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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Demons.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Demons.

Topics.

- The meaning of demons and devils and the origin of demons.
- Demons and lunatic. (Matt. 4:24) (Matt. 17:14-18).
- Jesus speaks and palsy departs. (Matt. 5:5-13)
- Lord, Lord, we have cast out demons. (Matt. 7:22)
- Jesus speaks to leprosy. (Matt. 8:2-3)
- Jesus healed all with demons. (Matt. 8:16-17)
- The Commission to the twelve. (Matt. 10:8)
- People believed John had a demon. (Matt. 11:18) (Luke 7:33)
- A daughter vexed with demons. (Matt. 15:22)
- Demons and unclean spirits. (Mark 1:21-28) (Luke 4:31-35).
- Sickness and demons. (Mark 1:32-34) (Luke 4:40-41)
- Jesus healed all with demons. (Mark 1:32-39)
- Others casting out demons. (Mark 9:38-41)
- Eleven disciples will cast out demons. (Mark 16:17-20)
- Certain women healed of demons. (Luke 8:2)
- Tell Herod I cast out demons. (Luke 13:32)
- People believed Jesus had a demon. (Jn. 7:20) (Jn. 8:48-52) (Jn. 10:20-21)
- Gentiles sacrifices to demons. (1 Cor. 10:20-21)
- Doctrines of demons. (1 Timothy 4:1)
- Tormented and demons. (Hebrews 11:37)
- Demons believe in one God. (James 2:19)
- Demonic spirits come from the heart. (James 3:13-15)
- Men should not worship demons. (Revelation 9:20)
- Spirits of demons working miracles. (Revelation 16:14)

INTRODUCTION: since this presentation of demons is very different to Hollywood's presentation of them and too much of traditional religious thinking concerning demons and to many people's concept of them, it is my hope that those who hold fast to a particular way of thinking will be mentally open enough to set it aside for a short moment and consider a different perspective. Then upon reaching the end make their own decision or perhaps be motivated to search it out even more for themselves. The study begins with a brief overview of the meaning of demons, devils, sickness, people possessed with demons and the many so called gods on earth and in heaven and then begins at Matthew and travels through all the Scriptures in the New Testament using the word demons.

The meaning of demons and devils: the English word demon is not found in the entire King James Bible. In the New Testament of the King James Bible the Greek word daimion which is our English word demon and the Greek word diabolos which is our English word devil have both been translated to the word devil. Over the years this has led to a misunderstanding and confusion between the meaning of the word, daimion (demon) and the word diabolos (devil). The word demon (daimion) means deity or god and primarily relates to sickness whereas devil (diabolos) means a false accuser and slander and primarily relates to people's behavior and not sickness. Most modern Bible versions have translated the Greek word daimion (demons) and the Greek word diabolos (devils) correctly.

The Jews and demons: the Jews (and pagans) believed demons to be inferior evil gods or deities that held possession of those with severe sickness either bodily or mentally. They believed that those who were mentally sick were possessed by evil inferior gods called daimons and that the demons (daimions) so held possession of the sick not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves.

They believed that people possessed with demons were forced by the demons to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them, and the only cure was by the expulsion of the demons. The fact that the Pharisees and Scribes and certain Jews believed that John the Baptist and Jesus were possessed by demons clearly shows us that just because the religious leaders of Jesus era believed mental illness, deafness, blindness and sickness they didn't understand were a result of demons does not mean it is a true fact.

The biblical difference between sickness and demons: in most instances when people have an illness that does not control the person, it is referred to in biblical writings as a sickness, but when a sickness (mental illness) controls a person to do things they do not want to do (i.e., have seizures and fits etc.), they are referred to as having demons or an unclean spirit. Sickness commonly related to illnesses the people understood, while demons primarily relate to severe illnesses and diseases, either bodily or mentally the people did not understand. Just because people believe something does not mean it is true if the Bible were being written today it would contain words like bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, epilepsy, melancholy, loss of speech etc., which in the New Testament are referred to as being demons or caused by demons as are paralysis, blindness and deafness and any other sickness the people did not understand.

One super evil god in control of millions of lesser evil gods: any force in a human that controls a person to do things they cannot control themselves, things that affects their behavior and mental well-being, voices or words in the mind and severe diseases, either bodily or mentally, (such as schizophrenia paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity and seizures etc., plus speeches that entice people against the things of God and God Himself are all commonly called demons in the New Testament. But, the Bible does not present a picture of one super evil god (slightly less in power than the Almighty God) being in control of hundreds of millions of lesser but evil gods. This is a modern day misunderstanding of the language of the Bible. Demons are not evil people as Hollywood portrays demons possessed people in their movies.

People in the Bible that had demons were morally good people and in some case only children who were sadly afflicted with especially severe diseases, either bodily or mentally such as paralysis, blindness, deafness and loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy and insanity, etc., while others believed Jesus was the son of God. In the opinion of the Jews demons had entered their bodies, and so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves. The people of Jesus age believed the possessed were driven to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them; and their only cure was thought to require the expulsion of the demon.

The origin of demons: a demon is believed to be a supernatural being, spirit, or force capable of influencing human lives, usually by evil means. Demons have played a role in the traditions of most religions. The practice of expelling demons (exorcism) that possess people or places has been carried out by many religions. The belief in evil spirits and their ability to influence the lives of people dates from prehistoric times.

