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GRACE**

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## **Luke 4**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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 perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Luke 4.

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### Topics.

- Jesus is tempted by the devil.
- An absolute fantastic moment in history.
- No prophet is acceptable in his hometown.
- Elisha only cleansed Naaman the Syrian.
- The townsfolk of Nazareth attempt to throw Jesus off a cliff.
- Jesus heals a man with the spirit of an unclean demon.
- Jesus casts a fever out of Peter's mother in law.
- Jesus must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

**The previous chapter:** John the Baptist went into the region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and told the Jewish crowds that they are a brood of vipers! They ask John "What must they do?" To which John replies that he baptises with water, but one who is mightier than him will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Jesus was baptised and Herod had John put in prison.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### LUKE 4:1-2

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### Jesus is led into the Wilderness.

- **Luke 4:1-2:** And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness<sup>2</sup> for forty days, being tempted by the devil (diabolos) And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.

Jesus has just been water baptised (previous chapter) God has declared him His Beloved Son and anointed him for his ministry by pouring out His Spirit on him and giving Christ His majestic and mighty power. Jesus is now about to undergo three major tests of temptation that all humanity face.

**Devil** (Diabolos) the English word devil is translated from the Greek word diabolos which means a slanderer one who degrades insults or smears and falsely accuses and especially applies to Satan as an enemy of good or one that withstands what is good. The devil can be seen spiritually as that entity in the flesh that the apostle Paul calls sin in the flesh or the mind of the flesh that limits humanity from attaining to the perfection the law requires (i.e. self, ego, pride etc.), or the force within that drives a person toward evil. For further information see the title:

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

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### INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVIL (GREEK DIABOLOS)

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Unfortunately, the King James Bible translates the Greek word diabolos (devil) and the Greek word daimon (demon) both as devil instead of translating them to devil and demon accordingly. This has over the years led to a misunderstanding of devil and demons simply because the Greek

word diabolos means an accuser and slander and never relates to mental or physical healing or sickness of any kind whereas the Greek word (daimon) which means a god, especially and evil one almost always relates to sickness.

**NOTE:** though the spelling changes when the Greek word diabolos is changed to the English word devil its original meaning (a false accuser and slander) does not.

**Jesus and God:** some in the Christian faith teach that Jesus is actually God, but James in his epistle writes, "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil (James 1:13) obviously in the following verses Jesus is clearly being tempted, shining a spotlight on the truth that Jesus is not God, but the most beloved Son of God.

For further information see the title:

- Trinity (the Doctrine of the Trinity).
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## THE FIRST TEMPTATION OF JESUS

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### LUKE 4:3-4

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- **Luke 4:3-4:** The devil (diabolos) said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

Jesus words, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone," is cited from the book of Deuteronomy which states that God humbled Israel by letting them hunger and by feeding them with manna so that He might make Israel know that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. The LORD'S purpose for the manna was to humble Israel and test them to see whether they would walk in His law or not (Exod. 16:4) (Deut. 8:16). Sadly, they failed the test as some against the word of the LORD stored the manna for the next day, but it bred worms and stank (Exod. 16:20) while others rebelled against God by going out to collect the manna on the seventh day (the Saturday Sabbath), but they found none (Exod. 16:27) thus Israel failed the test to obey the word of the LORD (Exod. 16:28).

**The devil is the evil in the human heart:** the devil (diabolos) is called the father of lies, it is humans that lie, mostly for their own gain and lying stems from self, ego and pride etc., and is manifested outwardly in speech therefore the word devil is a name that embraces in its meaning everything humans do that is opposed to what is good and right and offensive to God. Judas and Elymas the sorcerer are both spoken of as a devil (diabolos), Jesus tells us the devil (diabolos) sows false seed and takes the word out of the heart, false teachers and prophets do this. Saints are told to stand and resist the ways of the devil, not to fall into the snare of the devil and not to give place to the condemnation of the devil (diabolos).

