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People Believed Jesus And John the Baptist had a Demon. (2013)

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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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People Believed Jesus and John the Baptist had a Demon.

Topics.

- The people accuse Jesus of having a demon.
- The Jews accuse Jesus of having a demon.
- The people accuse John the Baptist of having a demon.

The meaning of demon: the word demon is translated from the Greek word daimon and the word devil is translated from the Greek word diabolos. The King James Bible has translated the Greek word daimon to the word devil instead of demon. This over the years has led to some confusion and a misunderstanding of the differences between the word devil (diabolos) and the word demon (daimon). This is because the word devil (diabolos) means slanderer and accuser and almost always relates to behavior whereas the word demon (daimon) means a god especially an evil god and is almost always used in relation to sickness. All other well recognised modern Bibles have correctly translated (diabolos) to devil and (daimon) to demon.

The people of Jesus generations believed blindness, deafness, mental illness and any other disease or sickness they did not understand was caused by evil gods called demons possessing the sick person and destroying their body. If the sickness happened to be one that affected the mind they believed the evil god possessing the person was taking control of their reason and driving them mad.

The people accuse Jesus of having a Demon.

In John chapter seven the King James Bible says: -

- The people answered and said, “thou (Jesus) hast a devil (daimon) who goeth about to kill thee?” (John 7:20).

The New American Standard Bible says: -

- The multitude answered, “You (Jesus) have a demon (daimon) Who seeks to kill You? (John 7:20).

The New International Bible says: -

- You (Jesus) are a demon (daimon) possessed, the crowd answered “Who is trying to kill you?” (John 7:20)

The New King James Bible says: -

- The people answered and said, “You (Jesus) have a demon (daimon) Who is seeking to kill You?” (John 7:20).

The New Revised Standard Bible says: -

- The crowd answered, “You (Jesus) have a demon (daimon) Who is seeking to kill You?” (John 7:20).

This shows that the King James Bible has for whatever reason translated the Greek word daimon to devil instead of the word demon. All other well recognised modern Bibles have translated it correctly. The people accused Jesus of being possessed with a demon because he said “Certain men were seeking to kill him” (referring to the religious leaders of his generation) (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) (John 7:19). The people believed Jesus must have been mad insane or paranoid to make such an outlandish accusation, this is the reason they accused him of having a demon. Remember the common folk did not know the religious leaders were plotting to murder the Lord.

The Jews accuse Jesus of having a Demon.

In John chapter eight the King James Bible says: -

- Then answered the Jews, and said unto him (Jesus) Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? (Daimon) ⁴⁹Jesus answered, I have not a devil (daimon) but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me (John 8:48-49).

The English Standard Bible says: -

- The Jews answered him (Jesus), "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my father and you dishonor me (John 8:48-49).

The word devil in the King James Bible is incorrect since the original Greek word is daimon which is our English word demon which the English Standard Bible and most other well recognized modern Bibles have translated correctly. Obviously the Jews were grossly mistaken in their accusation of Jesus being possessed with a demon which raises the question, "Was their belief that others were demon possessed also incorrect?"

In John chapter ten the King James Bible says: -

- There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰many of them said, He (Jesus) hath a devil (daimon) and is mad why hear ye him? ²¹Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil (daimon). Can a devil (daimon) open the eyes of the blind? (John 10:19-20)

The English Standard Bible says: -

- There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰Many of them said, "He has a demon and is insane why listen to him?" ²¹Others said, "These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" (John 10:19-20)

Prior to these verses Jesus had said: -

- The father knows me and i know the father and I lay down my life for the sheep. For this reason the father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my father (John 10:14-18).

Remember: to the Jews Jesus was just another man so for them to hear him speak the way he did concerning his life, his death and the resurrection and say that God was his father was a great blasphemy to the Jews. These Jews considered Jesus to be either mad or insane a man who was out of his mind to make such outlandish statements especially with such authority.