Many early people believed that spirits occupied all elements of nature. Evil spirits or demons were spirits that brought harm to living people. Societies that believed in demons sought to influence the actions of both good and bad spirits through worship and sacrifices. Some ancient societies, including those in Egypt and Babylonia (now Iraq), believed that such spirits were responsible for the functions of the body and that demons caused specific illnesses.

The word demon originated from an ancient Greek word, daimon which referred to beings whose special powers placed them between people and the gods. These beings had the ability either to improve people's lives or carry out the punishment of the gods. Basic Christian ideas about demons originated from references to evil beings or unclean spirits in the Old Testament. By the middle ages, Christian theology had developed an elaborate hierarchy of angels, who were associated with God, and fallen angels, or demons, who were led by satan.

Satan himself was considered the original fallen angel. Islam also developed a complex system of demons. Muslim writings describe a group of evil beings, called jinn, who cause destruction and preside over places where evil activities take place. The original jinn was called Iblis, who was cast out by Allah for refusing to worship Adam, the first man.

Modern day misunderstanding of demons: demons can be seen as any controlling power or force in people that is destructive to their well-being, science says, anorexia and such like are mental problems and not physical, doctors call anorexia a destructive mental power or force whereas the Bible calls it, demons meaning, something that is destructive to a humans well-being. It is not the Bible that is wrong, but our modern day misunderstanding of the terminology and language of the Bible because modern generations have been influenced by a wrong understanding of the language used during the time of Jesus and the apostles.

Much of today's generations primary understanding of demons comes from Hollywood and not New Testament or spiritual thinking because of this to speak of someone having a demon today is highly offensive as it implies they are either extremely evil or extremely morally bankrupt which not one of the person's who are said to have demons in the Bible were.

The following are three similar biblical stories: -

1. **A woman and her daughter:** a Greek Syrophenician mother asked Jesus to cast forth the demon (daimion) (meaning an inferior deity or god) out of her daughter. Jesus said the demon is gone out of her daughter and when she went to her house, she found her daughter healed. Clearly the mother loved her young daughter and was deeply concerned for her well-being. The child would not be evil or morally bankrupt, this was not an inferior evil god or deity possessing the child as the Jews believed but a mental disorder or disease that they did not understand (Mark 7:23-30).
2. **A man and his child:** a father concerned for the well-being of his son tells Jesus that a spirit takes his child, and the son cries out during the fit or seizure and the boy suffers bodily harm. This is a man's only son who he clearly loved and deeply cared about. This young boy would not be evil or morally bankrupt, the spirit, is not an evil god possessing the child as the Jews believed, but a mental disorder or disease that they did not understand (Luke 9:37-41).
3. **A lunatic:** a man came to Jesus and asked him to have mercy on his son telling Jesus that his son is lunatic, and often has very bad fits that sometimes seriously harming the boy (Matt. 17:14-18). The Jews believed evil inferior gods caused mental disorders and the Greeks believed the moon could cause bodily seizures or fits.

Today we know the moon does not cause illness, but understand that the child had epilepsy or a similar disease and was having a fit, the Greeks and the Jews knew nothing of epilepsy or the like so they simply referred to illnesses they did not understand as being the result of being possessed by inferior evil gods. The Jews wrong understanding of demons was the same as the Greeks wrong belief about the moon.

There are many so-called gods in heaven and on earth: the Bible teaches that there is only one real God and creator of all that exists and His Name is, "I AM the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob," yet the apostle Paul says, "There are many so-called gods in heaven and on earth" (1 Cor. 8:5). Immediately after making this statement Paul says, "Nevertheless not everyone possesses this knowledge." Meaning the knowledge that there are many gods, neither do they understand how and why (1 Cor. 8:7).

Pagans believed in various gods, often referred to as "the god." These false but very real illusionary gods are created by a very strong belief in "the god" in the imagination of the mind. The New Testament calls these gods demons (daimon), but that does not mean real inferior false gods actually exist, they are an entity created by a false belief of the mind, but to the person believing in false gods and demon they are very real entities.

This is most likely why Jesus did not try to explain the medical terms as we know them today. Jesus rather than go into lengthy detail to explain in detail the medical causes of sickness simply used the common language of his era and manifested God's power over all other gods people believed in by miraculously healing those that has such illness. Once a person saw and experience the healing power of God why would they continue to believe in their false inferior gods who had no power?

When Jesus gave this same healing power to his apostles to heal physical sickness and spiritual or mental disorders of the mind it was not solely so they could deliver people from their sickness, but to prove to the people that they were teaching the words of the only true God and the only way to eternal salvation. The apostles and Jesus ministry was not to teach medical science, but to connect people separated from God to God.

Demons and illusionary gods and the mind: demons as evil spiritual gods only exist in the mind of those who believe in them, they are an image of the mind created by imagination through a false belief in them. This false image in the mind will affect a persons emotions and feelings accordingly, because the human nervous system cannot tell the difference between a real image of the mind and a false one. The imaginary but real images of the mind create real emotions and real feelings. If the image on the mind is a good one it will create emotions of joy, but if the image on the mind is of an evil god or demon it will create feelings of dread and fear through the human nervous system and these emotions in turn reinforce and convince those that believe in demons that real evil gods do exist.

