

Demons, Part 2

1

What About Demon Possession?

2

What's Happening When Someone is Possessed by a Demon?

At least one distinct, malevolent spiritual being has gained control of a human's actions for a period of time

¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. ¹⁶ "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. ¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." (Mark 9:15-18)

3

Evidently, Multiple Demons Can Possess Someone Simultaneously

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. (Luke 8:1-3)

4

Does Demon Possession Occur Today?

Possible Answer: Demon possession does not occur today because demon possession never occurred.

- This view holds that all Biblical examples of demon possession were really misdiagnosed physical or psychological disorders

5

Possible Answer: Demon possession does not occur today because God only allowed demon possession to occur during the ministry of Jesus and the 12 apostles as a limited-time phenomenon to demonstrate their power and authority.

6

Possible Answer: Demon possession does not occur today because although demon possession occurs in the gospels and in Acts, there is no mention of demon possession in the New Testament letters; so demon possession isn't something contemporary Christians ought to be worried about.

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Possible Answer: Demon possession occurs in a limited way today, chiefly in those cultures where the people are open to it because those are the circumstances under which demons are most likely to be successful.

8

Possible Answer: Demon possession occurs today anywhere people open themselves to demon possession (e.g. by dabbling in the Black Arts, inviting demons into their life, etc.).

9

Possible Answer: Demon possession occurs today exactly as it did in Biblical times (and so does exorcism too—more on that later).

10

Possible Answer: While seemingly not likely, the possibility of some sort of demonic possession or influence cannot be dismissed.

11

**What About Exorcising
Demons?**

12

Many Kinds of People Exorcised Demons

Jesus

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. (Mark 1:32-34)

13

Apostles

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:1-2)

14

Non-Believers

38 "Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us." 39 "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, 40 for whoever is not against us is for us. (Mark 9:38-41)

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15

13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. (Acts 19:13-16)

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16

Any Believer???

And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues. (Mark 16:17)

17

Whatever Else is Involved, Faith is the Key to Exorcising Demons

¹⁴ When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. ¹⁶ I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him"... ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" ²⁰ He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:14-16, 19-20)

18

Invoking Jesus' Name is Associated With Exorcising Demons

Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' (Matthew 7:22)