

# What Does The Bible Say About Demons?



In his work *The Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis eavesdrops on a series of letters from a senior demon Screwtape to his nephew Wormwood, a Junior Tempter. The uncle's mentorship pertains to the nephew's responsibility for securing the damnation of a British man known only as "the Patient".

In that book, Lewis offers this insight: "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence.

The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." [That's the "there's an evil spirit behind every bush . . . story about the lady who grabbed a jar of olive oil to annoint a woman who was possessed by "an evil spirit of lesbianism"] Our goal is to avoid both errors and become a little more informed about how the enemy of our souls works through a networking army of fallen spirit beings called demons (*\*Ephesians 6:10-13*). "Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in the world." (Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*. Page 174)

## 2 Reasons Why We Christians Steer Clear Of "Demon Discussion"

1. **There's the "HOLLYWOOD Problem."** In Hollywood depictions, evil is greatly dramatized and in 1 way or the other ultimately wins! [Exorcist, the Priest dies, even though the girl lives, and the struggle is like a heavyweight prize fight, with the outcome always in doubt . . . NOT an idea EVER promoted by Scripture. I've only seen 1 movie like that . . . experience w/WDAM . . . "I loved it, it was great . . . " ]
2. **There's the MATERIALISTIC mindset of our culture.** [Lewis, "MATTER is all that matters, MATTER is all there is" ] The only thing that is real is what we can experience w/our 5 senses. If you can't see it, hear it, taste it, touch it, or feel it, IT doesn't exist! "If MY net can't catch 'em, they're not fish." Everything today MUST be explained away in pure scientific categories, or it is dismissed as superstition or ignorance (the ENLIGHTENMENT era (or Age of Reason in the 17<sup>th</sup>-18 century). This CONFLICT between FAITH and is depicted quite well in the 2005 film *The exorcism of Emily Rose*. The character of Emily Rose was inspired by the true story of [Anneliese Michel](#), a young [German Catholic](#) woman who died in 1976 after unsuccessful attempts to perform an exorcism on her. The court accepted the version according to which she was epileptic and psychotic, refusing to accept the idea of supernatural involvement in this case. Two priests involved in the exorcism, as well as her parents, were found guilty of [manslaughter](#) resulting from negligence and received prison time (which was suspended), generating controversy. What the case and movie boiled

down to was a classic case of SCIENTIFIC MATERIALISM verses what the BIBLE says about demon possession, with the SCIENTIFIC MATERIALISM mindset winning the day in court.

1) Consider some OLD TESTAMENT information regarding demons.

- A. Several Texts indicates that the IDOLS worshipped by Israel during Her time of rebellion were in fact demons. (*Psm. 106:36-37*) Visible images are FRONTS for invisible demonic spirits. What was BEHIND the idol was demonic. [warning against Amulets, occultic symbols, etc...]
- B. Some believed demons assumed the shape or form of a GOAT. (*2 Chron. 11:15*) Also a common modern symbol! Goat-Idols, with demonic spirits behind them, were common in Egypt, and faithless Israelites were being succored into worshipping them. King Jereboam (a Jewish King) even appointed priests to lead in worship of he-goat idols.
- C. One word for demon (*Lilith*) means “night MONSTER”, or a night demon who prowled about in dark and desolate places. (*Isaiah 34:4, cf Psm. 91:5*) \*\*\*<sup>NIV</sup> **Isaiah 34:14** *Desert creatures will meet with hyenas, and wild goats (kjv “sytar” = half man / half goat) will bleat to each other; there the night creatures will also repose and find for themselves places of rest. לִלִּית (lilith) (539b) Meaning: a female night-demon\*\*\**
- D. Demons are also called “LYING spirits.” (*1 Kings 22:19-23*) King Ahab was seeking counsel from his prophets about a possible attack on Ramoth Gilead, a town under Armenian control. The story says a “LYING SPIRIT” volunteered to be a lying spirit in the mouth of all Ahab’s prophets. Ahab listened to the prophets who were speaking lies and died in the Battle.