Demons in the Old Testament: in Leviticus the people of Israel are said to be "Offering their sacrifices to devils" (Lev. 17:7). In Deuteronomy it says, "They sacrificed to devils not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up" (Deut. 32:17). In Chronicles priest are said to be, "Ordained for the high places and for the devils" (2 Chron. 11:15). While in Psalms we read that, "People have sacrificed their sons and daughters to devils (Psalm 106:37).

The word devils in all of these verses are translated from the Hebrew word (*sa'iyir*) which simply means goat or from the Hebrew word (*shed*) which means a he goat, but people do not go whoring after goats or sacrifice to them so the Hebrew words (*sa'iyir*) and *shed* have been translated to devils, but the better and more correct word would be demons because demons were believed to be gods, especially evil gods, whereas the word devil refers to a slander and accuser

For further information see the title: -

- Devil, in Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Devil, in Bible Dictionary (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Demons in the New Testament: the English word demon is not found in the entire King James Bible. In the New Testament of the King James Bible the Greek word daimion which is our English word demon and the Greek word diabolos which is our English word devil have both been translated to the word devil. Over the years this has led to a misunderstanding and confusion between the meaning of the word, daimion (demon) and the word diabolos (devil).

The word demon (daimion) means deity or god and primarily relates to sickness whereas devil (diabolos) means a false accuser and slander and primarily relates to people's behavior and not sickness. Most modern Bible versions have translated the Greek word daimion (demons) and the Greek word diabolos (devils) correctly.

Demons and Lunatic.

Mathew 4:24 ----- ²⁴And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with demons (daimion) and those which were lunatick and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Mathew 17:14–18 ----- ¹⁴And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, ¹⁵Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. ¹⁶And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked the demon (daimion) and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

Jesus fame spread because he healed the sick and those who were possessed with demons and those who were lunatic and a man came to Jesus and asked him to have mercy on his son telling Jesus that his son was a lunatic and often has very bad fits that sometimes seriously harm the boy. Demon means a god especially an evil god and lunatic was a sickness believed to be caused by the moon. The Father in this story believed his son was a lunatic meaning he believed his son was driven mad by the influence of the moon. Today we know that the moon does not cause illnesses and evil gods do not possess people showing us that the Bible was written in the language and belief of Jesus era.

The Jews believed evil inferior gods caused mental disorders including deafness, blindness and many others and the Greeks believed the moon could cause bodily seizures showing that the Jews of Jesus time had a wrong understanding of demons and the Greeks had a wrong belief about the moon. Today we would say the child had epilepsy or a similar disease and was having a fit or seizure. The Greeks and the Jews knew nothing of epilepsy or the like so they simply referred to illnesses they did not understand as being the result of the sick being possessed by inferior evil gods.

If the Bible were being written today it would contain words like bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia epilepsy, melancholy, loss of speech etc., which in the New Testament are referred to as being unclean spirits, or caused by demons as are paralysis, blindness and deafness and any other sickness the people did not understand.

Jesus Speaks and Palsy Departs.

Mathew 5:5–13 ----- ⁵And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, ⁶And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy (paralytic) grievously tormented. ⁷And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. ⁸The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed ---- NOW GO TO VERSE ---- ¹³And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Palsy comes from the Greek word (paralutikos) and from Strong's Concordance means paralytic and carries the idea of suffering from the relaxing of the nerves of one's side, being disabled or having a weak limb. Notice this man is a paralytic and though there is no mention of demons the man is said to be grievously tormented which shows us that in Bible language the phrase grievously tormented is simply an expression used to help the reader understand the severity of the mental

anguish and suffering the sickness or illness is causing. Also in this story we see that the same language is used in speaking about demons that is used for natural sickness. Just as Jesus speaks to those that were said to be possessed and tormented by demons Jesus speaks in the same way to the paralytic who is tormented by his sickness and both are healed by Jesus speaking.

The word demons refers to natural sickness that caused people great pain, torment and bodily fits and seizures that they had no control over. They had no painkillers as we do today and therefore while experiencing the excessive pain and torment caused by the illness many would appear crazy or mad. The people of Jesus day did not understand many sickness especially mental ones and so naturally, believed the people were driven mad or crazy by inferior deities or gods called demons.

Lord, Lord, We Have Cast out Demons.

Matthew 7:22 ----- ²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out demons? (daimon) And in thy name done many wonderful works?

Cast and out, come from the same Greek word (*ekballo*) meaning to extract, bring forth, drive out or send away. These people believed they were casting out evil inferior gods called demons from those who were mentally sick today many of these people who were thought to be demon possessed in Jesus era can live a very normal life when the chemical imbalance in the mind is balanced by various medical drugs. If these people had an entity called a demon possessing them how do the drugs calm the evil entity called a demon and believed to be a god, does the god see the medical tablet and in fear flee from the person's mind?

Jesus Speaks to Leprosy.

Matthew 8:2-3 ----- ²And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. ³And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed

Jesus speaks to leprosy saying to the man, "Be clean" and the leprosy is completely gone from the man, it could be written that the leprosy departed from the man in the same way demons are said to depart from those who were suffering mental illnesses and sickness and who the people of Jesus era believed were possessed with demons. It appears when sickness was physical and easily understood the Jews used the words, "Jesus spoke and the sickness left the sick person," but if it was a mental illness or a sickness they did not understand they used the words, "Jesus cast out," this is because the people of Jesus era believed any illness they did not understand was caused by demons, which to them meant that evil gods were possessing the person suffering the sickness.