The ways of the devil refer to anything that is offensive to God, the snares of the devil refer to anything that will lead a person away from God i.e. deception, false teaching, etc., and the condemnation of the devil refers to those who would judge and condemn those in Christ (i.e. religious legalistic teachers who know nothing of the Lord's grace). Jesus tells his disciples that the devil (diabolos) will cast some of them into prison (the religious leaders, chief priests, scribes and Romans did this) and the Lord healed all that were oppressed by the devil (diabolos), it was the Pharisees and scribes who oppressed the people. Thus, the devil is that entity (self, ego and pride etc.), within the human soul that is against God and against what is right and good.

**The devil and sin are the same entity:** God said to Cain, "Sin is crouching at the door, its desire is for you, but you must rule over it." (Gen. 4:6) this is the same as saying sin is seeking to devour you Cain. In the New Testament the apostle Peter says, "Your adversary the devil (diabolos) prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Peter is saying the same thing to the Lord's disciples as God said to Cain i.e. the devil desire is for you thus sin and the devil are the same entity therefore resisting the devil and resisting sin are also the same thing. The Old Testament picture of sin is the same as the New Testament picture of the devil (diabolos). Sin and the devil are personified as an entity that is always looking and waiting for its opportunity and chance to pounce on its victim. God says we can master it, meaning control its behavior or bring it into submission. From these verses we learn that the devil (diabolos) is the personification of sin. The following gives a very brief view of the Devil, the Serpent and Satan in their simplest terms:

**The serpent:** is anyone that comes as a tempter or entices to sin.

**The devil:** (diabolos) Is anyone that comes as an accuser or slander.

**Satan:** is anyone that comes as an opposer to God.

**An example of the devil, the serpent and Satan:** a young apprentice starts a new job, on his first day a fellow worker approaches him and says, all the boys are buying ecstasy drugs how many do you want. The young lad says sorry I don't take drugs it is against what I believe. This man is a serpent to the boy by tempting him to compromise his principals. The man goes and tells the rest of the workers, hey guys this new apprentice is a wowser a self-righteous religious nut, now the man is a devil by being an accuser and slander, then later in the same day one of the stronger men gets the boy by himself and says listen you little runt of a kid, don't pull that religious stuff on us. I'll mess your face up good, this man is a Satan to the boy by being an opposer to what the young apprentice believes. The poor kid has confronted the serpent, the devil and Satan all on his first day of work. For more information see the title:

- Demons in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Temptation was appealing to two things in the human heart.**

1. To the flesh, (i.e. to use God's power to satisfy the bodies craving for food), but the principal is not limited to food only but extends to everything self, ego and pride crave after (i.e., riches, fame, power importance and recognition etc.), the devil tempts all Christians (especially leaders) in the same way (i.e. twist God's laws and use His power for your own gain).
2. The devil's words, "If you are the Son of God." Implies that he is not, and the words, "Command this stone to become bread," means prove it. Remember no-one believed Jesus was the Son of God in fact many accused him of being demon possessed and the illegitimate Son of Mary and Joseph. With the power he now has he could very easily prove that he was the Son of God by simply doing some spectacular miracles.

Human nature wants to be recognized by its friends, family members and especially their Christian brothers and sisters, self, ego and pride want to be understood they want people to acknowledge us and our talents. Self wants others to know the dedication and sacrifices we have made for God. It is hard to walk with God alone; self so much wants to be seen as a dedicated spiritual person totally committed to God, it wants the approval of others, but often the things we do that are before God are not understood by our friends, family or even our Christian brothers and sisters. Christ resisted the devil's temptation to use God's power to prove who he was and vindicate who he claimed to be. For Jesus having the approval of God's was of far greater value than having the approval of man.

### LUKE 4:5-8

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- **Luke 4:5-8:** And the devil (diabolos) took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time,<sup>6</sup> and said to him "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me and I give it to whom I will. <sup>7</sup>If you then, will worship me it will all be yours <sup>8</sup>And Jesus answered him, "It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." The (KJV) says, Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan (meaning adversary) for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Jesus words, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." Are alluding to the book of Deuteronomy which states, "It is the LORD your God you shall fear and hold fast to. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. (Deut. 6:13) (Deut. 10:20)

**Satan:** (satanas) from Strong's Concordance means an accuser and adversary it carries the idea of one who opposes another in purpose or act and withstands against God and everything that is good i.e. the enemy of good or a Satan-like man especially one that stirs up apostasy and encourages to sin.

