

## ~DEMON (399)

[Greek, *dai'mon*]

### .. What Were Demons To The Greeks To Whom Paul Preached

- An invisible, wicked, spirit creature having superhuman powers. The common Greek word for demon *dai'mon* occurs only once in the Christian Greek Scriptures, at;
  - So the **demons** began to entreat him, saying; If you expel us, send us forth into the herd of swine. (**Matthew 8:31**)
  - Elsewhere the word *dai-mo'ni-on* appears. *Pneu'ma*, the Greek word for **spirit**, at times is applied to **wicked spirits**, or **demons**.
  - But after it became evening, people brought him many **demon-possessed** persons, and he expelled the **spirits** with a word, and he cured all who were faring badly. (**Matthew 8:16**)
  - It also occurs qualified by terms such as **wicked, unclean, speechless, and deaf**.
  - In that hour he cured many of sicknesses and grievous diseases and wicked spirits, and granted many blind persons the favor of seeing. (**Luke 7:21**)
  - So he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, in order to expel these and to cure every sort of disease and every sort of infirmity. (**Matthew 10:1**)
  - And one of the crowd answered him; Teacher, I brought my son to you because he has a speechless spirit. (**Mark 9:17**)
  - Jesus, now noticing that a crowd was running together upon them, rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it; You speechless and deaf spirit, I order you, get out of him and enter into him no more. (**Mark 9:25**)

### See Also SPIRIT (Spirit Persons)

- The **demons** as such were not created by God. The first to make himself one was **Satan the Devil**, who became the ruler of other angelic sons of God who also made themselves **demons**.

- **At hearing this, the Pharisees said; This fellow does not expel the **demons** except by means of Beelzebub, the ruler of the **demons**. (Matthew 12:24)**
- **In the same way, if Satan expels Satan, he has become divided against himself. How, then, will his kingdom stand? (Matthew 12:26)**
- **In Noah's day disobedient angels materialized, married women, fathered a hybrid generation known as Nephilim, and then dematerialized when the Flood came.**
- **Now it came about that when men started to grow in numbers on the surface of the ground and daughters were born to them. (Genesis 6:1)**
- **Then the sons of the true God began to notice the daughters of men, that they were good-looking, and they went taking wives for themselves, namely, all whom they chose. (Genesis 6:2)**
- **After that Yehowah said; My spirit shall not act toward man indefinitely in that he is also flesh. Accordingly his days shall amount to a hundred and twenty years. (Genesis 6:3)**
- **The Nephilim proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. (Genesis 6:4)**
- **However, upon returning to the spirit realm, they did not regain their lofty original position, for,**
- **The angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place he has reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day. (Jude 1:6)**
- **In this state also he went his way and preached to the spirits in prison. (1 Peter 3:19)**
- **Who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in**

which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water. ([1 Peter 3:20](#))

- **So it is in this condition of dense spiritual darkness that they must now confine their operations.**
- **Certainly if God did not hold back from punishing the angels that sinned, but, by throwing them into Tartarus, delivered them to pits of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment. ([2 Peter 2:4](#))**
- **Though evidently restrained from materializing, they still have great power and influence over the minds and lives of men, even having the ability to enter into and possess humans and animals, and the facts show that they also use inanimate things such as houses, fetishes, and charms.**
- **When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it passes through parched places in search of a resting-place, and finds none. ([Matthew 12:43](#))**
- **Then it says, I will go back to my house out of which I moved, and on arriving it finds it unoccupied but swept clean and adorned. ([Matthew 12:44](#))**
- **Then it goes its way and takes along with it seven different spirits more wicked than itself, and, after getting inside, they dwell there, and the final circumstances of that man become worse than the first. That is how it will be also with this wicked generation. ([Matthew 12:45](#))**
- **But as he got out onto land a certain man from the city who had **demons** met him. And for a considerable time he had not worn clothing, and he was staying, not at home, but among the tombs. ([Luke 8:27](#))**
- **At the sight of Jesus he cried aloud and fell down before him, and with a loud voice he said; What have I to do with you, Jesus Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me. ([Luke 8:28](#))**
- **For he had been ordering the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For over a long time it had held him fast, and he was repeatedly bound with chains and fetters under guard, but he would burst the bonds and be driven by the **demon** into the**

lonely places. (Luke 8:29)