Jesus Healed all with Demons.

Matthew 8:16-17 ----- ¹⁶When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with demons (daimon) and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: ¹⁷That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses (cited from Isaiah 53:4).

Infirmities: comes from the Greek word (*astheneia*) and means feebleness (of body or mind) and by implication moral frailty, disease, infirmity, sickness or weakness.

Sicknesses: comes from the Greek word (*nosos*) means a malady, disease, infirmity or sickness it is very rarely used figuratively of moral bankruptcy or disability.

Bare: comes from the Greek word (*bastazo*) carries the idea of removal. Isaiah (Esaías) prophesied thousands of years before Jesus came that he would take our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. Jesus was not only patient with us when he came, but also healed people of demons, evil spirits and sickness by his spoken word. One of the major reasons Jesus healed the blind, the deaf and the sick was to fulfil the words of Isaiah and by these amazing miracles prove that he was the prophet Moses, Isaiah and the Old Testament prophets said was to come and the one the Scriptures speak of.

The Great Commission to the Twelve Disciples.

Matthew 10:8 ----- ⁸Jesus told the twelve disciples to, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons (daimon) freely ye have received, freely give.

The words (*cast*) and (*out*), come from the same Greek word (*ekballo*) which from Strong's concordance means to extract, bring forth, drive out or send away. Jesus tells the apostles to cast out demons because that is what the people of his era believed caused mental illness, deafness, blindness fits and seizures and any other sickness they did not understand. Jesus did not try to explain to the people the scientific or medical causes of deafness and blindness rather he simply healed those who were deaf, blind and mentally ill showing the people that his power was greater than the power of any evil god called a demon that they might believe in.

These demons were an imaginary entity created in their minds through a strong belief they had in them. Jesus in showing that God's power was greater than the sick person's illusionary demon immediately destroyed any reason for the deaf, blind, paralysed or mentally ill sick person to continue to believe in them and so there was no need for Jesus to go into a textbook medical documentary to show the people that demons only exist in the mind of those who believe in them, even if he had they would most likely not have believed him so he showed them by demonstration and the healing power of God.

People Believed John had a Demon.

Matthew 11:18 ----- ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He hath a demon" (daimon).

Luke 7:33 ----- ³³For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, "He hath a demon" (daimon).

Jesus generation credited anything they believed to be evil as being a result of demons and because of this they believed John the Baptist was not of God they believed was possessed by a demon. Obviously their diagnosis of John the Baptist was totally wrong, but this must make us wonder, if the generation of Jesus day could be so extremely wrong in believing John the Baptist had demons why would their diagnosis of the mentally sick be taken or believed to be correct and true? Especially considering they also believed blindness and deafness was the result of demons (Matt. 11:18) (Luke 7:33) (Jn. 7:20) (Jn. 8:48-52) (Jn. 10:20).

A Daughter Vexed with Demons.

Matthew 15:22 ----- ²²And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a demon (daimon).

The sickness of the woman's daughter in this story sounds very much like what we would call schizophrenia or epilepsy today. The people of Jesus generation knew nothing of schizophrenia or epilepsy so they simply referred to this type of sickness as being the result of demons.

Demons and Unclean Spirits.

Mark 1:21-28 ----- ²¹And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he (Jesus) entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an *unclean spirit*. And he cried out, ²⁴Let us alone; what have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God. ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the *unclean spirit*, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the *unclean spirits* and they obey him." ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

The same Story is recorded in the following verses: -

Luke 4:31-35 ----- ³¹And he (Jesus) went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³²and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³And in the synagogue there was a man who had the *spirit of an unclean demon* (daimon) and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴"Ha! (let us alone in KJV) What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." ³⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the *demon (daimon)* had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm.

The word unclean in these verses comes from the Greek word (akathartos) and mean to be ceremonial unclean or morally impure.

NOTICE: Mark says the man had an unclean spirit whereas in the same story Luke says the man had a demon which clearly shows that the word demons and unclean spirits are interchangeable terms. Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on a Sabbath day and it appears by the term "Let us alone" and "Ha" in (v34) that this man was mocking Jesus. Even though the man said he knows that Jesus is the Holy One of God, he is saying it in a taunting and mocking tone to degrade Jesus. If this was not the case Jesus would not have rebuked him, the demon in this instance is that spirit in man that openly mocks Christ or God.

Sickness and Demons.

Mark 1:32-34 ----- ³²And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with demons (daimon). ³³And all the city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many demons (daimon); and suffered not the demons (daimon) to speak, because they knew him.

Luke 4:40-41 ----- ⁴⁰Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹And demons (daimon) also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

It seems when people have an illness that does not control the person, it is referred to as a sickness, but when the illness controls a person to do things they do not want to (have fits and seizures etc.). They are referred to as having demons or an unclean spirit.

Sickness related to illness the people understood, while demons relate to severe illnesses and diseases, either bodily or mentally the people did not understand. Mental illness, such as schizophrenia paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity, etc., and seizures are called demons in the New Testament).

This is because the Jews and pagans believed in the ancient theory that there is an evil powerful god named satan who has an organized universal and global spiritual army of hundreds of millions of lesser evil gods called demons who he sends out to possess, corrupt and destroy the lives of innocent men, woman and children of those whose bodies they inhabit. (This event is also recorded in Matthew 8:16-17).

