

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 4- Luke 4:31-37** 50- Jesus' Authority Over Demons- Part 5

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Luke 4:31-37

Now as we learn here from the Bible- there is a wicked force of evil spirits in the world called demons. Originally these demons were created by God as holy angels. Their home was Heaven and they served and worshiped God. But through pride and rebellion- these angels became evil. How or why they became evil- the Bible does not tell us- but their leader- the arch angel Lucifer- came to be known as "satan" or the "devil", and he was able to lead one third of those holy angels in his prideful rebellion. As a result of their rebellion and pride and sin- all of them- the devil and 1/3 of all the holy angels were cast out of Heaven by God Himself. Jesus said in **Luke 10:18**:

I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.

Demons number in the hundreds of millions and they are eternal. Created by God originally- they will live forever in the lake of fire. An army of 200,000 demons live right now locked up under the great river Euphrates where they will be loosed all at once- during the Tribulation. When Jesus returns- one angel- will set a seal on them, and throw the devil and all his angels into the bottomless pit where they will be during the reign of Jesus on this earth for 1,000 years. After that- they will be thrown into Hell where they will be tormented forever because they cannot be redeemed, they cannot be forgiven, and they cannot ever repent. They are forever wicked and forever doomed- which is why they are so angry.

The Bible teaches that demons operate in the world today to achieve the purposes of satan and to attempt to thwart the Divine and

Sovereign Purposes of God- which they will not be able to do. Demons are behind the world's complex system of evil, and they are the dominating powers in the lives of all the people on earth who do not belong to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

The whole of humanity is in the awful and powerful grip of this force of evil spirits. So we have seen that demons are real, they are personal, and they are very, very wicked.

Now what we need to know is that every single human being on the face of the earth who is not born again through the shed Blood of Jesus Christ belongs to these demons and they are slaves to them in the sense of functioning under their dominating power. For example- **John 8:44** says,

You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

So we know that all of the unconverted are, in fact, the children of the devil." **1John 5:19** says:

... the whole world lies in *the power of the evil one*.

Ephesians 2:3 says that all unsaved people live their entire lives by fulfilling the desires of their sinful flesh and are by nature- the children of wrath. They are all under the unyielding influence of the spirit of disobedience who works in them. **2Corinthians 4:4** says that

... the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

So when you look out at the world and you see its evil, and you see the depth and height and length and breadth of the evil in this world- you are seeing the result not only of human depravity which produces its own evil- but you are looking at the compounded result of a complex system of wickedness being purveyed by millions of supernatural demons who use people to affect their God hating purposes.

Every single politician, every king, every President, every businessman, every priest, or imam, or counselor, every television or movie star, every author who has ever written a book, every song and every songwriter, every housewife and mother, every husband and father, every boy or girl who is not saved is under the complete and total dominion of demons and is a child of satan and is by nature under the very wrath of God.

Every single religion or human philosophy on earth that is contrary to Biblical Christianity is a religion that came from hell itself and the individual teachings of all those false religions are, in fact, doctrines of these demons sent forth from satan himself to deceive the simple and to take as many souls into hell as possible. These religions and human philosophies are not noble, they are not good, and God in Heaven does not give them one single ounce of credibility. They are all entirely evil, wicked attempts by the god of this world to steal, kill, and destroy the souls of men. And Jesus and the Apostles and Prophets of the Bible were not kind to any of these false religions. They did not agree to disagree. They did not engage these people in a conversation so they could share the various distinctions between them. The pattern of the men of the Bible against all false teaching is unmistakable and three fold:

1. They warned God's people to beware of them
2. They confronted them to their face
3. They condemned them in the strongest possible terms

Listen you may have different opinions about how to bake a cake or how to plow a field or how to build a business. You may have various ideas about how to fly an airplane or who should lead the country or how to solve our many social problems.

And we are to be kind and generous and patient and loving with all these various points of view. But never in any way in any page of the Holy Bible did anybody ever teach or say that we are to tolerate in any way a perversion of the Truth of Scripture. Never. When Jesus said, "**Do not judge so that you will not be judged**", He was not talking about Divine Truth- He was talking about everything else in life- but not what God's Word says or means.

Never did Jesus say that we are to be patient with a heretic. Never are we to be kind with a ravaging wolf. Never are we to allow false teaching to be taught and accepted in the Church in the name of love or in the name of Christianity- never.