**Jesus is tempted as we are:** the author of Hebrews writes, "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Heb. 4:15). For Jesus to be tempted as we are, he has to have had the same nature as we do (i.e. self, ego and pride etc.), dwelling within. This, is why he is our perfect and eternal High Priest who intercedes for us, he understands the strength and pull of self, ego and pride etc., in the human heart especially since he is being tempted when he is at his weakest (i.e., after a for forty-day-fast).

**You can have all the authority and glory of the world:** the devil in a flash of time showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world (v5), obviously the devil never travelled with Jesus around the world; this could only happen in the mind the entire story is explaining in picture form what is going on in the mind and heart of Christ.

**A beautiful mind:** a film called, "A beautiful Mind," was made portraying the true story of a world-famous mathematical professor. The director of the film used real people to portray the real voices and conversation going on in the mind of the mathematical professor who suffered with schizophrenia. Though in real life he never saw real people, but only heard their voices the director of the movie used real people in place of the voices so the audience could know what was going on in the mind of the man. Luke is doing the same thing here in writing about Jesus and his struggle immediately after God has given him supernatural power over all sickness's and even over all the natural laws of creation.

**Self, ego and pride:** the devil (diabolos) is the voice of self, ego and pride personified as an evil power resisting the will of God. The "me", Jesus is to bow down and worship is the devil which dwells in the human heart, today we call it, "Self, ego and pride," in the Bible they are personified (for simplicity) and referred to as the devil symbolising everything that withstands God and is opposed to what is good and right. Jesus had just received the Spirit of God the Father so he has all of God's power at his command, the devil or the voice of self, ego and pride rises up from the human heart and says to him, "If you put me first you can use all of God's power and be the king of the world." The silent, but very powerful voice of the devil (self, ego and pride) in the mind is tempting Jesus by saying, "If you surrender your will to me and to my way you can have all the glory of this world and even be its king." All, of this temptation is taking place in the Lord's mind as it does with every human on planet earth. It is the battle between the Spirit of God and the spirit of self also called the battle between the mind of the Spirit and the mind of the flesh.

**NOTICE:** Jesus is now rebuking Satan and yet the previous verses say it was the devil that was tempting him; thus, the words devil and Satan are interchangeable terms as they both carry the same meaning.

**A possible scenario of temptation:** temptation comes to any human that is given the opportunity to have great power and authority and the chance to be rich and famous, most are seduced by the temptation and are spiritually left barren. Temptation in this context comes through voices (i.e. self-thought) rising-up out of the human heart from self, ego and pride (personified as the devil) and are entertained in the mind. For a religious minister who has great influence, power, wealth and a vast following the temptation of the devil may enter the mind by saying, think of all the good you could do for the poor and the sick now you have all this power and influence, you could become the richest man on the planet, imagine the hospitals, schools and majestic churches you could build and the money you could give to missions and charities. With this power you can have everything the world offers, big houses, luxury cars, boats, gold watches, designer clothes and tremendous fame, all you have to do is bow down to me and compromise the Scriptures so they are attractive to self, ego and pride and you could be the most important and powerful man in the entire world.

**The devil, temptation and Jesus:** The Devil is coming to Jesus in a very similar way, certainly if he had given in to the words of the devil and used God's power for his own glory, he would have conquered Rome and been everything the devil had promised. Added to this he would have avoided being humiliated, cruelly mocked and suffering for hours nailed to the cross. This all may sound a bit off the wall, but remember when Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane he asked his heavenly Father if there was any other way to save mankind please show it to him, Jesus knew the horrible terror that was awaiting him, but his love for the Father, his love for you and me and the joy that was set before him gave him the strength he needed to endure the agony and the horror and to be able to end his agonizing prayer with the words, "Not my will, but Thine be done,". These majestic words of Jesus shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus had his own will, his own individuality and experienced emotions, thoughts, and feelings in the same way as we all do, thus the reason he is our perfect High Priest.

