

Question 1: Do demons still possess people today?
Question 2: Do angels still speak to people through dreams?

ARE WE ALONE?

Mention of “demon” or “demons” and “angel” or “angels” in the book of Matthew:

Angels:

- Speaking to someone in a dream:
 - 1:20, 2:13, 2:19
- Actually appearing on earth:
 - 4:11, attended Jesus after his temptation
 - 28:2, rolled away the stone from Jesus’ tomb
 - 28:5, spoke to Mary and Mary outside the tomb
- Being referred to as “their angels” for children:
 - 18:10, possibly a personal angel
- Mentioned in reference to the End Times:
 - 13:39, 41, 49, separate the wicked from righteous
 - 16:27, 25:31, Jesus will return with angels
 - 22:30, we will be like angels after the resurrection
 - 24:31, send his angels to gather the elect
 - 24:36, not even the angels know the hour
- Jesus could have called down angels:
 - 26:53, “put at my disposal 12 legions of angels”

Demons:

- Referring to the Devil:
 - 4:11, the devil left Jesus after tempting him
 - 25:41, fire prepared for the “devil and his angels”
- Referring to “demon-possessed” people:
 - 4:24, 8:16, they healed the demon possessed
 - 10:8, Jesus gave them power to drive out demons
- Actual instances of demon possession:
 - 8:28-33, (two) men from the tombs (see Mark 5:1-16)
 - 9:22-33, possessed by a mute demon
 - 12:22, possessed by a blind and mute demon
 - 15:22, daughter possessed by a demon
 - 17:18, possessed by a demon that causes seizures
- Jesus accused of driving out demons with demons
 - 9:34, 12:24, it is by the power of Beelzebub...

Mark mentions angels 5 times, demons 17 times.

Luke mentions angels 25 times, demons 24 times.

***John mentions demons 6 times in *reference* to Jesus being accused of being possessed by a demon: 7:20, 8:48-49, 52, 10:20-21

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Question 2: Do angels still speak to people through dreams?

Last week we discussed a few of the following topics:

- Do we know if demons still exist?
- What are some causes of demon possession?
- Were these causes really the result of demons? (or medical problems)
- Is “demon possession” just another word for sin?
- Can people still be possessed today?
- If so, can a Christian be possessed?
- If so, does a person have to allow the demon to enter them?
- If not, what do demons do/where are they?
- If not, when did demons stop possessing people?

Key verses that came up last week:

1 Corinthians 10:13-“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

James 1:13-15-“When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

How do these two verses relate to the problem of demon possession?

Do temptations happen as a result of demons or our own evil desire?

James says that each one is tempted by “his *own* evil desire,” so that means a person has the ability to be tempted as a result of his desire. However, looking at the verse from 1 Corinthians, it reads, “...he will not let you be tempted...” which infers that something is doing the tempting. We read in James that God is not tempted, nor does he tempt anyone, so if you’re tempted by something and it’s not God, what is it? Satan? Demons? Yourself? If you think the 1 Corinthians verse refers to your “own evil desire” then you’re saying God is controlling your ability to sin. If he will not let you tempt yourself beyond what you can bear, then you would never give in to temptation, which obviously isn’t the way things are. The fact is that you can either choose to sin (refer to James) or sin as a result of outside temptation (refer to 1 Cor). Some sin the result of your own decisions and choices, other is the result of you not finding the way out.

Other New Testament passages referring to demons...

- Acts 19:13-16, (demons spoke back and then overpowered the men)
- Romans 8:38, “...neither angels nor demons...can separate us from the love...”
- 1 Corinthians 10:18-22, “...I do not want you to be participants with demons...”
- Ephesians 6:10-13, “...struggle is...against the spiritual forces of evil...”
- 1 Timothy 4:1-2, “...follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons...”
- James 2:19, “...even the demons believe that—and shudder.”