The people who practice these other false religions are not godly people, they are not close to Heaven, and God does not give them any credibility at all for what they are doing. As they engage themselves in their various worship ceremonies and rituals and routines in these false religions- they are not honoring the one true living God nor His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible says that they are worshipping demons.

Now we must understand that it would be different if God had not gone to great length to give us His Word so that we would not be deceived. If we had no Bible- then we could not hold people to account. But we do have the Bible and so every man who holds himself out to be a preacher of the Gospel- must be held accountable for what he says and teaches with what this Book actually says.

And that is a lot of work- and you can hold yourself above all this if you want to- but that is the clear pattern that Scripture teaches, and we are rebels if we do not follow that pattern. Dear friends, we must learn to love the Truth, and part of loving the Truth is to actually hate all false teaching because all perversion of Scripture is the primary means by which demons deceive human beings.

Demons would like to stop God's Purpose of redeeming sinners through the Lord Jesus Christ, and, as I said last week, the main way that demons work in the earth is not through these dramatic and open demonstrations of demonic possessions as we see here in **Luke 4**, but it is primarily through false doctrine, false prophets, false teachers, and false religions.

Demons would like to hold all sinners for themselves who are already in their kingdom. All the unconverted, according to **Colossians 1**, are already in the kingdom of darkness. And these fallen angels would like to make that permanent. They do all kinds of things to work their way in the world. Please turn in your Bibles with me to **Genesis 6:1-4**:

1 Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them,

2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

Now these beings are called "sons of God". The correct Hebrew word here is "*ben*", or the offspring of God- meaning in this case- the fallen angels. Angels are called "sons" in Scripture- not in the sense of being born like people are born- but sons in the sense of beings created by God as being above other human beings. These beings were immortal so in that sense- they were like God. That is why Moses called them "sons of God"- not because they were holy.

So these "sons of God" in this case here in **Genesis 6** are the demons or the fallen angels who cohabitated with the human daughters of men- that is to say that these demons, no doubt, entered into wicked and sinful males prior to the Flood and then cohabitated with women for the specific purpose of producing what they felt would be a super race of supremely wicked children. So this is a very bizarre and very evil kind of activity that these demons engaged in.

And this activity is discussed in **Jude 6** which comments on this passage in **Genesis 6** and says:

And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

The Apostle Peter also comments on this in **2Peter 2:4** when it says:

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

So these fallen angels possessed male bodies and cohabitated with sinful women to produce what they assumed would be a particularly wicked and a powerful offspring who would rule the world. So these

demons indwelt bodies of these unsaved men in **Genesis 6**, and that is the first time we see anything like demon possession.

So from this we can see that these demons can move into lost people to accomplish their bizarre intentions.

Now this demon indwelling is not manifest anyplace in the Old Testament- with the exception of this one point here in **Genesis 6**. We never see demon possession in the rest of the Old Testament. Now that isn't to say that demons didn't move into people in the Old Testament- they did- but they preferred to be hidden and not be exposed. After all- the New Testament tells us in **2Corinthians** that demons are disguised as angels of light. And they would much rather operate in a clandestine and subtle way. And they don't really want to surface themselves- if they don't have to.

That way they can carry on the ruse and the deception through false teachings and false doctrine. They can carry on the disguise. They are disguised as angels of light. They are disguised as ministers of righteousness. They don't want to manifest who they really are. And so you can go through your whole lifetime and never see a demon manifestation through a person. So demon manifestation in a possessed person is a very rare phenomena.

But it wasn't rare during the time of Jesus. Jesus was so powerful and His message was so powerful and His person was so powerful that when He came into the world and He began to preach the Gospel and He began to come to people with the message of His Kingdom- demons in sheer terror began to expose themselves- out of sheer trauma.

But they usually don't do that. Demons would rather operate in a person who is teaching young pastors in a liberal seminary. They would much rather be an Episcopalian Bishop who advocates homosexuality in the name of love and tolerance. Demons can get a lot more done if they motivate and push the leaders of the United Methodist Church into throwing away Biblical standards so they can increase membership.

The Bible says that demons disguise themselves as angels of light and put them in a position of authority in a Church where they appear to be sophisticated and they appear to be elitist in terms of their academics and where they appear to be so loving and so accepting and so tolerant.

