought out arguments.

Romans 15:4 ~ *“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”*

Ephesians 2:1-3 ~ *“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world; according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”*

I John 3:8 ~ *“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.”*

I John 6:19 ~ *“We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”*

II Cor. 4:3-4 ~ *“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.”*

Gen. 3:4-5 ~ *“The serpent said to the woman, ‘you surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”*