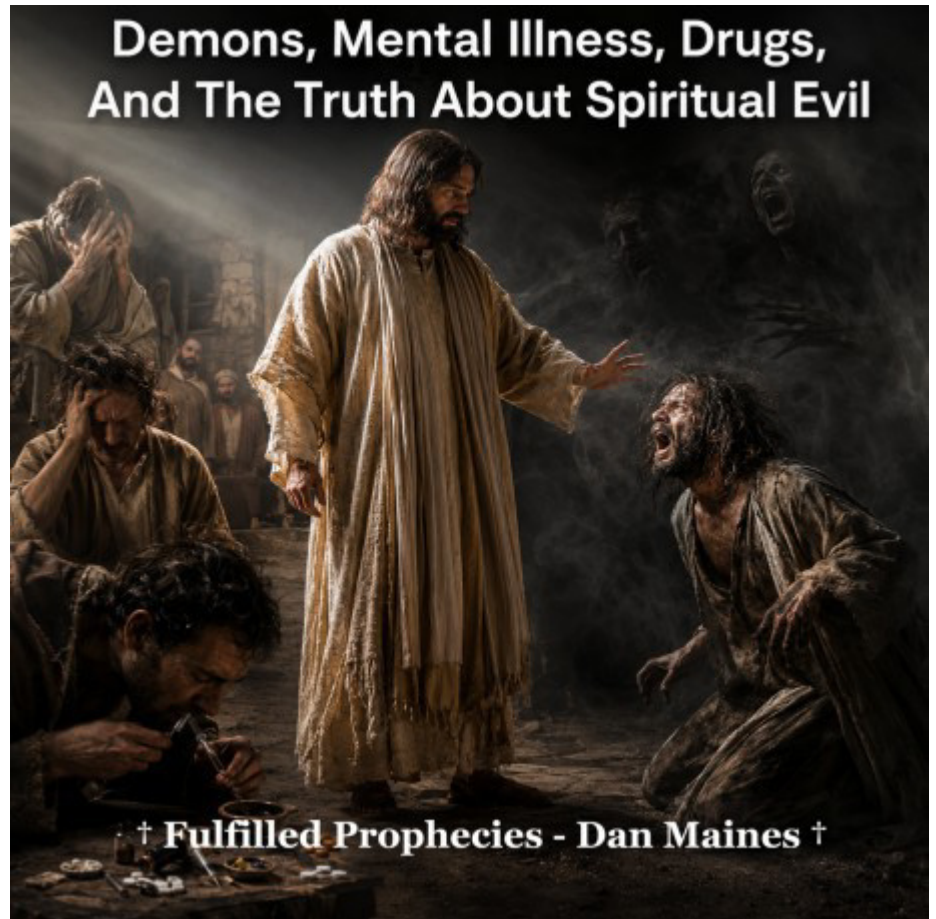


Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#) > [D](#) > [Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Demons, Mental Illness, Drugs, And The Truth About Spiritual Evil Part 1 of 2



By Dan Maines

Demons, Mental Illness, Drugs, And The Truth About Spiritual Evil Part 1 of 2

Part 1 of 2

Part 2 of 2

Introduction

† Much of today's world attributes nearly every act of evil, addiction, violence, or mental illness to demons. Scripture presents a more careful picture. During Christ's earthly ministry and the apostolic age, demon possession was a real and observable reality. However, the Bible also teaches that the

human heart itself is capable of producing every kind of evil apart from demon possession. (Mark 7:20-23; James 1:14-15)

† This study examines what the Bible actually says about demons, where evil originates, whether Satan is personally causing people to sin today, and how believers should respond to claims of demonic activity while recognizing the reality of mental illness, addiction, and personal responsibility.

The Heart Produces Evil

Mark 7:20-23

And He was saying, "That which comes out of the person, that is what defiles the person. For from within, out of the hearts of people, come the evil thoughts, acts of sexual immorality, thefts, murders, acts of adultery, deeds of greed, wickedness, deceit, indecent behavior, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile the person."

† Jesus placed the source of sinful behavior within the human heart, not in continual demonic possession. (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-18)

† Every unbeliever is fully capable of committing terrible evil because of the corruption of the human heart.

† This doesn't minimize spiritual warfare, but it does prevent us from blaming demons for every sinful decision people willingly make. (James 1:14-15)

Each Person Is Tempted By His Own Desires

James 1:14-15

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death.

† James never attributes ordinary temptation to demons.

† The process begins with our own desires, continues into sin, and eventually produces death.

† Scripture consistently teaches personal responsibility rather than shifting blame to an external spirit. (Ezekiel 18:20; Romans

6:12-16)

Christ Gave Authority Over Demons

Luke 10:17-20

Now the seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!" And He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Behold, I have given you authority to walk on snakes and scorpions, and authority over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

† This authority was given during Christ's earthly ministry before the destruction of Jerusalem.

† The casting out of demons demonstrated Christ's authority over the kingdom of darkness as Israel's covenant age was drawing to its close. (Matthew 12:28; Hebrews 2:14)

† Jesus directed His disciples to rejoice more in their salvation than in miraculous demonstrations.

Miraculous Signs Confirmed The Gospel

Hebrews 2:3-4

how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders, and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

† The miraculous signs accompanied those who first proclaimed the gospel, confirming God's new covenant message. (Acts 5:12-16)

† Casting out demons was one of many signs that authenticated Christ and His apostles during the covenant transition.

† The emphasis is never on pursuing signs, but on believing the gospel they confirmed. (John 20:30-31)

2 Corinthians 12:12

The distinguishing marks of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs, wonders, and miracles.

† Paul called these miracles the signs of an apostle.