**The second temptation was appealing to self, ego and pride:** the devil told Jesus he could have all authority over all the kingdoms of the world and have all their glory if he would submit and worship him. Self, ego and pride want power and people to esteem them because self wants to feel important. The principal behind this temptation is not limited to Christ. Though we will never be tempted with having total rule over all the nations of the world we are all susceptible (especially leaders) to the idea of having power and being looked up to as someone of importance. If Jesus used the miraculous power he had at his command and succumbed to the devil's temptation by bowing down to the tempting voice of self, ego and pride he no-doubt would have very quickly become King of the world, but Christ knew that God's way to the Kingdom was not through showy miracles, but by humility and love winning the hearts of sinners not by power and force but by grace and mercy.

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## THE THIRD TEMPTATION OF JESUS

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### LUKE 4:9-13

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- **Luke 4:9-13:** And he (the diabolos) took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, " 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' <sup>11</sup>and " 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' <sup>12</sup>And Jesus answered him "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup>And when the devil (diabolos) had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**NOTICE:** the devil is now referred to as the tempter and not Satan. If this was a literal story it means Jesus walked with the devil from the wilderness to Jerusalem and obediently allowed God's enemy to sit him on its highest point (this is hardly likely). The devils' words, "Throw yourself down from the pinnacle of the temple," is cited from the book of Psalms which states, "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways on their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11-12). The devil is quoting the Scriptures correctly, but out of context. The context of the Psalm is salvation, it is not talking about deliberately going out to harm yourself and see if God will protect you rather God is saying nothing will harm those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High for salvation and eternal life (Psalm 91:11-16).

**The pinnacle of the temple:** every human is constantly entertaining thoughts in the mind, sometimes these thoughts can be so strong and clear that they actually-seem like an audible voice in the mind. When this thought or voice in the mind is tempting a person toward wickedness or away from God it is personified in the Bible as the devil. The devil that is tempting Jesus is basically saying, "Prove to all these people you are the Son of God go up to the top of the temple on Sabbath Day when there are multitude of people around and jump off the roof. God won't let you die. Use the power you now have to save you. This will prove to all these unbelieving hypocrites that you are God's Son." Obviously, Christ never submitted to this false reasoning or temptation but held firm to the word of God.

**The third temptation was appealing to:** self, ego and pride desire to be vindicated (i.e. proved right one of the hardest things in life is to have people believe you are guilty of something that you know you are innocent of). We long for others to understand us and we want them to comprehend the motive behind our actions. Self, ego and pride cannot bear the thought of being misunderstood, but our motives, actions and the reasons why we do or don't do a thing will often be misunderstood. Being misunderstood teaches us to walk with God alone, it is a lonely path because our emotions long for people to understand us, our actions and our motives, but in many situations, they never will. It is not a lonely path in the sense that we have no friends, but lonely because no one understands our motives or our actions. All Christians at some stage have to die to this desire to be understood; otherwise they well live to look good to others rather than walk alone with God. Jesus could walk on water so there is no-doubt he could have defied the laws of gravity and descended from the pinnacle of the temple without harm and proved to all the unbelieving Jews that he was the Son of God and sent by God, but Jesus was not going to use the power of God for his own glory.

**NOTICE:** The Scripture says, "When the devil had ended tempting Jesus, he departed from him until an opportune time" (v13). As with us all, the devil (self, ego and pride personified) is constantly seeking opportunities to destroy its victims it gets a stronghold on and turn them away from God.

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## SUMMARY OF THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

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When the devil was tempting Jesus, they were in the wilderness, there were no mountains and even if there was why would Jesus go for a walk up an exceeding high mountain with God's so-called greatest enemy. This entire story is a picture of what was going on in the mind of Christ. It is a graphic picture of the battle between the mind of the flesh and the mind of the Spirit. The devil is the personification of the, mind of the flesh, self, ego and pride etc., and it is with this flesh nature that Jesus is battling against. God has just given Jesus His enormous and majestic power and now Jesus is confronting the temptations that come with such enormous power. The devil is telling him that he can have all the glory, fame and kingdoms of the world if he bows down to the devil (self, ego and pride) and uses God's power for his own glory.