This is why they believed he must be demon possessed. The people of Jesus generation believed anyone with a mental disorder was possessed with an evil god called a demon who had taken control of their mind and reason. They even believed blindness, deafness and any other sickness and disease they did not understand was a result of demons.

The people accuse John the Baptist of having a Demon.

In Matthew chapter eleven the King James Bible says: -

- Jesus said to the multitudes (v7) "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil (daimon). ¹⁹The Son of man came eating and drinking and they say, Behold a man gluttonous and a winebibber" (Matt. 11:18).

The English Standard Bible says: -

- Jesus said to the crowds (v7) “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’” (Matt. 11:18).

In Luke chapter seven the King James Bible says: -

- Jesus said to those in the temple (v28) “For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil (daimon). ³⁴The Son of man is come eating and drinking and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber” (Luke 7:33).

The English Standard Bible says: -

- Jesus said to those who had been baptised by John and to the Pharisees and lawyers (v29-30) “For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard (Luke 7:33).

The word devil in both verses of the King James Bible is incorrect since the original Greek word is daimon which is our English word demon. The word devil in the King James Bible should have been translated to the word demon as most well-known modern Bibles have translated it. Jesus in these verses is saying that the people of his generation believed John the Baptist was possessed by a demon and Jesus was a glutton and a drunkard.

Jesus generation believed anyone who acted outside of what they considered normal behaviour was possessed by a demon. John the Baptist was living in the wilderness proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Up until now any form of religion (proclaiming Israel’s Messiah and the God of Israel) was only proclaimed by the Jewish religious leaders in the temple of God and the synagogues. No-one stood on their-own proclaiming God (especially in the wilderness). This is why Jesus generation was saying John was possessed with a demon. Added to this they also believed Jesus to be a drunkard simply because they saw him mixing with tax collectors, prostitutes and the common ordinary folk.

NOTE: when the Scriptures say Jesus generation (Matt. 11:16) it obviously does not apply to every man and woman of his generation since multitudes accepted the Lord as Israel’s Messiah, the Son of God and their Saviour. Jesus generation in this context primarily refers to the religious leaders (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) and the lawyers who had authority and power over the nation of Israel and to those who rejected the Lord.

SUMMARY.

The people of Jesus generation credited anything they believed to be outside of normal behavior or any sickness, illness and disease they did not understand including blindness and deafness was caused by evil gods called demons living inside the sick person whose sole intent was to destroy their body and the reason of their mind and inflict pain and suffering upon their bodies. The fact that the Pharisees and scribes believed mental sickness was a result of demons does not mean it is true. A man came to Jesus and asked him to have mercy on his son telling Jesus that his son is lunatic (meaning affected by the moon), and often had very bad fits that sometimes seriously harm the boy (Matt. 17:14-18) (KJV). The Jews believed evil inferior gods caused mental and physical disorders and the Greeks believed the moon could cause bodily seizures.

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 and sicknesses they did not understand as being the result of the moon or the sick person being possessed by inferior evil gods called demons. The Jews mistaken understanding of demons was the same as the Greeks wrong belief about the moon. The people’s diagnosis of John the Baptist and Jesus was totally wrong, this surely must make us ask the following question, “If the Jews could be so extremely wrong believing

Jesus and John the Baptist had demons why would their diagnosis of the others believed to be possessed with demons be correct. Jesus clearly understood his generation belief in demons and naturally spoke to them according to what they believed. Jesus did not have the time to educate people about sicknesses, he just spoke a word and they were healed, once the people witnessed the miraculous power of God flowing through Jesus they would naturally forsake their powerless gods and put their faith in Christ.

Jesus ministry was not to educate people about mental disorders, bacteria, virus' blindness, deafness, diseases and physical disabilities etc., his calling was to save people to eternal life and everlasting glory and teach the apostles to do the same. When reading the Bible, It should always be remembered that it is written in the language and belief of Jesus and the apostles' generation.

For further information see the titles: -

- Demons.
- Devils.

In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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