Jesus Healed all with Demons.

Mark 1:32-39 ----- ³²And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with demons (daimon) ³³And all the city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many demons (daimon) and suffered not the demons (daimon) to speak, because they knew him. ----NOW GO TO VERSE ---- ³⁹And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out demons (daimon).

It is interesting to notice that no matter whether it was a synagogue, a town or a village Jesus appears to be healing just as many people of normal sickness as he is of demons. This is simply because the generation of Jesus era believed every mental illness and every sickness they did not understand was caused by inferior gods called demons taking control of the person's reason and their body.

They also believed that things like deafness, blindness and paralyses were caused by demons. Much of our modern generation has a wrong understanding of the word demons because of the way in which Hollywood has portrayed them (i.e. as some evil entity with an axe ready to slaughter someone or haunt them with nightmares), but this is a false understanding of the word demons as many of the people Jesus healed of demons were children and morally good people, and some fell humbly at Jesus feet and desired to follow him.

People in the Bible who are referred to as being demon possessed were not evil or wicked people possessed with some evil god or spirit that drove them to murder or slaughter people as Hollywood movies portray them to be. Rather demons in the Bible are neither good nor bad; they have no moral persuasion to good or evil because they are in most cases simply a name given to mental illness that those who had them could not control and sicknesses the generation of Jesus era did not understand.

Others Casting Out Demons.

Mark 9:38-41 ----- ³⁸And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out demons (daimons) in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. ³⁹But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. ⁴⁰For he that is not against us is on our part. ⁴¹For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.

Because the people of Jesus generation believed many of the peoples sickness and mental illness's were caused by inferior evil gods possessing those who were sick it is often written that they were casting out demons, but this simply means that they were curing mental illness, blindness, deafness, paralyse and many other sickness they did not understand. The belief in evil inferior gods called demons came from the ancient pagan belief that there were two gods warring against each other one god named satan warring against the immortal invisible Almighty and Holy God, the God of all creation and the source of all life, but this theory and concept of satan has develop over the years from a mistaken understanding of the word satan which in the original Hebrew language has no capital *S* and simply means one who withstands and opposes the purposes of God and can apply to humans, the collective mind of nations, governments or the individual thoughts of mankind that are opposed to God and His will.

NOTE: based on Jesus response to John perhaps the name of Christianity would be better served if we adopted the principal in this story. Here we are presented with a group of people who were doing the work of God in the name of Jesus, but because they were not part of Jesus and the apostles group, John wanted Jesus to condemn them, but Jesus rather than condemning them basically tells John to leave them alone, because they are not aggressively against the Lord or his group (Mark 9:38-41).

Eleven Disciples will Cast out Devils.

Mark 16:15-20 ----- ¹⁵And he said unto them (the eleven apostles), Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out demons (daimons); they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. ¹⁹So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. ²⁰And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Jesus appears to his eleven apostles and just prior to him ascending to heaven he tells them to go to every nation and preach the Gospel. Then the Lord encourages the apostles by telling them that if they believe they will be able to cast out demons, speak in languages they had never learned (but others understood), handle snakes, drink poison without being harmed and heal the sick by laying hands on them.

Jesus then immediately ascends to heaven and the apostles go and preach the Gospel to every nation with miracles following them confirming everything the Lord had said. Jesus is simply speaking to his eleven apostles in the language that the generation of his era understood, since they believed mental illness and sickness that they did not understand including deafness and blindness where a result of demons possessing the ill or the sick person.

Jesus rather than trying to open universities to explain the scientific or medical reason people were sick simply gave his apostles the power to heal everyone regardless of the cause or the medical condition. After God's power had healed a person from what they believed to be a demon possessing them there would no longer be any need for that person to believe in their illusionary and evil demon any longer, especially since they were miraculously healed and delivered from what they believed to be evil spirit gods called demons possessing their bodies at the speed of light by the power of God.

Who would not turn from what they believed to Jesus after experiencing such a marvellous miraculous healing.

Jesus miracles proved he was the Messiah the Christ: this was the primary purpose of Jesus miracles. Thousands of years before Christ appeared Isaiah echoing Christ prophesied: -

- The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound" (Isaiah 61:1).
- The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped (Isaiah 35:5).
- How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns" (Isaiah 52:7).

Then in the New Testament when John the Baptist questioned his faith and sent his disciples to Jesus to ask him if he was the one to come Jesus told them to tell John: -

- What they had seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them (Luke 7:22).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus miracles were a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the good news preached to them. Paul said, "Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested (approved of God in the KJV) to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know (Acts 2:22). These verses clearly show that the primary, purpose of Jesus miracles was too authenticated and confirm that he was sent by God. For further information see the title: "The Purpose of Jesus Miracles," in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Certain Women Healed of Demons.

Luke 8:2-3 ----- ²And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven demons (daimons), ³And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

This verse speaks of women being healed of evil spirits and Mary Magdalene being delivered of seven demons. Here we see that evil spirits and demons are the same thing. Luke tells us these women are ministering to Jesus from what they had, meaning they probably cooked and prepared his and the apostles meals, washed their clothing and maybe organised some meetings etc., showing us that they are certainly not women that had a wicked and evil heart.