**Power over the devil:** Jesus always-quoted Scripture to resist the voices that sounded so loud and clear in his mind at that time, but this does not mean that simply quoting Scriptures acts like a magic key to dispel all the enemies' attacks. The heart and life have to be attached to the verses, (i.e. the love for God and the desire to do His will). It is knowing what it is that pleases God and being prepared to put His will before self, ego and pride and believing like Jesus did that the Scriptures are the truth and the better way for one's life.

When these attitudes are behind the words being spoken the Scriptures are given power. Christ set the example in the Garden of Gethsemane with the words, "Not my will but thine be done."

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## LUKE 4:14-22

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### **An Absolute Fantastic Moment in History.**

- **Luke 4:14-22:** And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country <sup>15</sup>And he taught in their synagogues being glorified by all. <sup>16</sup>And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." <sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>And he began to say to them "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup>And all spoke well of him and marvelled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

Unlike Israel who failed the LORD'S test, Jesus overcame all the devil's temptations and returned in the power of the Spirit and goes to the synagogue in Nazareth. This is a fantastic moment, for all Christianity, a momentous moment in history the promised Messiah the Christ the fulfilment of the words of the prophets is announcing his ministry. Jesus words, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight," Is cited from the following verses of Isaiah:

- 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; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favour, (the entire chapter is about the Lord) (Isaiah 61:1-2)

The Jews had meticulously kept all that the prophets of the Old Testament had spoken written on scrolls, these scrolls are what we call the original manuscripts today and the inspired word of God. Jesus is in synagogue in Nazareth reading from one of these scrolls, because Jesus grew up in Nazareth the townsfolk would have known him and his family very well this no-doubt is why they would have been totally amazed when he told all in the Synagogue that he was the one Isaiah thousands of years earlier spoke of, what an incredible moment for the people of Nazareth.

**NOTE:** Jesus miracles and his healing the multitudes of all kinds of sickness was not his ministry, but a sign that he was the one the Old Testament prophets proclaimed was to come and acts of compassion. Jesus ministry was to proclaim the Gospel and teach his twelve disciples.

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## LUKE 4:23-24

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### **Physician, Heal Yourself.**

- **Luke 4:23-24:** And he said to them (the people of Nazareth) (v16) "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." <sup>24</sup>And he said, "Truly, I say to you no prophet is acceptable in his hometown.

The townsfolk of Nazareth spoke well of Jesus but doubted he was the one the prophet Isaiah spoke of (v22) thus the reason Jesus said, when they hear of his miracles in Capernaum then they will be asking him to do the same in his hometown Nazareth. Capernaum was Jesus headquarters for much of his public ministry and his place of abode (Matt. 4:13) (Luke 4:31). Several of Jesus disciples were from Capernaum and many miracles were performed there.

**No prophet is acceptable in his hometown:** this principal also applies to Christians, because family members are familiar with each other it is generally very difficult for a Christian to witness to their own family except through their good lifestyle and changed behaviour (i.e. showing love and kindness etc.), even if the family rejects their faith.

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## LUKE 4:25-26

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### **Elijah was sent only to Zarephath.**

- **Luke 4:25-26:** But in truth, I tell you (the people of Nazareth) (v16) there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, <sup>26</sup>and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

Zarephath belonged to Sidon (a city between Tyre and Sidon) There was no rain for three and a half years causing a great famine. Even though there would have been many sufferings and without food Elijah was only sent to one Gentile woman. While with the woman Elijah performed three miracles, he brought the woman son back to life and left her with a jar of flour and a jug of oil that never emptied until the famine was over (1 Kings 17:8-24). During the Old Testament the Jews saw themselves as the holy race with God and the Gentiles as an unclean race without God this, is why it is so amazing that Elijah a prophet of God went to a Gentile woman. The Jews were not considered widows because God was their Father whereas the Gentiles were considered widows because they were without God and therefore had no father.

Jesus has just told the people of Nazareth that he is the one the prophet Isaiah said was to come, but they did not believe him (Luke 4:14-22) so he is using the story of Elijah to show the unbelieving Jews in Nazareth that they shouldn't be surprised that the promised Messiah and Son of God grew up in their humble little town especially when they consider that Elijah the great prophet of God who all the Jews admired was sent only to a humble Gentile woman, even though there would have been many Jewish people in the same difficult circumstances.