**ASSOCIATIONS???** IDOLATRY, DARKNESS, DESOLATION, LYING . . . all associated w/demonic activity. Gospel remedy has always been worship of the TRUE God (and not an idol), walking in the LIGHT (symbolic), FELLOWSHIP & not Isolation, and living and speaking the TRUTH!

2) Consider some NEW TESTAMENT information regarding demons.

- A. The New Testament uses basically two terms for demons, *diamond / diamonion* (63 times, 54 in the Gospels) and *pneumata*, “spirits” or “unclean spirits” in *Luke 10:17; 10:20* (21 times).
- **Demons are SERVANTS of SATAN.** [Bob Dylan . . . you Gotta Serve SOMEBODY . . . it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you gotta . . . Bumper Sticker: WHOSE servant are you?]

B. Here are some characteristics and activities of demons.

- **They SPEAK to and COMMUNICATE with humans.** (*\*Acts 19:11-20*)
- **They are INTELLIGENT (more on that later).** (*Luke 4:31-37*) <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. <sup>32</sup> They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. <sup>33</sup> In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, <sup>34</sup> “Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? ***I know who you are***—the Holy One of God!”
- **They formulate and propagate their own system of DOCTRINE.** (*\*1 Timothy 4:1-3*) This happens in the CHURCH = a prime target for the devil to attack, through what is TAUGHT, b/c it begins in the MIND. This is a reference to LEGALISM = a way that demons attack w/in the church? Adding to the Gospel is serious business!!!
  - ➔ Distortions and misrepresentations of the truth are NOT always the product of merely human misunderstanding and miscalculation!
  - ➔ Demons are extremely active in promoting FALSEHOOD in the church! (*1 John 4:1-6*) Especially about WHO Christ is & WHAT Christ has done . . . WHY we should be bothered by cults and especially when CULTS (Mormonism) is becoming more acceptable even to Christians!
- **They experience a wide range of FEELINGS and EMOTIONS** (*James 2:19*) They BELIEVE and TREMBLE, not athiests or agnostics, nor indifferent to God! They are passionate, just about the wrong things!
- **They are STRONG.** (*Mark 9:29*) *Story in Mark 9* <sup>17</sup> A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup> 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.” <sup>19</sup> “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” <sup>20</sup> So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. <sup>22</sup> “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup> “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” <sup>24</sup> Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” <sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup> The spirit shrieked,

convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."<sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

- **They can appear in various FORMS.** (Rev. 9:7-10, 17; 16:13-16)
- **They can VISIT us without our knowing it.** (Heb. 13:1-2) [**Sam Storms, "If holy angels can visit us without our knowing it, there is every reason to believe that demons can do so as well."**]
- **They infuse their victims with supernatural POWER.** (Mark 5:3) <sup>5</sup> They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup> **When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. <sup>3</sup> This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. <sup>4</sup> For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.** <sup>5</sup> Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. <sup>7</sup> He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" <sup>8</sup> For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." [Legion = a division of from 3000 to 6000 men (including cavalry) in the Roman army] <sup>10</sup> And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. <sup>11</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. <sup>12</sup> The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." <sup>13</sup> **He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.** <sup>14</sup> Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup> When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. <sup>17</sup> Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. <sup>18</sup> As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. <sup>19</sup> Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." <sup>20</sup> So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis <sup>[b]</sup> how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.
- **Normal physical space does not restrict their ACTIVITY.** (Luke 8:26-39)

- **They can physically ASSULT someone.** (*Matt. 9:32-34*) You almost wonder when you see some of these vicious beatings (drug induced & drugs = an entry way into the occult, cf Galatians) how much of this is demonically energized.

## HERE'S WHERE IT GETS REAL FOR US...

**They inspire and energize false WISDOM** (*\*James 3:13-18*) = wisdom from below is demonically energized and includes expressions of BITTER JEALOUSY and SELFISH AMBITION.