Evil spirits and demons in the context of these verses can apply to sickness and to immoral lifestyles maybe even prostitutes who in the days of Jesus any women who was trading sex for money would certainly have been considered to be possessed with evil spirits called demons. (It could be said that the evil spirits and demons a prostitute is delivered from are the men who use her body for their own sexual pleasure without any concern for her well-being).

NOTE.

Some reading this may think that it is harsh implying that certain women following Christ may have been prostitutes, but consider the following words of Jesus, "Truly, I say to you (the religious leaders of Jesus era), the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the Kingdom of God before you, because John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him" (Matt. 21:31-32).

Added to this it is most likely the only way many single woman during Jesus generation could support themselves or their family was through prostitution much like many woman today in third world countries. A woman may be prostituting her body, but that does not always mean that she is a prostitute in her heart or that she lacks compassion and kindness. Clearly there were certain female followers of Jesus who though their outward life was clearly wrong the cry of their inner being was right, since they responded with great devotion and humble service when the Son of God came to them with compassion, grace mercy and acceptance.

Tell Herod I cast out Demons

Luke 13:32 ----- ³²And he said unto them (some Pharisees) (v31), Go ye, and tell that fox (Herod) Behold, I (Jesus) cast out demons (daimon) and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

Certain Pharisees told Jesus to flee because Herod was seeking to kill him, but Jesus tells them to go and tell Herod that he will continue to cast out demons and perform cures until he finishes his ministry.

This is the religious leaders warning Jesus the king of Rome is seeking to kill him, obviously Jesus is not going to attempt to explain the scientific or medical reason people were mentally ill and sick so he simply speaks in the language pagan Rome understood.

People Believed Jesus had a Demon.

John 8:48-52 ----- ⁴⁸Then answered the Jews and said unto him (Jesus) Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a demon? (daimon) ⁴⁹Jesus answered, I have not a demon (daimon); but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. ⁵⁰And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. ⁵¹Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. ⁵²Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a demon (daimon). Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

John 10:20-21 ----- ²⁰And many of them said, He hath a demon (daimon) and is mad; why hear ye him? ²¹Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a demon (daimon). Can a demon (daimon) open the eyes of the blind?

The following translations of (John 7:20) from the most common and well recognized Bibles also show that certain people of Jesus generation believed that Jesus was possessed with a demon.

The King James Bible says: -

- The people answered and said, "Thou (Jesus) hast a demon."

The New American Standard Bible says: -

- The multitude answered, "You (Jesus) have a demon!"

The New International Bible says: -

- You (Jesus) are demon possessed."

The New King James Bible says: -

- The people answered and said, "You (Jesus) have a demon."

The New Revised Standard Bible says: -

- The crowd answered, "You (Jesus) have a demon!"

The religious leaders, the Jews and the people of Jesus generation credited anything they believed to be evil as being a result of demons and therefore believed that Jesus was possessed with demons because they did not believe he was sent by God or that he was the Son of God. Obviously their diagnosis of Jesus was totally wrong which must cause us in this generation two thousand years later to ponder the thought, "If the religious leaders and the people of Jesus generation could be so extremely wrong in believing Jesus was possessed by demons, why would their diagnosis of the mentally sick be taken or believed to be correct and true?" Especially considering they also believed blindness and deafness was the result of demons. (Matt. 11:18) (Luke 7:33) (Jn. 7:20) (Jn. 8:48-52) (Jn. 10:20).

Gentiles Sacrifices to Demons.

1 Cor. 10:20-21 ----- ²⁰I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons (daimons) and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with demons (daimons) ²¹Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of demons (daimons) ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of demons (daimons).

Jesus speaks to the generation of his era according to what they believed, but just because the people believed something to be true does not mean that it is. There are many sane and otherwise intelligent people in the world today who are absolutely convinced that aliens exist, and even come and visit them in their homes. In some places in Tibet the people still believe (2005) that blindness is caused by demons.

When a person has a strong belief that something is real, images of that belief are created on the imagination of the mind. If the belief is strong enough these images appear as real entities in the mind because the human nervous system does not have a mind of its own and therefore cannot tell the difference between a real image or an imaginary image and so it automatically respond to the images created in the imagination whether they are real or simply illusions.

The nervous system reacts to whatever information the mind feeds it and whatever mental movies are held in the imagination, whether the information is true or not and whether the mental movies are real or not because the human nervous system will respond according to the image we have created on the imagination of our mind. These mental movies affect the nervous system and create real emotions and feelings reinforcing and convincing the person that what they believe is real. This is why positive thinking is healthy for the mind and the body, but it is also why the power of deception is so strong and deceptive.

Jesus did not try to explain the psychology of the mind rather he told the people to forsake their gods, meaning stop believing in them and showed the people by the miraculous healing power of his heavenly Father that the God he was proclaiming was greater than their gods. If those who believed in demons stopped believing in their false gods not only would the gods automatically cease to exist in their minds but the negative and destructive affect that these illusionary gods are having on the persons mental state, their emotions, feelings and nervous system would also stop.

Nevertheless it must always be remembered that even though these so called gods, demons or entities are only real in the imagination and created and exist because of a strong belief in them they are still very real entities to the person, who believes in them and will affect that person's emotions and nervous system, just as though they are a real entity or god. This is the reason Jesus treated these people with compassion and mercy.

Doctrines of Demons.