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## LUKE 4:27

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### **Elisha, only cleansed Naaman the Syrian.**

- **Luke 4:27:** And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

Naaman was a Syrian Gentile general who Elisha healed of leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-23). Jesus tells the people of Nazareth, even though there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elijah he was sent only to a Syrian Gentile man. Jesus has just told the people of Nazareth that he is the one the prophet Isaiah said was to come, but they did not believe him (Luke 4:14-22). Jesus is using the story of Naaman to show the unbelieving townsfolk of Nazareth that they should not be in doubt about who he is simply because he lives in the town of Nazareth.

**The Townsfolk of Nazareth Attempt to Throw Jesus off a Cliff.**

- **Luke 4:28-32:** When they (people of Nazareth) (v16) heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. <sup>29</sup>And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But passing through their midst, he went away. <sup>31</sup>And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, <sup>32</sup>and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.

Jesus has just told the people of Nazareth that he is the one the prophet Isaiah said was to come, but they did not believe him (Luke 4:14-22). (Luke 4:14-22) so he used the story of Elijah and the widow woman and Elisha and Naaman the leper to prove who he was, but it made them so furious they attempted to kill him.

**Ponder for a moment:** the entire congregation took Jesus to the edge of a cliff intending to throw him off, but he walked right through the crowd and into Capernaum, imagine how the people of Nazareth are going to feel when they hear of all the following people he healed in Capernaum:

- The paralytic man lowered through the roof (Matt 9:1-26).
- A woman with a discharge of blood for twelve years (Matt 9:1-22).
- A ruler's daughter who had died (Matt 9:1-23).
- Two blind men (Matt 9:1-30).
- A man that was mute and believed to be demon-oppressed (Matthew 9:1-33).
- A man with an unclean spirit on a Sabbath day (Mark 1:21-28).
- Simon's Peters mother in law of a fever (Mark 1:21-30).
- All who were sick and oppressed by demons who were brought to him (Mark 1:21-32).
- A man with a withered hand in a Synagogue on a Sabbath day (Mark 2:1) (Mark 2:15) (Mark 3:1-5).
- A Roman Centurion servant (Luke 7:1-10).
- A man's son who was at the point of death (John 4:46-53).
- All who had diseases and demons in the city (Mark 1:21-34).

Remember Jesus told the people of Nazareth that a day would come when they would ask him to do in their town what he has done in Capernaum (Luke 4:23-24).

**Jesus Heals a Man with the Spirit of an Unclean Demon.**

- **Luke 4:33-37:** And in the synagogue (of Capernaum) there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon (daimion), and he cried out with a loud voice <sup>34</sup>"Ha! 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." <sup>35</sup>But Jesus rebuked him saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. <sup>36</sup>And they (people of Capernaum) were all amazed and said

to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!"<sup>37</sup> And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region (of Capernaum)

**Demons, devils and sickness:** (see also Devil) (Further down). The English word demon and demons are not found in the entire New Testament of the King James Bible. The translators have unfortunately translated both (diabolas) and (daimion) as devil or devils which gives a completely wrong understanding of the Greek words diabolos (devil) and daimion (demon) and has over the years led to a misunderstanding of the difference between devils and demons. Most modern Bible versions have translated demons (daimion) and devils (diabolas) correctly. The word demons (daimion) was believed to be an inferior deity or god and primarily relates to sickness whereas devils (diabolas) means a false accuser or slander and primarily relates to people's behaviour and not sickness.

**The Jews and demons:** the Jews believed demons to be an inferior evil god or deity that held possession of those with severe sickness either bodily or mentally those that were mentally sick were believed to be possessed by an evil inferior god called daimon. They believed that the demons (daimonions) so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves thus 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 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 also 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 (have fits etc.), they are referred to as having demons or an unclean spirit. Thus, sickness is 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 unclean spirits, 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 behaviour 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 against 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 God) being in control 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 demon 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. 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 term, 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. In most English versions of the Bible, the term demon is translated as devil, and in the New Testament, demon is identified with an evil spirit. 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 were 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 human's well-being. It is not the Bible that is wrong, but the 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. Today's generations primary understanding of demons comes from Hollywood and not New Testament or spiritual thinking because of this to think of someone having a demon is highly offensive as it implies, they are either extremely evil or extremely morally bankrupt which not one of the persons who are said to have demons in the Bible were.