But these people who are the "human instruments" of these disguised demons sound the same as satan. If you listen to them- these

liberal people- they tell you that you can't really believe the Bible, you can't trust the Bible- but you can trust them. Isn't that the very thing that satan said in the Garden to Eve- *"Naaah, Eve- you're not going to die- you can't believe God. Believe me. You're not going to die like God said- you're going to be wise, in fact- you're going to be a god"*.

These demon possessed people tell you the God of the Bible is not good. Isn't that what satan said? He said, *"God isn't good; because if God was good- then He wouldn't tell you that you couldn't eat of that beautiful fruit from that tree over there- so you can't trust God. You can't believe God. Trust me. God isn't going to look out for your best interest."*

See, from the very beginning- satan did one particular thing, and that is to undermine the Character of God, and then along with that undermine the Word of God. And when anybody comes along today and undermines the Nature and Character of God and they undermine the credibility and integrity and Authority of the Word of God, if they attack Grace in either abusing it or ignoring it, and if they attack the Person of Jesus Christ by denying either His full Divinity or His full Humanity- then you can be sure that these people- no matter who they are- these people are actually from the kingdom of darkness and they are motivated and coerced and dominated and controlled by demons.

Now whether these people are literally indwelt by demons or not- we can't know for sure unless there would be a point at which that possession would manifest itself. But whether they are possessed or not- they are surely in league with them. But it's not usual that they would manifest themselves.

Now this is not the first miracle that Jesus did in Capernaum. He was there at another occasion earlier before He went to Nazareth and began His Galilean ministry. This is maybe His second visit there in His ministry. But Jesus casting out this demon from this man is the first miracle that Luke records for us and that is significant.

The point that Luke is making here is that Jesus has complete Power and Authority over all the power of the enemy. And that Power and that Authority needs to be demonstrated- doesn't it? Because if we are supposed to trust and believe in this Man named Jesus- then we need to know that He can deliver us from sin and death and satan and hell.

If Jesus is the real Messiah- then He has to be able to plunder the kingdom of Satan and walk right into satan's kingdom and forcefully and violently steal the souls of men away from satan and deliver them to God. In Jesus' Own Words- Jesus has to be able to go into the strong man's house and tie the strong man up and take all his goods away from him- and that's exactly what Jesus did.

And so Luke says that Jesus went straight into satan's house and He tied Satan up and He plundered his goods- which is the souls of Man. So Luke tells us here that Jesus can do just that.

And that's exactly what you see here in **Luke 4:33**. Here's a demon living in this man and the demon screams out in the middle of the teachings of Jesus. So, as Jesus is going through the Gospel- and as He is identifying Himself in Capernaum- no doubt in the same way He did in Nazareth as the Messiah- the Anointed One Whom the Spirit has sent to preach the good news to the poor, the gospel, to preach liberty to the captives, to preach sight to the blind and freedom to those who are oppressed. So Jesus is preaching this and He's announcing Himself as the Messiah, and right in the middle of this perfect Gospel presentation under the most powerful and sinless Preacher Who ever opened His Mouth on the face of the earth- this demon can't constrain himself and he screams out in sheer terror.

And what that tells us is that we don't have to be afraid of demons- dear friends- but the demons are afraid of the Gospel and they are afraid of Jesus. So as a born again believer- you should never be afraid of demons because they are literally terrified of the Christ that you serve and Who lives inside you.

Now in this passage we can see that there are four things made the demons tremble. Four things that demons are afraid of:

1. The Preaching of the Son of God
2. The Purpose of the Son of God
3. The Person of the Son of God
4. The Power of the Son of God

And these are the only things that demons are afraid of. Demons do not fear you so much as they fear Jesus Christ- even though Christ lives in you. So please don't emphasize that demons fear you so much because it isn't you at all- it is Jesus whom they fear. Now it is true

that Jesus lives inside of believers- but even at that- we must distinguish ourselves from Jesus lest we fall into great pride and arrogance about our own importance and our own ability.

It is enough that demons fear Jesus. And it is enough that Jesus is going to eternally protect you from ever being possessed by demons- so don't push it. Give Glory to God. Humble yourself and give Glory to God.