1 Timothy 4:1 ----- ¹Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons (daimons)

If one does a careful study of the Bible they will find that "Doctrines of demons" are not about teachings that teach that evil gods called demons exists and possess people causing them to be deaf and blind etc., rather doctrines of demons refer to doctrines or teachings that lead people to sensual or ungodly behavior and doctrines that deny the Lord Jesus Christ and the grace of God.

NOTE.

Inferior evil gods called demons are images created in the imagination of the mind by a very strong belief that they are real and therefore cannot exist if a person does not believe in them. Though the generation of Jesus era believed in demons it does not mean evil gods actually exist. They are simply an image created by the imagination of the human mind because of a strong belief in them, if people cease to believe in demons the demons and their influence over the person ceases to exist. This is why demon deliverance was so effective; if a person was convinced that the demon or evil god they believed in had departed then it had no more power or influence over that person.

In ancient times people who were blind or deaf or had some form of crippling physical disability believed they were possessed with demons. Obviously blindness, deafness and crippling disabilities are not a result of demons, but a

result of some type of illness, so when Jesus spoke according to what the people believed he not only healed the sick person from their illness, but also healed them from their false belief that evil spirit gods called demons possessed their bodies. For further information see the notes following (1 Cor. 10:20-21) (above).

Tormented and Demons.

Hebrews 11:37 ----- ³⁷They (those commended for their faith) (v39) were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented.

This verse shows that the word tormented does not always apply to demons (i.e. evil spirit gods) tormenting people. The word, tormented was a common word used by Jesus generation to describe the extreme pain and anguish going on in a persons mind. In this verse the people were experiencing torment because they were being tortured or maimed in wars and the poor were suffering sickness' and disease, their torment had nothing to do with demons.

Demons Believe in One God.

James 2:19-20 ----- ¹⁹Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the demons (daimon) also believe, and tremble. ²⁰Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

The context of this chapter is, "Faith without works is dead," meaning faith without any outward evidence to support it is not real faith. James is talking to people who believed evil inferior gods called demons existed. These people are boasting that they believe in God, but there is nothing in their lives that outwardly evidences their faith so James in a form of rebuke tells them belief alone means nothing because even the demons believe in God and they are certainly not saved. James is basically saying, people who believe they are possessed with demons also believe in God and are afraid of Him so it means very little when a person says they believe in God if there is nothing in their lives that evidences that belief.

NOTE: James is trying to make it very clear to the people who are boasting that they believe in God, but don't show any outward evidence of their inward faith that they are deceiving themselves because a person's outward life should evidence their inward belief. The great majority of the Australian population claim they believe in God and yet they have no interest in reading the Bible, learning about God or talking with others about Christ or even being with Christian people these are the people James had in mind when he said "You say you believe that there is one God; that is a good thing, but faith apart from works is useless? Meaning it is useless without any outward evidence to support what is being said.

It is important to note that James in his rebuke to his listeners is not saying outward behavior saves a person, but that it evidences that they are saved. It is not enough to simply say, "I believe in God," even so called demon possessed people do that and they are not saved. The confession of a persons' faith in God must be followed by some form of outward behavior that evidences its reality otherwise it is simply words in the wind. (Demon in this context refers to those who are wicked and corrupt)

Demonic Spirits Come From the Heart.

James 3:13-15 ----- ¹³Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic (daimon).

Because people of Jesus generation believed inferior evil gods called demons caused mental illness, deafness, blindness and any other sickness they did not understand, and that they were also able to influence the minds of those they possessed to do evil, anything that was opposite to what is good and what is right or contrary to God and His ways was referred to as being demonic. When James made the statement bitter envying and strife is earthy, sensual and demonic he means that they are the ways of the world and the flesh because they cause violent verbal and physical conflict. James is saying a person with knowledge and wisdom will show their wisdom in good conversation and by living their life in meekness, but a foolish person will show their foolishness by their bitterness and envy of others which causes strife. James refers to the attitudes of bitterness, strife and envy as being demonic because they cause bitter and violent conflict and rivalry and therefore are opposed to the ways of God.

Men should Not Worship Demons.

Revelation 9:20 ----- ²⁰And 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 demons (daimon) and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Because people worship demons does not mean that demons actually exist, these people are also said to worship idols that cannot see, hear or walk. The great prophet Isaiah says: -

- Idols are nothing, the craftsmen who make them are only human, they cut down a tree and use part of it for fuel to warm themselves, part of it for a fire to bake bread and the rest of it they make into a god, their idol and fall down to worship it saying, "You are my god!" No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, "Part of it was burned in the fire, part of it used to bake bread and the rest of it to make an abomination to worship. Their heart has been so deluded that they fall down before a block of wood worshipping it and calling it god (Isaiah 44:9-20).

Just because people believe something does not mean it is true, these people believed that their wooden idols were gods. The same principle applies to demons; nevertheless these idols and illusionary inferior evil gods called demons do have a very real effect on the human mind. Not because they actually exist but because of a person's strong belief that they do. This belief creates an entity in the imagination of the mind which has a very powerful effect on the human nervous system because the nervous system does not have a brain of its own and therefore cannot tell the difference between an imaginary image and a real one and will respond according to the mental movie that is played out in the mind whether it is real or imaginary.