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### **SOME SIMILAR BIBLICAL STORIES TO THE MAN HEALED OF AN UNCLEAN DEMON**

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**A woman and her daughter:** a Greek Syrophenician woman asked Jesus to cast forth the demon (daimon) (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. This is a woman's young daughter, a child. 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 (Mark 7:23-30).

**A man and his child:** a man tells Jesus that a spirit takes his child, and the son cries out during his epileptic fits and the boy suffers bodily harm. This is a man loved his son, the child would certainly 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 (Luke 9:37-41).

**A lunatic:** 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 has very bad fits that sometimes seriously harm 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 and sicknesses they did not understand as being the result of the moon or the sick person being possessed by inferior evil gods. The Jews mistaken 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 demons 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 supernaturally healing people. Once a person saw and experienced 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. Thus, the apostles and Jesus ministry was not to teach medical science, but to connect people separated from God to God

**Demons (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 person's 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 feelings of fear through the human nervous system and these feelings in turn reinforce and convince those that believe in demons or monsters that real evil gods do exist.

**Not everything is black and white:** 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, but one thing that is very clear and is black and white is that those in the Bible who were said to be possessed by demons were not evil wicked people in fact some were children and others humbly fell at the Lords feet and wanted to follow him added to this God through the Lord Jesus Christ showed them great compassion and mercy.

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#### UNCLEAN IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

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**Unclean:** unclean (akathartos) means, impure, evil, foul, disgusting, offensive, repulsive, gross and nasty, in a moral sense it carries the idea of being unclean in thought and life and in a ceremonial sense it applies to that which must be abstained from according to the Levitical law.

**Unclean in the Old Testament:** a person was considered unclean if they touched an unclean bird, animal, fish or were drinking strong drink, a woman that gives birth to a male child and people with leprosy were considered unclean. The land was considered unclean because of the people's uncleanness and people who touched a dead body killed in battle or a bone or a grave were considered unclean. Sin is identified with uncleanness and an unclean spirit is identified with idols and false prophets. The uncircumcised, the Gentiles and anything not Jewish was considered unclean. A person could become unclean by defiling themselves, ethically, sexually, religiously, ceremonially or by ritual or idolatry. Unclean does not always apply to certain sickness' foods or ceremonial and religious laws being broken or forsaken. No unclean person was to enter the house of the LORD. Unclean in the Old Testament is not the same as saying the people are unsaved as in most verses the word unclean is referring to God's chosen people Israel.

**Unclean in the New Testament:** during Jesus generation the Jews considered Gentiles unclean, meaning without God, without forgiveness and without redemption. Unclean does not always relate to moral sin, but has a wider meaning that embraces anything that it is not of God, (i.e., false doctrines are called unclean spirits and idols or anything that is opposed to God is called unclean). The people of Jesus generation believed that mental sickness or disorders, including blindness, deafness and any other sickness they did not understand were a result of demon (daimon) possession. Throughout the New Testament demons and unclean spirits are often used in the same story as interchangeable terms because they carry the same meaning. Jesus spoke to the physical sicknesses saying be healed and the people were healed by the spoken word of Jesus in the same way Jesus speaks to illnesses people believed to be caused by evil gods called demons or unclean spirits saying come or depart, and the person was healed it was Jesus' word that had the power to heal sickness regardless of what people believed caused the sickness. Unclean in some contexts in the New Testament can mean unsaved because both unclean and unsaved carry the idea (i.e., separated from God). In other contexts, the word unclean and unsaved means the same as the word common referring to the population at large contrasted to the privileged, the rich or those with authority.