So the number one thing that demons fear the most is the full and correct and unashamed preaching of the Son of God. Jesus stands up and reads the Scripture, typically in a synagogue, then sits down to speak. Verse 31 says it happened to be in Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was doing just that on the Sabbath. And His teaching, as always, was absolutely astonishing, it was absolutely astounding because nobody ever had the mind that even came close to His mind, nobody ever knew truth the way He knew truth, and nobody ever understood man the way He understood man, nobody ever understood the Scripture the way He understood the Scripture. Nobody ever had greater facility with, nobody ever had a greater grasp of communication skills than Jesus, and it was literally astonishing to hear Him speak.

And right in the middle of His teaching on the Gospel, a man sitting there possessed by a demon and out of that voice of that man, a demon screams.

Now why is this demon screaming? Because he's been hearing the true and full Gospel. But what is the Gospel? The Gospel is what comes in and binds up the strong man and plunders his evil kingdom. So while this Gospel is sweet and kind and gentle and glorious to us- it is not sweet and tender and glorious to demons. No, the same Gospel that tastes so sweet to us and is the very epitome of mercy and kindness is violent and brutal and totally unmerciful against satan and his entire kingdom.

Now please listen to me, dear friends, satan and all his demons thoroughly hate and despise God. They hate God as much as they can possibly hate God because they're evil is unmixed with any taint of good. Can you even begin to understand that? There is absolutely nothing in a demon that is in any sense good or clean and righteous. And so everything about satan and the fallen angels is unlimited and undiluted evil.

And so all demons have an unlimited hatred for God. They truly despise God. They hate that God would redeem an unworthy sinner through His great mercy. They hate that. Why? Because by God doing that- he is glorified more than anything else in all the Universe, and demons despise the fact that God alone would be glorified. Giving all Glory to God really disturbs satan and demons, and it really disturbs those people who are controlled by demons, too.

The great war today is over who gets the Glory- God or Man, and sinful Man fights very hard to rob Glory from God, and yet God will not be robbed by weak and puny Man and so fallen Man along with the entire kingdom of darkness hates that. And the last thing that these irritated and disturbed and frightened demons want is to see is Jesus plundering their kingdom and stealing souls to be redeemed.

And, so, this demon realizes that the Gospel preaching of Jesus is announcing that Salvation has come to Man and the kingdom of satan will indeed be plundered, and so the demon screams out, "*What do we have to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth?*" And I told you, that's idiomatic, that's just another way of saying, "*Why are You trying to hurt us? Why are You attacking us?*" This demon felt attacked at Jesus simply preaching of the Gospel.

And the reason that preaching about the Son of God- which is nothing more than preaching the Gospel- the reason that kind of preaching threatens demons is because in the language of **2Corinthians 10**- the Gospel smashed the fortresses that these demons had built around their human prisoners and the Gospel went into the prisons and dungeons where these people were and it rescued the sinners and led them captive to Jesus Christ.

So this demon screams under the preaching about the Son of God, or in other words the preaching of the one true Gospel because that exalts and that elevates and that lifts up the Lord Jesus Christ more than anything else we can do.

Now I need to add a footnote here. And I ask you to try to get this in your mind. There are people who believe that Christians can have demons living in them- but we need to understand that the Bible does not teach that. And this is a fairly popular belief.

The exact origins of this false teaching are lost to us- but you can go back to a book published back in 1975 by a man named Fred

Dickerson called "*Angels: Elect and Evil*". And in this book Dickerson writes,

"A genuine Christian may become possessed, at least to some degree, even to the point where they speak with strange voices or in foreign languages."

He further says,

"Demonization is always presented in the Bible as a spirit's inhabiting a human."

So what Dickerson is saying is that he believes that truly saved people can be inhabited and possessed by demons. "*Christians*", he says, "*can be demonized*". Later he says,

"The first and most basic result of deliverance of the demonized is the removal of the wicked spirits that are inhabiting the person."

So repeatedly, Dickerson says that demons can inhabit Christians. And it was around the early 1970's that the false teaching that demons can possess born-again believers began to circulate through the American Church- so that is why I quote from this book.

But you can tell where Dickerson is really coming from in his theories because elsewhere in his book he writes:

"You can't look to the Bible for support of this."

Well, I don't know about you- but that settles the issue for me right there. Dickerson makes very profound Theological statements about demons being able to possess genuinely saved people, but then he says, "*The Bible doesn't teach what I just said*". So in effect, Dickerson and those like him who teach things that the Bible doesn't say hold themselves out to be a higher and more authoritarian source than the Holy Spirit because he says, "*Even though the Bible doesn't say what I am saying, and even if the Bible teaches contrary to this- I want you to go ahead and believe what I am saying and just ignore then Bible.*" Which is exactly what satan told Eve. So sorry- Dickie baby- I'm not going to do that.

