

Winter Texan Bible Study 2019 ~ Pastor Bill Waddell
Prophecies of Daniel, Lesson 6 ~ February 12, 2019

Can demon possession happen to Christians/believers? Short answer - no. 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.” Col 1:13 ~ “For he rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin.” To come to Christ is to leave the dominion of Satan and come to dominion of God. II Cor. 6:15-16 ~ “Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever. Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.’”

There are many definitions for what it means to be a Christian; maybe the simplest is “a person in whom God lives permanently.” Matt. 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 other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.” Christians can be demonically influenced: all Christians are demonically influenced - they are lying to us all the time, trying to influence our thoughts, tempting us at our weakest points. Satan and his demons have nothing on us: I Jn. 4:4 ~ “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” Lk. 4:31-36. Where does Jesus dwell today? In us.

Dan. 10 - We were introduced last time to this angelic conflict that is illustrated for us in Dan. 10. We saw that this conflict has been going on from the beginning and that we are subjects of it. We saw that the entire world and every person in it under the dominion of Satan are enslaved to him and, as such, are his possessions. We learned from the Bible that there is a wicked force of evil spirits called demons headed up by the devil - we struggle with them. Eph. 6:12 ~ “For our 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 heavenly places.” We saw that an escalation in this conflict has taken place, the invasion of God Himself through the Person of His One and only Son, Jesus. Jesus has invaded to deliver, rescue, save, redeem, and rob the devil and his demons of their possessions. Lk. 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 house, his possessions are undisturbed. But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him and all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder.”

We saw that demon possession is a relatively rare form of demonic influence in which a demon enters a person and controls them from the inside. We also saw that the majority of demon possession quite likely manifests as literate, articulate, religious, educated, influential, charismatic - not lunatic behavior. II Cor. 11:14-15 ~ “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as an angel of light.” Their main ploy is to disguise themselves, not reveal who they are. They don’t want to manifest and speak in weird voices and resort to lunatic behavior.

We are going to see something that is rare for demons and demon possession in general. Open your Bible to Lk. 4:31-36. What isn’t rare or unlikely for demons and those they possess is to find them in a religious setting. Demons are not atheists, they are fundamentalists! James 2:19 ~ “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble.” Demons don’t have faith in God - they don’t need it!

Why do demons tremble? Jesus the Son of God comes to the synagogue and this demon reveals himself - I believe, unwillingly. Demons tremble; they are in constant terror because they know the plan and power of God.

Prophecies of Daniel, Lesson 6, continued:

Four things made this demon tremble:

1. Preaching of the Son of God: V. 31 - We don't truly know what Jesus said at the beginning of His sermon but it probably was similar to how He started His sermon in His home town the week before: VV. 18-19. From the perspective of a demon, these are terms of war. From the perspective of the demon, this is how the strong man enters the house of enemy and binds him and raids his belongings. The demon surrenders with a scream: VV. 33-34. He panics because he's exposed: "Let me alone!" There are actually just two letters in the Greek that translate to something similar to "Ouch!" Something to take home: the preaching of the truth of Jesus pins the demons to the floor. "What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth?" The force of this is "What have I done to you - why are you attacking me?" Lk. 8:28 ~ "*When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!'*" The demons here make almost the same exact statement. "Why are you attacking us?" It tells us that this man with these demons comes running up to Jesus? Why not hide? Why not run? Demons aren't as dumb as people! Where could they run or hide?
2. The Purpose of the Son of God: V. 34 ~ "Have you come to destroy us" similar to "I beg You, do not torment me." Jn. 3:8 ~ "*The wind blows where it wishes, but does not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.*" Jesus came with this purpose. The demon doesn't quite know the chronology of it all but he knows how it ends. They live in complete fear of this. He was begging him not to send them away to the abyss. Why? That's what He's going to do to them. Luke 8:28 ~ "*And seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, 'What do I have to do with You, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me.'*" Luke 4:41 ~ "*And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, 'You are the Christ, the Son of God!'*" It's almost like they have to say it! They hate Him, they oppose Him, they are out to *destroy* the sinners He loves, yet when before Him they reverence Him.

The Power of the Son of God: Jesus in both cases commands the demons to come out; that was not a part of their plan when they got up that day. That was not what they wanted to do. There is no binding, no dialogue, no manipulation, no formula, just immediate dominance and the demon could not resist Him. Do you know what happened to this guy? Mk. 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.*" Jesus and His disciples crossed that sea and only helped this one person and then they left! He didn't do anything else there, He went only to deliver this one man. If Jesus crossed that sea just to deliver that one man, we can know that He cares for us in the same way.