**They inspire and energize all non-christian RELIGIONS and all forms of IDOLTRY.** (*1 Cor. 10:14-22; Gal. 4:3, 8-9*). *We are subject to evil spiritual forces IF we worship ANYTHING other than JX. Apart from the GOSPEL, we are enslaved to an IDOL, and IDOLS are demonically energized. Any god we construct in our minds that needs to be appeased by OUR works is an IDOL.*

**They operate like the NSA** (*Job 1:6-7*). *They gather information on you, compile it, and know your points of weakness so as to attack you with temptation.* The Bible doesn't directly address the ways that demons know about humanity, but I think we can find a clue in [Job 1:6-7](#): "The Lord said to Satan, 'From where have you come? Satan answered the LORD and said, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.'" As fallen angels, demons possess intelligence, express emotion, and exercise will. They also have a broad range of experience from directly observing and dealing with humanity for eons. As [S. Michael Houdmann says](#),

[A]ngels gain knowledge through long observation of human activities. Unlike humans, angels do not have to study the past; they have experienced it. Therefore, they know how others have acted and reacted in situations and can predict with a greater degree of accuracy how we may act in similar circumstances. So the short answer is "watching what humans do."

The question of how demons know about us can be illuminated, I believe, by comparing it to how your grocery store, Amazon, Google, or intelligence agencies like the NSA all use metadata to know our habits.

Take, for instance, the grocery store "loyalty card" that most of us carry. By using the cards, we get discounts on groceries, and the store gets detailed information about our shopping habits. Every transaction you make at the store can be tracked and stored in a computerized database. The metadata is the "data about data content" the store knows about you. When you swipe your loyalty card, the store's computer can know what you purchased (based on the price barcode), the time you bought an item (based on the computer's internal clock),

what other items you bought at the time, and various other information about you. The store not only knows where you live and what you buy, but could, based on the metadata collected in the past, even predict that on Friday evening you will buy Pop Tarts and Diet Coke.

The information collected by a grocery store is rather crude. But by adding a few more pieces of metadata (e.g., your Social Security number, zip code), the store could estimate fairly accurately when you were born, how much money you make—and even how much you weigh.

Now let's apply this concept analogically to the black box problem of how demons know information about us. The NSA and your local supermarket use powerful computer systems to collect and track metadata and develop crude profiles about you and me. Presumably, demons don't have computerized databases, though let's assume they have some method of collecting, tracking, and sharing information throughout their vast demon network (in other words, they share notes with other demons). They also have an advantage over intelligence agencies in that they can observe our behavior directly.

Consider what an intelligent being with an expansive ability at data collection could learn by simply observing you over a 24-hour period. Imagine that they can see not only the content of the e-mails you type, but also what you wrote and erased before hitting the send button. Imagine they took notes on what websites you visited, how long you stayed on a page, and the facial expressions you made while reading the content. Imagine also they listened to your cell phone conversations and overheard you gossiping to your spouse about a coworker.

What sort of profile could the demon-agent assigned to you build by just watching you for a day? How much could they know if they had been observing you since birth, tirelessly taking meticulous notes? Imagine if the demon network had collected more information on you than could be contained in Google's servers.

## **HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS!**

**Col 2:8-15** -- He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. <sup>[e]</sup> *THE LIFE AND DEATH OF CHRIST SIGNIFY THE INITIAL DEFEAT OF THE DEVIL AND ALL HIS DEMONS. THEIR POWER IS BROKEN AND WHAT*

*AWAITS THEM IS ETERNAL DESTRUCTION IN THE LAKE OF FIRE. JESUS CAME TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL!*

***Luke 10:17-20*** -- <sup>17</sup>The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." <sup>18</sup>He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup>***I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*** <sup>20</sup>However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." **Christians have AUTHORITY over demons!**

***1 John 4:4*** – <sup>4</sup>You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. *God lives in you through His Spirit and Word.* **Christians have all they need to resist evil in this world.**

### **APPLICATION FOR US**

**I should be concerned.** Demons are dangerous, especially for non-Christians and those in non-Christian belief systems; **but Christ is greater, and IF you are in Christ, you have NOTHING to fear!** You are protected, given discernment, and ultimately, the Battle is OVER. 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 1 minute left, behind 35-7. Since Jesus' time, it never has been an even fight!