Another book published in 1977 called, "*What Demons Can Do To Saints*," Merrill Unger, the author says,

"Only as a believer fails to walk by faith does he fall into sin, which if it is not confessed and curbed may ultimately result in the forfeiture of the Spirit's power to shield him from demonic invasion."

So what Unger said was- "*You're just going on in your Christian life and you fall into sin and all of a sudden you can get possessed by demons.*" Really? The Holy Spirit is not going to protect you anymore and you can be invaded by demons? Says who? Paul? Peter? James? John? Moses? Jesus? No, some bozo named Merrill Unger.

Now these books are pretty typical of what are used as so-called "foundational teachings" about demon possession in the modern Church- books written by ungodly men who seek to supplant what holy men of God were moved on by the Holy Ghost to write in the Holy Scriptures with what they say. And guess what? People eat it up like candy. People in the Church today would much rather believe what Unger and Dickerson say than what came out of the Mouth and Mind and Heart of the Owner an Creator of the Universe.

But please hear this. You are safe in Jesus. There is not one iota of information in any of the 66 Books of the Holy Bible that even hints at saying that a demon has ever or could ever inhabit or invade or control or possess a true believer. I mean, satan is free to influence our unconverted and carnal minds, and he can tempt us and fight against us and hinder us and even kill us- but nowhere does the Bible teach that satan or demons can in any way control or dominate or possess the soul of a genuinely saved person- none. When Jesus bought our soul and paid for it with His own Blood- we became the personal property of Jesus Christ; we became His slaves, His Own Personal Property to do with whatever will bring Him Glory- and because of that- we are safe throughout all eternity.

Another interesting fact about the Bible is that never in the New Testament Epistles are believers ever warned about even the *possibility* of being inhabited by demons. No verse that says, "*Watch out, if you mess up the door can be kicked open and you're going to get invaded by demons who are going to set up residence.*" And never in the New

Testament do we see anybody ever rebuking demons or binding the devil or casting demons out of a true believer- not one single instance.

And to go even further than that- the Epistles of the New Testament never instruct believers to cast out demons out of anybody- believers or unbelievers. Christ and the Apostles- along with the 70 were the only ones who ever were even told to cast out demons. And in every case where Jesus or the Apostles or the 70 did cast out demons- the demon-possessed people were always *unbelievers*. They were lost.

And as I told you last week- the Bible never tells us anywhere that the demon-possessed people ever believed, or repented, or were ever saved. Jesus and the Apostles and the 70 did this to show that the Kingdom of God had come in, by, and through the Lord Jesus Christ. And they forever solidified the coming of that Kingdom by faithfully recording those acts and deeds and statements for us in inspired Scripture.

Over in **Luke 11**- Jesus said, *"Look, if I'm casting out demons- then you know that the Kingdom of God is here."* In other words- what Jesus was saying is, *"It was God who threw them out of heaven to start with- and if you see Me throwing them out again- then you know it's God again."*

Demons cannot live in a Christian. **2Corinthians 6:15&16** says:

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

Now just how clear is that? That's pretty definitive stuff, isn't it? The only One Who lives in me and Who walks around in me is Jesus, and if somebody else is walking around and living in you- it is only because you're not saved! So you true Christians don't need to go around fearing demons. So tragic that people make Christians afraid of demons when the fact is demons are afraid of Jesus and Jesus is in us.

Colossians 1:13 says, *"God delivered us from the domain of darkness and took us right out of there and transferred us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son."* That's why we are more than conquerors in Christ. That's why we always triumphant in Christ Jesus. That's

why **1John 2:13** says, "*We have overcome the wicked one.*" And **1John 4:4**, "*Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.*" Where is Satan and his demons? They're in the world. Who's in us? God.

But demons can take up residence in non-believers and they did that in an escalating fashion during the time of Christ- at least they publicly *manifested* their possession of people in an escalated fashion during the time of Christ.