† Scripture never teaches that every believer in every generation would possess apostolic authority.

† The miracles authenticated those chosen to lay the foundation of the New Covenant church. (Ephesians 2:20)

Test The Spirits

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

† John immediately defines these spirits as false prophets, not invisible demons hiding behind every problem. (1 John 4:2-6)

† Scripture repeatedly warns believers about false teachers far more often than it warns about demon possession.

† Every teaching must be tested against God's Word.

The Last State Of That Generation

Matthew 12:43-45

"Now when the unclean spirit comes out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they come in and live there; and the last condition of that person becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation."

† Jesus interpreted this illustration Himself.

† He did not apply it to every generation throughout history.

† He specifically said this described His own generation that ultimately rejected its Messiah and came under covenant judgment in AD 70. (Matthew 23:36-38; Luke 21:20-22)

The Law Was Israel's Accuser

John 5:45

Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have put your hope.

† Jesus identified Moses, representing the Law, as Israel's accuser.

† This demonstrates that Scripture sometimes uses the language of accusation without referring to Satan himself.

† The Law continually testified against covenant-breaking Israel until it reached its fulfillment in Christ. (Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 3:23-25)

Our Struggle Today

Ephesians 4:26-27

Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

† Paul instructs believers not to give opportunity to the devil through sinful behavior.

† Anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, and hatred open the door to destructive behavior within our own lives. (Ephesians 4:31-32)

† The solution is repentance, forgiveness, and walking according to Christ rather than searching for hidden demons behind every struggle.

Christ Destroyed The Power Of Death

Hebrews 2:14-15

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, so that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

† Christ's victory was accomplished through His death and resurrection.

† The devil's power over death was broken through the finished work of Christ.

† Believers now live in the freedom Christ secured rather than

living in continual fear of Satan. (Romans 8:1-2)

Christ Publicly Triumphed Over His Enemies

Colossians 2:14-15

having canceled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

† Christ removed the written code that stood against God's people.

† His triumph over the rulers and authorities was complete.

† Christians live from Christ's victory rather than fearing a defeated enemy. (Romans 8:37-39)

Illness And Demon Possession Were Not The Same

Matthew 4:24

And the news about Him spread throughout Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and severe pain, demon-possessed, people with epilepsy, and people who were paralyzed; and He healed them.

† Matthew carefully distinguished diseases from demon possession.

† Not every illness was attributed to an evil spirit.

† Scripture encourages discernment rather than assuming every medical or psychological condition is caused by demons.

Sin Reflects The Heart

John 8:44

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 tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.

† Jesus described people following the character of the devil by embracing lies and evil.

† This agrees with His teaching that evil proceeds from within

the human heart. (Mark 7:20-23)

† The issue is not demons forcing people to sin, but people willingly choosing darkness over truth. (John 3:19-21)

Satan's Final Judgment

Revelation 20:10, 14

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. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

† The devil, the beast, the false prophet, death, and Hades all appear together in the closing judgment of Revelation. This is the climax of Christ's victory over every covenant enemy. (1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Hebrews 2:14-15)

† The same judgment that removed death and Hades also brought the final judgment upon the devil. The context points to the completion of God's covenant transition, not an unending conflict between Christ and Satan. (Revelation 21:1-4)

† Christ's kingdom is not defined by fear of Satan but by His complete authority over every enemy. Believers are called to stand firm in Christ, knowing His victory has already been accomplished. (Matthew 28:18; Colossians 2:14-15)

Historical References

† Josephus recorded numerous claims of exorcisms among first-century Jews, demonstrating that belief in demon possession was widespread during the time of Christ.

† Justin Martyr and Irenaeus both referred to demonic activity during the apostolic age as evidence of Christ's authority over the old covenant world.

† After the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, historical records show a significant decline in documented apostolic-style public exorcisms, corresponding with the completion of the covenant transition described throughout the New Testament.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Christians should never dismiss genuine mental illness as automatic demon possession.

† Drug addiction, alcoholism, brain injuries, trauma, depression, schizophrenia, and many behavioral disorders often have physical and psychological causes that deserve compassion and proper treatment.

† Every evil action should first be examined in light of what Scripture teaches about the human heart before assuming supernatural causes.

† We overcome evil by submitting ourselves to Christ, renewing our minds through Scripture, and walking by the Spirit. (Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-23)

† Nowhere do the apostles teach believers to identify territorial spirits, generational curses, or hidden demons living inside Christians.

† The New Testament never records believers interviewing demons to discover their names or repeatedly casting demons out of the same individual.

† Instead, believers are instructed to preach the gospel, resist the devil, renew their minds through God's Word, and walk according to the Spirit. (James 4:7; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-25)

Q & A Appendix

Q: Does the Bible teach that every sinful act is caused by a demon?

A: No. Jesus and James both teach that evil proceeds from the human heart and our own sinful desires. (Mark 7:20-23; James 1:14-15)

Q: Should every mental illness be considered demon possession?

A: No. Scripture never teaches that every illness or disorder is caused by demons. Believers should exercise wisdom, compassion, and discernment. (Mark 7:20-23; James 1:14-15)

Q: How do Christians resist evil today?

A: By submitting to God, resisting the devil, putting on the

whole armor of God, and walking according to the Spirit.
(James 4:7; Ephesians 6:10-18; Galatians 5:16)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Mark 7:20-23, James 1:14-15, Luke 10:17-20, Hebrews 2:3-4, 2 Corinthians 12:12, 1 John 4:1, Matthew 12:43-45, John 5:45, Ephesians 4:26-27, Hebrews 2:14-15, Colossians 2:14-15, Matthew 4:24, John 8:44, Revelation 20:10, 14

† Josephus, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/2065389424349188/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.