

AMERICA'S HOPE

MONTHLY

MARCH 1985

DEMONS

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The Holy Scriptures treat the subject of demonology simply and forcibly. From the Scriptures we gain a clear concept of the power and manner in which demons work and also learn how we can overcome them.

Since we are living in the closing days of the dispensation which precedes the millennial era, we might well expect to see demon power concentrated upon everything godly and good with frenzied vigor. Demons are fully aware that their doom is sealed and they have nearly spent their allotted time. That there is a set time appointed to them for the cessation of their activities is made clear from such passages as Matthew 8:28 and 29. Jesus met two possessed with devils. These devils cried out to Him, "What have we to do with thee, Jesus, the son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"

All Scripture recognizes evil spirits as being very real and having more strength and skill than human beings. Fierce muscular and mental distortion are evidenced wherever they gain control in mortals; and destruction accompanies their active presence in the elements. The Scriptures we shall cite here will prove the point. Nowhere, either in the Scriptures or in secular writing, can anything noble and fine be found which we can ascribe to evil spirits or demons. Their deeds are always ignoble, unholy, vile, corrupt, disturbing, vexing, grievous, oppressive, offensive, destructive and horrifying.

A depressed soul and spirit are frequently the working of some demon. When God afflicts a soul or spirit as a chastisement, He sends joy after the chastisement has wrought its purpose. Such is not the case when Satan or his cohorts afflict or attack.

Evil Spirits Disturb Elements

Passages of scripture like Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:37-41 and Luke 8:22-25 infer that satanic forces attempted to drown the Son of God and His disciples. The fact that Jesus rebuked the angry, lashing waves and the stormy wind in the same manner as He rebuked demons within human beings makes it clear that demons disturb and create much havoc in the elements.

Jesus Cured People of Evil Spirits

"The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is the Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know . . . How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" (Acts 10:36-38). "... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8).

As we study the various types of evil spirits we must remember that Jesus overcame them then and He is doing so now. He wants to empower every believer with His own Holy Spirit so that the believer might overcome them even as Jesus did. Paul makes this plain in his letter to the Ephesians, chapter 6, verses 10 through 12: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Unclean Spirits

The first chapter of Mark relates of an incident when a man with an unclean spirit came to the synagogue — other passages also relate such cases. This evil spirit testified to the Deity of Jesus in these words: "Let us alone, what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." Jesus rebuked this unclean spirit and commanded him to come out of the man. This caused the unclean spirit to cry out loudly and tear his victim. Those who witnessed this event were amazed at the authority with which Jesus commanded the unclean spirits to obey Him.

Because of this deliverance and that of the healing of Simon's mother-in-law of a fever, the witnesses had faith to bring to Jesus all among them "that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. And all the city was