And as I said last time, the victims of demon possession are not necessarily the most evil people, sometimes children were possessed, as we shall see in the New Testament. And they're not to be confused with people who somehow aren't functioning normally, mentally, because every time Jesus confronted a demon- the conversation was always very comprehensible and very rational because you're dealing with a rational being. Somebody who is completely spaced out or flipped out or who is incomprehensible or who is talking double-talk and nonsense is a weak minded person - but you're probably not engaging a demon.

The point of the text here is that Luke wants Theophilus and us to know that Jesus meets this demon-possessed situation and totally dominates the demon. The demon panics under the preaching of the Gospel because the Gospel raids the kingdom. The Gospel steals the man that he's living in and plying his wicked influences, and so the demon panics under the preaching about the Son of God.

Let me tell you something. People run around today crying, "*I cast you out, and I bind you, satan*", and I think that these people are probably very sincere and well meaning. But really and truly, dear friends, if these people are able to bind the devil- somebody else keeps letting him out because the devil is still loose and running around, isn't he?

Stuff like that doesn't do a thing to any demon anywhere, or anytime. If demons laugh at all- they laugh at misguided people performing human exorcisms like you see in **The Acts** with the seven sons of Sceva- who were Jewish exorcists going around and they had these little incantations and chants and formulas, and the demon said, "*Jesus we know, and Paul we know, but who are you?*" In other words- the demons told these fakers- "*We're not impressed.*" And the Bible says that the demon jumped on these wannabes and tore their clothes off them and beat the tar out of them.

Demons do not shudder or tremble about human efforts to manipulate them, dear friends. They only shudder and tremble under the Power of the Gospel when the Gospel is rightly and fully preached because the Gospel and only the Gospel has the Power to go right into their kingdom and raid it. The Gospel goes into their house and ties up the strong man and plunders his goods and rips souls out from satan's control and domination and brings them to God.

That's what smashes their fortresses. That's what frees the souls of their captives and brings them to Jesus Christ- the correct and full preaching of the Son of God.

So the first thing is the Preaching of the Son of God. The second thing that frightens demons is the Purpose of the Son of God. Let's go to **Luke 4:34** again:

Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

Here the demon screams out at Jesus, "Have You come to destroy us?" So this is the Purpose of the Son of God, right. Remember **1John 3:8** says:

... The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

The great overarching Purpose of why the Son of God was manifested on the earth was to destroy the works of the devil. That is why Jesus came. And the demons know that. They know the Plan, They know the Purpose, They know exactly what Jesus is going to do, and they know exactly what is going to happen to them, and they fear this.

They know full well that in the end- God is going to be completely triumphant. They know that God is going to judge them. He's already thrown them out of heaven. They've already been sentenced to eternal wickedness and eternal punishment on top of their wickedness. So the demon screams out in abject terror- "Have You come to destroy us?"

You see although they are supernatural and although they are immortal and can never die- demons are not omniscient- and they do not know everything. Demons know they are going to lose and they know that they are going to be cast into hell- but they don't know

exactly when. They don't quite know the chronology because not even the Son of God knows the full layout of the timing of God- so the demon says, *"Is this the time?"* Here's one demon speaking on behalf of the demons in general, using plural pronouns, *"Have You come to destroy us? What have we to do with you? Is this it? Is this the last? Is this the last part of our operation? Is this it? Is this the end? Have You come to destroy?"* The word, "destroy" is the Greek verb *luo*, which means: *to undo*. It means: *to dissolve*. It means: *to disconnect something that holds things together*. It means: *to destroy*. Something disintegrates...have You come to literally destroy us? To destroy not only the works we do- but us as well. The word "works" is *erga*, the enterprise, that's **1John 3:8**. *Erga* means action, undertaking enterprise collectively. Have You come not only to destroy the satanic enterprise but all the demons themselves as well?

Now why would this demon ask that? Because, that's exactly what he expected. The coming of the Messiah was to include the total end to all demonic activity. And then all the demons would be thrown into the lake of fire.

And all demons and even satan himself live in total fear of that moment. They know that that's the Purpose of why Jesus is being manifested on the earth. You say, *"But Brother Blair- if demons know that's the plan- then why do they work so hard?"* Because number one, they hold out a little bit of false hope that maybe they can thwart the Plan or divert the Plan or slow down the Plan because they're desperate.

Furthermore- demons are totally wicked by nature- that's all they are is wicked, so all they can do is what is wicked. They can't do anything else but act wickedly. And so they do it with unbridled passion, and they are tireless because they are spiritual beings. They don't sleep. They don't get weary. They don't take a day off. They ply their vicious wickedness at all times. Now I want you to turn to **Luke 8:26** and read with me about another case of Jesus casting a demon out of a man.