- Jesus asked him; What is your name? He said; Legion, because many **demons** had entered into him. (Luke 8:30)
- And they kept entreating him not to order them to go away into the abyss. (Luke 8:31)
- Now a herd of a considerable number of swine was feeding there on the mountain, so they entreated him to permit them to enter into those. And he gave them permission. (Luke 8:32)
- Then the **demons** went out of the man and entered into the swine, and the herd rushed over the precipice into the lake and drowned. (Luke 8:33)

**See Also DEMON POSSESSION**

**See Also SATAN**

**See Also NEPHILIM**

- The purpose of all such **demonic** activity is to turn people against Yehowah and the pure worship of God. Yehowah's Law, therefore, strictly forbade **demonism** in any form.
- There should not be found in you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, anyone who employs divination, a practitioner of magic or anyone who looks for omens or a sorcerer. (Deuteronomy 18:10)
- Or one who binds others with a spell or anyone who consults a spirit medium or a professional foreteller of events or anyone who inquires of the dead. (Deuteronomy 18:11)
- For **everybody doing these things is something detestable to Yehowah**, and on account of these detestable things Yehowah your God is driving them away from before you. (Deuteronomy 18:12)
- However, wayward Israel went so far astray as to sacrifice their sons and daughters to the **demons**.
- And they would sacrifice their sons and their daughters to **demons**. (Psalms 106:37)

- They went sacrificing to **demons**, not to God, God's whom they had not known, new ones who recently came in, with whom your forefathers were not acquainted. (**Deuteronomy 32:17**)
- And he proceeded to put in office for himself priests for the high places and for the goat-shaped **demons** and for the calves that he had made. (**2 Chronicles 11:15**)
- When Jesus was on earth **demon** influence was very prevalent, and some of his greatest miracles consisted of expelling wicked spirits from victimized persons.
- So the **demons** began to entreat him, saying; If you expel us, send us forth into the herd of swine. (**Matthew 8:31**)
- Accordingly he said to them; Go! They came out and went off into the swine, and, look! The entire herd rushed over the precipice into the sea and died in the waters. (**Matthew 8:32**)
- And after the **demon** had been expelled the dumb man spoke. Well, the crowds felt amazement and said; Never was anything like this seen in Israel. (**Matthew 9:33**)
- But the Pharisees began to say; It is by the ruler of the **demons** that he expels the **demons**. (**Matthew 9:34**)
- And he did go, preaching in their synagogues throughout the whole of Galilee and expelling the **demons**. (**Mark 1:39**)
- The woman was a Grecian, a Syrophoenician nationally, and she kept asking him to expel the **demon** from her daughter. (**Mark 7:26**)
- But he began by saying to her; First let the children be satisfied, for it is not right to take the bread of the children and throw it to the little dogs. (**Mark 7:27**)
- In reply, however, she said to him; Yes, sir, and yet the little dogs underneath the table eat of the crumbs of the little children. (**Mark 7:28**)
- At that he said to her; Because of saying this, go! The **demon** has gone out of your daughter. (**Mark 7:29**)

- So she went away to her home and found the young child laid on the bed and the **demon** gone out. (**Mark 7:30**)
- And certain women that had been cured of wicked spirits and sicknesses, Mary the so-called Magdalene, from whom seven **demons** had come out. (**Luke 8:2**)
- And he said to them; Go and tell that fox, Look! I am casting out **demons** and accomplishing healing today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be finished. (**Luke 13:32**)
- Jesus gave this same power to his 12 apostles and to the 70 that he sent out, so that in the name of Jesus they too could cast out the **demons**.
- Cure sick people, raise up dead persons, make lepers clean, expel **demons**. You received free, give free. (**Matthew 10:8**)
- And he formed a group of twelve, whom he also named apostles, that they might continue with him and that he might send them out to preach (**Mark 3:14**)
- And to have authority to expel the **demons**. (**Mark 3:15**)
- And they would expel many **demons** and grease many sickly people with oil and cure them. (**Mark 6:13**)
- Then he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all the **demons** and to cure sicknesses. (**Luke 9:1**)
- Then the seventy returned with joy, saying; Lord, even the **demons** are made subject to us by the use of your name. (**Luke 10:17**)
- **Demon** influence in human affairs is no less manifest today. It is still true that the things which the nations sacrifice they sacrifice to **demons**.
- No, but I say that the things which the nations sacrifice they sacrifice to **demons**, and not to God. I do not want you to become sharers with the **demons**. (**1 Corinthians 10:20**)
- In the last book of the Bible, the revelation by Jesus Christ, which God gave him, to show his slaves the things that must shortly

take place, prophetic warning is given concerning accelerated **demon** activity on the earth.

