

Do You Need to Fear Demons?

I. The Origen of Demons.

³Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven diadems. ⁴And his tail **swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.*

⁷And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, ⁸and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Revelation 12:3-4, 7-9 (NASB)

II. The Nature of Demons

- A. They are spirit beings. (Matthew 10:1; cf Matt. 17:18 with Mark 9:25)
- B. They are persons displaying intelligence (Mk. 1:24; James 2:19) and systems of doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1). They show emotions like fear (Luke 8:28; James 2:19) and demonstrate a will (Luke 8:32).
- C. They provide incredible strength to those they possess (Mark 5:3; Acts 19:14-16)
- D. They are capable of performing miracles (Rev. 16:14)

¹⁴for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. Revelation 16:14 (NASB)

²⁴"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24 (NASB)

III. The Activity of Demons

- A. Demons receive worship to idols and false gods (Lev. 17:7; Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:36-38; 1 Cor. 10:19-20).

¹⁹What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

²⁰No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. 1 Corinthians 10:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁶"They made Him jealous with strange gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger.

¹⁷"They sacrificed to demons who were not God, To gods whom they have not known, New gods who came lately, Whom your fathers did not dread. Deuteronomy 32:16-17 (NASB)

B. Demonizing humans.

1. They can cause dumbness (Mt. 9:32-33; Mk. 9:17-29)
2. They can cause blindness (Mt. 12:22)
3. They can cause physical deformity (Lk. 13:11-17)
4. They can cause epilepsy (Mt. 17:15-18)
5. They can cause insanity and self-destruction (Lk. 8:27-29; Mk 5:5)

6. They plant thoughts in people's minds (John 13:2; 1 John 4:1)

² During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon*, to betray Him, John 13:2 (NASB)

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1 (NASB)

¹⁰ Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and he raved in the midst of the house, while David was playing *the harp* with his hand, as usual; and a spear *was* in Saul's hand. ¹¹ Saul hurled the spear for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David escaped from his presence twice. 1 Samuel 18:10-11 (NASB)

²¹ "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, Mark 7:21 (NASB)

IV. Do you need to fear demons?

A. All people need to have a healthy caution for the spirit world.

¹⁰ "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

¹² "For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord; and because of these detestable things the Lord your God will drive them out before you. ¹³ "You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. ¹⁴ "For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you *to do* so. Deuteronomy 18:10-14

B. Believers in Jesus need not fear demons as much as unbelievers should.

1. The Holy Spirit within you is more powerful than any demon(s)- 1 John 4:2-4

² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

⁴ You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:2-4 (NASB)

2. If we persist in rebelling against God and rejecting the Spirit's leadership we can become vulnerable to demonic attack.

¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14 (NASB)

C. Unbelievers are easy targets for demonic attack.

⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; Matthew 25:41 (NASB)