26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.
27 And when He came out onto the land, He was met by a man from the city who was possessed with demons; and who had not put on any clothing for a long time, and was not living in a house, but in the tombs.

28 Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me.”

29 For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and *yet* he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.

30 And Jesus asked him, **“What is your name?”** And he said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him.

31 They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.

32 Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and *the demons* implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission.

33 And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran away and reported it in the city and *out* in the country.

35 *The people* went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened.

36 Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well.

37 And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned.

38 But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but He sent him away, saying,

39 **“Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you.”** So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

So Jesus comes out into the land and in verse 27- He meets a man there from the city who is possessed with demons. This man has more than one. And he hadn't put on any clothing for a long time. Now keep in mind that this man was not a streaker- he didn't find some bizarre pleasure running around naked. This man was being tormented by the legion of demons who lived inside him and that controlled him. He

didn't put any clothes on because the demon was indwelling him, controlling him, and he couldn't resist it and this was the torment. So this man was literally thrown out of society. And he had been like this for a long time. He didn't live in a house. He had to live in the tombs. He was so socially outcast that he had to live in a cemetery, and he sees Jesus- and the demon goes into total panic. The demon's inside the man began screaming in loud voice,

What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me.

This is the very same thing that the other demon cried out back in **Luke 4**. *"Why are You here to harm us? Why are You here to hurt us? Jesus, Son of the Most High God, I beg You, do not torment me."* The demon knows the Purpose of Christ is to destroy all his power and authority over the souls of men, and he thinks that maybe this is the time that he knows is coming when Jesus will put an end to him and cast him into hell. Now look at verse 31:

They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.

This legion of 2,000 demons who lived inside this man- controlling and dominating and tormenting him pleaded with Jesus, *"Please, please, Jesus- don't send us to the pit. Don't send us down there. We're enjoying a measure of freedom in our wickedness here on the earth; please don't send us down where we're going to be bound!"*

Now what we need to get out of this is that Jesus has total and complete authority over these demons and the demons know that- and they also know that there is a time coming when Jesus will cast them into the pit- and there is no hope of them avoiding that.

But how do these demons know that Jesus is going to send them to the bottomless pit? Because that's God's Plan and that is the Purpose of the Son of God.

Let me show you the Purpose of the Son of God. Please turn with me to **The Revelation 20**. Now, by the way- all demons are premillennialists. They're not amillennialists- they are all premillennialists because they know the Purpose of the Son of God is for Jesus to return to this earth and set up His earthly Kingdom, and

during that earthly Kingdom- all demons are going to be cast into the pit. Now please look at **The Revelation 20:1-3**:

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Now remember back in **The Revelation 19**- Jesus is coming back to the earth and this is *after* the time of Tribulation. And you have the Rapture of the Church and all of those who are saved are carried into Heaven. Then for seven long terrible years- you have a time of Tribulation on the earth. And during that time- God the Holy Spirit does not restrain evil anymore and the whole earth is wicked and violent and corrupt and all hell breaks loose.

Demons are then free to work throughout the earth in an unrestrained fashion. God takes off the restraint and demons just run across the world, and **The Revelation 6** through **19** describes what happens in the horrors of all of that goes on after the Church departs.

And then at the end of that seven-year period- Jesus comes back. And He destroys all wickedness and He destroys all sinners and He sets up His Kingdom.

And in setting up His Kingdom what He does first in **The Revelation 20:1** is that Jesus sends an angel- who has the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And that angel takes hold of the dragon- the serpent of old- the devil and satan, and implied here is that he also takes all the rest of the demons and they are all bound with a chain and thrown down into the bottomless pit for a thousand years.

Isaiah 14:16&17 says that those who see satan and all the demons down in the bottomless pit with that chain on them will "narrowly" look upon them and say,

Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms; Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?

Now **The Revelation 20:7** says:

7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

And then down in verse 10- the Bible says that after all this-

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

So we have covered the first two reasons why satan and all the demons fear Jesus. They tremble at the Preaching of the Son of God- because it plunders their kingdom. And they tremble at the Purpose of the Son of God- because it spells their eternal damnation. And Lord willing- we will go over the other two reasons next week.

Let's come and pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.