This image of a god or demon in the mind effects the emotions, feelings and the state of the mind accordingly which in turn affects the outward behaviour of the person believing in the god or in demons. At one time in Israel's history their belief in evil gods and deities caused them to sacrifice their own children to the god as a means of appeasing them and winning their favour. Even though an idol is only wood it will indirectly influence a persons mind and behaviour because of their strong belief in it, but all of this influence is happening within a persons own mind because of a false and deluded belief system. For further information see notes following (1 Cor. 10:20-21) (above).

Spirits of Demons Working Miracles.

Revelation 16:12-14 -- ¹²And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. ¹³And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴For they are the spirits of demons (daimon) 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.

Notice unclean spirits are the same as demons, these three unclean spirits or demons described as frogs coming out of the mouth of the beast and the dragon are all symbols of world leaders and their powerful deceptive speeches which even though they are full of lies seduce the people of the world, most likely because they appear to hold the answers to the world's problems. These speeches are so enticing that they result in deceiving the world and misleading them into a false sense of security as they gather the armies of the nations together to the battle that is called the great day of God Almighty.

Working miracles could apply to: -

- Placebo miracles that deceive people.
- Modern technology, global communications and satellites used in war.
- Weapons of mass destruction.
- The miracle of deceiving the world against God.

A beautiful story of courage and compassion: during the time of Jesus and the apostles anything the people did not understand they believed to be caused by inferior evil demonic gods they called demons. Even today (2005) in some areas of Tibet blind people, are still believed to be possessed with demons. In 2005 a very compassionate and courageous English blind girl about twenty-five years old pioneered schools for the blind in Tibet because she cared for the blind in that country and was angered at the way they were treated. Her schools would take the blind in and show them love, kindness and care in contrast to the rejection they experienced by much of Tibetan society, because of their belief that blindness was a result of demon possession.

Just because people believe a thing to be true does not mean that it is true. For Jesus to heal the people they did not need to understand what caused virus's, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity, seizures, blindness, deafness, loss of speech and paralysis all called demons and unclean spirits in the New Testament. Jesus primary reason for healing was to show that his power was greater than any false god the people believed in, proving that he was the Son of God and sent from God. The people seeing that Jesus power was greater should have forsaken their false gods and turned to the Lord. If they did their false belief in evil gods called demons would be forsaken and consequently the evil gods held in their minds by belief and imagination would cease to exist.

Not everything maybe as black and white concerning demons: perhaps everything regarding demons is not quite as black and white as I have explained, even the best doctors and scientist in the world today still don't fully understand the cause of many of these illness. On the TV program "Sixty Minutes" (Sunday 8/6/2003) it was stated that 100,000 Australian attractive males and female teenagers who are in most cases good intelligent kids whose life was generally OK and who are morally and physically healthy and on the outside laughed and joked with their friends and appeared to their them as being chirpy and happy suffer attacks of depression to such an extreme extent that they slash themselves multiple times and often commit suicide.

Sadly in most cases they have learned to hide their depression from others, while constantly trying to kill themselves. The same program also covered a story of a twelve-year-old boy who was so badly attacked with depression he constantly cuts his neck, legs and body during the entire summer break. Medical science says one reason these kids are like this is because of isolation and the mental health organization says it is hard to help these kids because the medical profession doesn't fully understand the problem. The kids and their parents involved say it is another world of hell these kids live in. These are good healthy decent teenagers not dope addicts or kids living extremely bad or corrupt lifestyles.

The scientist speaking for medical science and the doctors involved with the mental health organization told the Sixty Minutes interviewer that they do not fully know whether these kids have some kind of mental disorder or some kind of demonic spirit that they do not yet understand, and then went on to say that they have no trouble saying to the anorexic, the obese or the drug addict etc., that they are under a force or power that is destructive, the Bible calls this force or power demonic. Having mentioned this it comes to my mind that the testimony of every anorexic that I have heard who has overcome this power or force ruling their lives in such a destructive way has not been by religious exorcism, but by secular counseling and people loving and caring about them.

True fear and false fear: true fear is generated by a real event or a real fact so deliverance or freedom from this kind of fear is to remove the event and the fear is gone, added to this true fear protects us from harm, a simple example of this is if I stand on the edge of a cliff with no safety rails I will sense fear, this fear is warning me not to go any further because it is dangerous. In contrast to this false fear is fear without cause it is fear based on nothing. This kind of fear is generated by words in the head, so you can't physically remove it, if these voices in the head continue long enough the end result is psychotic, phobia and madness. Medical scientist and doctors say that the two things all madness has in common is that: -

1. Every person who is driven mentally crazy is driven crazy by fantasy words in the mind.
2. Every person that is diagnosed as mad hears voices in their mind and it is these voices that drive them psychotic.

Medical scientist and doctors today still do not understand whether these voices in the mind are simply the person's own distorted self-talk and self-thoughts that are given their power to control the person because of their strong belief in them or some kind of influence or force controlling the person. Regardless of what people think about demons there is one truth that is very black and white and that should have a floodlight always shining upon it and that is the truth that those in the Bible who were said to be possessed by demons were not evil wicked people (as Hollywood portrays them) in fact some were young children greatly loved by their parents and others humbly fell at the Lords feet and greatly desired to follow him added to this God through the Lord Jesus Christ showed them great compassion and great mercy.

For further information see the titles: -

- Devil.
- Dragon.
- Serpent.

All three titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.