

Living Without God In a World Full of Devils

Harmony M.B.C., December 13, 2008

Robert P. Myers

Ephsians 2:11-12 Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Mark 5:8-9 For he said unto him, **Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.** 9 And he asked him, **What is thy name?** And he answered, saying, My name *is* Legion: for we are many.

Mark 6:13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed *them*.

We live in a world inhabited with devils or demons. We find references of their presence from early in man's history. We are not absolutely certain as to when demons began to work among men, but we suspect that it was from the beginning of man's existence. We know from Genesis 3 that Satan himself, commander of devils upon the earth, was already here working mischief as soon as Adam and Eve were created. We have evidence that he had his servants working evil among people early in history, and both secular history and archaeology, and biblical statements point this out. We'll look briefly at this as we go. We sometimes have difficulty understanding the chronological order of when Satan and his crew got access to the earth, because we can't quite tell from scripture how they interacted with people, on what terms, and when those terms changed. Most bible scholars agree that Rev. 12 is an account of Satan being cast out of heaven with his angels, and that occurred after Christ rose from the grave (Jesus says in John 12:31 **Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.**).

We read in Rev. 12 in vv. 7-9, "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." When we read this, and we put this account together with the records about Satan in Genesis and Job, we are led to think that before this event mentioned in Revelation, Satan had access to heaven to approach God about his business on earth. But after this incident, he no longer has access to heaven, yet he does have a kind of reign on earth.

- As we can note when he tempts Jesus in the wilderness: Luke 4:5-6 And the devil, taking him up into a high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.
- As Paul notes in Eph. 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
- Jesus' words above in Jn. 12:31, then again in John 14:30 **Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.**

- And again in John 16:11 (when telling us how the Holy Spirit was going to reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment) **Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.**

So, while it may sound like Satan came down to earth after Jesus rose, this is most likely only a change in how he was allowed to do business. Our bible history proves that he has been here doing his business since Adam. And it is pretty certain his demons were at work likewise.

I want, in this message to make us all aware of the existence and activities of devils on earth; not so we can wander off into the mystical, or sorcery, or any other pursuit of men in which they render some sort of respect or worship to devils, but I want us to become aware of their presence so that we can appreciate more the protection provided to us by the Lord, and so that we can appreciate the grave threat to spiritual things presented by their presence and activity on earth.

The protection I'm talking about is for the people of God. They have the Holy Spirit to guide and guard them, and "greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world." We have God as our great protector and He reigns supreme although it often appears that the kingdom of Satan on earth wields a power outside of the influence of God. This, however is not so.

But, though Satan is constrained by the power of God, and therefore, so are his legions, there is a sobering thing that we all ought to be thinking about right now. That is that there are millions of people who are living without God in a world full of devils. So, as we think about this, let's thank God that we are protected, but see some facts about devils and be aware that their influence, even upon the people of God, is ever present in the world.

A. Man Has a History of Worshipping Devils

- God clarified how the Jews were to worship, and in that clarification He forbade their historical worship of devils: Lev 17:7 And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute forever unto them throughout their generations.
- Speaking of Israel: Deu 32:17 "They sacrificed unto devils, not to God..."
- David, again, speaking of Israel: Psa 106:37 Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils,
- Paul speaking about Gentile worship: 1Co 10:20 But *I say*, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.
- Paul prophesying of future times: 1Tim. 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
- A final judgment of the wicked in Rev. 9:20 finds mankind still neck deep in the worship of

devils: “And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils....”

B. Looking At the Characteristics of Devils On the Earth

- Devils have their own peculiar wisdom
 - > Jas 3:15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish.
 - This wisdom (if we consider what James has written about concerning the double standard, or two-faced behavior of some people) is about deception and being double minded. Such are devils. They pretend one thing, but have another agenda.
 - Summary: devils are consistent in that they practice duplicity; this is their wisdom.

- The affliction exhibited by the one possessed is identified as a condition of the devil within
 - > Luke 11:14 And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered.
 - (this could explain the persistence of afflictions suffered by people who have that affliction as a result of demonic attack or control)

- Luke 4:33-34 And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, 34 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.
 - > Unclean spirits of devils consider themselves to be in league with the human they possess.
 - > Unclean spirits of devils know that Jesus has power to destroy them

- Devils know Christ
 - > Luke 4:41 And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking *them* suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.
 - > Acts 19:15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? (Note that this statement is also an unintentional testimony from the world of the supernatural that Jesus was living after His burial and after His disappearing into heaven)

- Devils believe in God
 - > Jas 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

- Devils inhabiting the earth know that their time of activity is both permitted and dated:
 - > Mat 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou

Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

- Luke 8:29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he broke the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)
- Luke 9:42 And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tore *him*. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.
 - > Victims of devils are helpless to prevent being snatched up and used by them; (“...for oftentimes it had caught (Gr. To snatch up) him....”)
 - > Victims of devils sometimes have seemingly supernatural strength (“...he broke the bands...”)
 - See also Acts 19:16 - The seven sons of Sceva, the Jewish priest, learned of the strength and power of devils acting through a human instrument: “And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”
 - Victims of devils are driven by them (previous reference in Luke 8:29): (“...driven of the devil [which caught him] into the wilderness.”)
- Are Devils Still Around and At Work?
 - > The prophecy in Revelation tells of a future time when the world is going to be deceived by Satan and we have an explanation of part of this in Rev. 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.
 - > Another futuristic view of human events gives us a statement about the presence and ongoing influence of demons: Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.
- More than 57 million Americans (about 26.2%) have a diagnosable mental disorder - and that number is increasing
- Drug and alcohol abuse is rampant in America
- Satan associated religions are rising yearly

III. What Should You Do in a world full of devils?

- If you are not a believer in Christ

- If you are a believer in Christ
 - > Ephesians 6:11-18

OTHER BIBLE REFERENCES

Saul and the spirit that troubled him: 1Sam 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

Saul and the spirit of Samuel: 1 Samuel 28:7-19

The woman with the spirit of divination: Acts 16:16