- A revelation by Jesus Christ, which God gave him, to show his slaves the things that must shortly take place. And he sent forth his angel and presented it in signs through him to his slave John. (**Revelation 1:1**)
- So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called **Devil** and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth, he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him. (**Revelation 12:9**)
- On this account be glad, you heavens and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea, because the **Devil** has come down to you, having great anger, knowing he has a short period of time. (**Revelation 12:12**)
- Unclean, froglike expressions are, in fact, expressions inspired by **demons** and perform signs, and they go forth to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty.
- And I saw three unclean inspired expressions that looked like frogs come out of the mouth of the **dragon** and out of the mouth of the wild beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. (**Revelation 16:13**)
- They are, in fact, expressions inspired by **demons** and perform signs, and they go forth to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty. (**Revelation 16:14**)
- Christians must, therefore, put up a hard fight against these unseen wicked spirits. James, in arguing that belief alone is not sufficient, says;
- You believe there is one God, do you? You are doing quite well. And yet the **demons** believe and shudder. (**James 2:19**)
- In later periods of time, warned Paul;
- However, the inspired utterance says definitely that in later periods of time some will fall away from the faith, paying

attention to misleading inspired utterances and teachings of **demons**. (1 Timothy 4:1)

- One cannot eat of Yehowah's table and at the same time feed from the table of **demons**.
- You cannot be drinking the cup of Yehowah and the cup of **demons**. You cannot be partaking of the table of Yehowah and the table of **demons**. (1 Corinthians 10:21)
- The faithful, therefore, must put up a hard fight against the Devil and his **demons**, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places.
- Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

#### •• What Were Demons To The Greeks To Whom Paul Preached

- This use of the word **demon** is narrow and specific compared with the notions of ancient philosophers and the way the word was used in classical Greek. In this regard the *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, edited by G. Kittel [Vol. II, p. 8] remarks:
  - The meaning of the adjective *dai-mo'ni-os* brings out most clearly the distinctive features of the Greek conception of demons, for it denotes that which lies out with human capacity and is thus to be attributed to the intervention of higher powers, whether for good or evil. *To dai-mo'ni-on* in pre-Christian writers can be used in the sense of the divine. [Translated and edited by G. Bromiley, 1971]
- When speaking controversially with Paul, some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers concluded: He seems to be a publisher of foreign deities *Greek, dai-mo-ni'on*.
- But certain ones of both the Epicurean and the Stoic philosophers took to conversing with him controversially, and some would say; What is it this chatterer would like to tell? Others: He seems to be a publisher of **foreign deities**. This was because he was declaring the Good News of Jesus and the resurrection. (Acts of Apostles 17:18)



- When speaking to the Athenians, Paul used a compound of the Greek word *dai'mon*; saying; You seem to be more given to the fear of the deities Greek, *dei-si-dai-mo-ne-ste'rous*, Latin Vulgate, more superstitious than others are.
- Paul now stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said; Men of Athens, I behold that in all things you seem to be more given to the fear of the deities than others are. (Acts of Apostles 17:22)
- Commenting on this compound word, F. F. Bruce remarks; The context must decide whether this word is used in its better or worse sense. It was, in fact, as vague as religious in English, and here we may best translate very religious. But AV superstitious is not entirely wrong, to Paul their religion was mostly superstition, as it also was, though on other grounds, to the Epicureans. [The Acts of the Apostles, 1970, p. 335]
- When speaking to King Herod Agrippa II, Festus said that the Jews had certain disputes with Paul concerning their worship of the deity Greek, *dei-si-dai-mo-ni'as*; Latin Vulgate, superstition.
- They simply had certain disputes with him concerning their own worship of the deity and concerning a certain Jesus who was dead but who Paul kept asserting was alive. (Acts of Apostles 25:19)
- It was noted by F. F. Bruce that this Greek word might be less politely rendered superstition [as in AV][Commentary on the Book of the Acts, 1971, p. 483] The corresponding adjective appears with the same ambiguity in,
- Paul now stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said; Men of Athens, I behold that in all things you seem to be more given to the fear of the deities than others are. (Acts of Apostles 17:22)

**See Also GOAT-SHAPED DEMON**