**The story of the man with the unclean spirit in the synagogue of Capernaum:** notice in this story it is the man who is speaking to Jesus not the so-called unclean demon (v34). A report about Jesus had gone throughout all the surrounding country of Galilee (v14) remember the congregation of the synagogue of Nazareth had tried just tried to kill Jesus because he claimed to be the one Isaiah prophesied was to come (v28-32). Now he is in the synagogue of Capernaum this so-called demon possessed man with an unclean spirit has no-doubt heard that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and that the people of Nazareth had tried to kill him. Added to this the religious leaders of Capernaum would have been speaking against Jesus. Thus, the reason the man cries out in a mocking tone to Jesus asking him what has he to do with the congregation of the synagogue of Capernaum has he come to destroy them. When the man says, "Ha you from Nazareth," he is ridiculing Jesus and when he says, "I know who you are the Holy One of God," he is mocking him, and when he says, "Have you come to destroy us," he is referring to the congregation of the synagogue. This, is why the writer of the story says the man has an unclean spirit. The unclean spirit in this context is the spirit of mockery. Jesus authority was so powerful and commanding that he tells the man to be quiet and the man instantly falls to the ground and stops talking, thus the people believed the evil god called a demon and the unclean spirit had gone out of the man. (Jesus does a similar thing in the next story with Peter's mother in law).

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#### LUKE 4:38-39

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**Jesus casts a Fever out of Peter's Mother in Law.**

- **Luke 4:38-39:** And he arose and left the synagogue (of Capernaum) and entered Simon's (Peter's) house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. <sup>39</sup>And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

Peter's mother-in-law had a high fever and even though the fever was not a demon or an unclean spirit Jesus rebuked it and the verse says the fever left her this clearly shows us that the writers of Jesus generation recorded the story according to what the people believed at that time (i.e. everyone today knows that a fever is not caused by evil god's called demons or unclean spirits).

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## LUKE 4:40-41

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### **Jesus heals all who came to Him.**

- **Luke 4:40-41:** Now 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. <sup>41</sup>And demons 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.

**NOTICE:** whoever Jesus touched was healed, which means regardless of a person's lifestyle, their pagan faith or even whether they believed Jesus was the Son of God or not he healed them when it came to healing there was no judgment.

**Every one of them was healed:** no-where in the Bible, does Scripture ever mention mental illness and yet many during biblical time would have had mental disorders. In the time of Jesus and the apostles the language used during their generations for mental illnesses and disorders was possessed with demons or possessed with unclean spirits which to them meant that the people who had sicknesses they did not understand including blindness and deafness had evil god's called demons or unclean spirits dwelling in them.

**Demons also came out of many:** the phrase, "Demons also came out of many," in this context refers to the mocking spirit of those who cried out amongst the crowds, "You are the Son of God!" These people are not exalting Jesus as the Son of God, but are attempting to ridicule him, but Jesus authority was so powerful and commanding when he told them to be quiet they stopped speaking, thus the people believed the so called evil gods called demons or unclean spirits had gone out of the person's body.

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## LUKE 4:42-44

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### **Jesus must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God.**

- **Luke 4:42-44:** And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people (of Capernaum) sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them <sup>43</sup>but he said to them "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." <sup>44</sup>And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

It was very difficult for Jesus to escape the crowds, sometimes neither he nor the apostles had time to eat or sleep, even now it is the end of the day and finally he manages to be on his own, but it is not long before the people find him. In contrast to the people of Nazareth (Jesus hometown) the people of Capernaum wanted Jesus to stay.

**Jesus primary ministry:** Jesus said, "He must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God to the other towns because he was sent for this purpose. Jesus primary purpose was not to heal people from their physical and mental illness, but to preach the Good News of the Kingdom and teach

the twelve apostles. Healing was an act of compassion and a sign to prove that Jesus was the one the Old Testament Scriptures speak of and the prophets said was to come and to authenticate that he was sent from God and was the Son of God.

**NOTICE:** when Jesus said, "He must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God," It is not the literal Kingdom of God itself that is in focus, but the Good News of it, (also called the Gospel). The Good News is that sinners are saved by grace contrasted to the ceremonial law and everything that it demands.

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**For further information see the title:**

- Salvation according to the Gospel.
- Salvation and the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Both titles are in Salvation (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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