

# Old And New Testament References To Demonic Activity

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### Accounts of Demonic Activity Causing Physical Illnesses

Behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and she was bent over, and could in no way straighten herself up. When Jesus saw her, he called her, and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.” He laid his hands on her, and immediately she stood up straight, and glorified God. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath day...Therefore the Lord answered him...“Ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, **whom Satan had bound eighteen long years, be freed from this bondage** on the Sabbath day?” (*Luke 13:11-16*)

As they went out, behold, a mute man who was demon<sup>1</sup> possessed was brought to him. When the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke. The multitudes marveled, saying, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!” (*Matthew 9:32-33*)

Then one possessed by a demon, blind and mute, was brought to him and he healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. (*Matthew 12:22*)

He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. It happened, when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke; and the multitudes marveled. (*Luke 11:14*)

One of the multitude answered, “Teacher, I brought to you my son, who has a mute spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth, and wastes away. I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they weren’t able.” He answered him, “Unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to me.” They brought him to him, and when he saw him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground, wallowing and foaming at the mouth. He asked his father, “How long has it been since this has come to him?” He said, “From childhood.<sup>2</sup> Often it has cast him

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<sup>1</sup> Much confusion exists as to what exactly a “demon” is. The Greek word for demon (*daimon*) is believed to have been derived from *daiesthai* which means to distribute. The Greek writers used *daimon* to refer both to a god and also to lesser beings that were on a level above humans but below a god. According to the Septuagint translation of Deuteronomy 32:8 when God “divided the nations...he set the bounds of the nations according to the number of the angels of God.” This has been interpreted to mean that each nation is assigned angels to oversee it (see Da 10:13). It is believed that these angels, instead of administering justice and righteously looking over the humans that they had been entrusted to take care of, abused, neglected, incited fear into their subjects, and ultimately ended up encouraging them to worship them as gods (De 32:17, Gn 6:1-4). Many believe that Psalm 82:1-8 is describing the judgment of God upon these angels where it is pronounced by God that as punishment they will be sentenced to death (Ps 82:7). Peter and Jude inform us that these angels were imprisoned in hell (2Pe 2:4; Jd 1:6-7). According to James 2:26 death is the separation of the spirit from the body. It would seem that the judgment of these angels was to have their bodies locked up in hell while their spirits were free to roam the earth, wherein they seek another body to possess (Mt 12:43-45).

This description fits perfectly with the Greek usage of the word *daimon* to refer to gods (i.e. the angels who incited mankind to worship them as gods) and to spiritual beings on a level below a god (i.e. an angel). The etymology of *daimon* being traced back to a word meaning to distribute seems to be an apparent reference to God’s distributing of the nations to these angelic beings.

<sup>2</sup> Note that even children can be demonized.

both into the fire and into the water, to destroy him.<sup>3</sup> But if you can do anything, have compassion on us, and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, “I believe. Help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a multitude came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to him, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” Having cried out, and convulsed greatly, it came out of him. The boy became like one dead; so much that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand, and raised him up; and he arose. When he had come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we cast it out?” He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing, except by prayer and fasting.”<sup>4</sup> (*Mark 9:17-29*)<sup>5</sup>

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said unto Satan, “From where did you come?” And Satan answered the Lord, and said, “From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” And the Lord said unto Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and eschews evil? And still he holds fast his integrity, although you moved me against him, to destroy him without cause.” And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man has will he give for his life. But put forth your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” And the Lord said unto Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; but save his life.” So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. (*Job 2:1-8*)

### **Accounts of Demonic Activity Causing Insanity, Mental Illness, Anxiety And Erratic Behavior**

They arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. When Jesus stepped ashore, a certain man out of the city who had demons for a long time met him. He wore no clothes, and didn’t live in a house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, “What do I have to do with you, Jesus, you Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torment me!”<sup>6</sup> For Jesus was commanding the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For the unclean spirit had often seized the man. He was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters. Breaking the bands apart, he was driven by the demon into the desert. Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered into him.<sup>7</sup> They begged him that he would not command them to go into the abyss.<sup>8</sup> Now

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<sup>3</sup> Note the intent of the spirit to injure and apparently bring about the death of the individual either through third degree burning or drowning.

<sup>4</sup> This point needs to be emphasized. The church has forgotten the need to (as evidenced above) and Jesus’ instruction that after his ascension his disciples will fast (Mk 2:18-20). Mysteriously, many of the newer translations have opted to leave out the clause on fasting, translating this verse as “*This kind can come out only by prayer*”.

<sup>5</sup> Compare the parallel accounts in Matthew 17:14-21 and Luke 9:37-42.

<sup>6</sup> An example of clairvoyant (psychic) powers--This individual does not appear to have ever had any previous contact with Jesus in order to have been able to recognize him, yet somehow, he knew who he was. The next sentence indicates the true source of the knowledge.

<sup>7</sup> A legion was a Roman military formation which could consist of anywhere from 4,200 to 6,000 men.

<sup>8</sup> Apparently the place referred to in 2Peter 2:4 where it is noted that “if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment...” which would equate “abyss” with hell. It is the same Greek word used to refer to the “bottomless” pit in Revelation 9:1-11 which

there was there a herd of many pigs feeding on the mountain, and they begged him that he would allow them to enter into those. He allowed them. The demons came out from the man, and entered into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake, and were drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. People went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who saw it told them how he who had been possessed by demons was healed. All the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them, for they were very much afraid. He entered into the boat, and returned. But the man from whom the demons had gone out begged him that he might go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your house, and declare what great things God has done for you." He went his way, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.<sup>9</sup> (*Luke 8:26-39*)

Now Yahweh's Spirit departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from Yahweh troubled him. Saul's servants said to him, "See now, an evil spirit from God troubles you. Let our lord now command your servants who are in front of you to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. Then when the evil spirit from God is on you, he will play with his hand, and you will be well." Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." Then one of the young men answered, and said, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and Yahweh is with him." Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, and a container of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by David his son to Saul. David came to Saul, and stood before him. He loved him greatly; and he became his armor bearer. Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me; for he has found favor in my sight." When the spirit from God was on Saul, David took the harp, and played with his hand; so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.<sup>10</sup> (*1Samuel 16:14-23*)

As they came, when David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with instruments of music. The women sang to one another as they played, and said, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. What can he have more but the kingdom?" Saul watched David from that day and forward. On the next day, an evil spirit from God came mightily on Saul, and he

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seems to indicate a releasing of demons from their subterranean prison and the place where Satan is cast during the millennium (Re 20:1-3).

<sup>9</sup> Compare the parallel accounts in Matthew 8:28-34 and Mark 5:1-20.

<sup>10</sup> A number of things can be learned from this passage. First, the passage does not clearly state how the evil spirit troubled Saul but it seems to be implied that it was some kind of mental trouble (anxiety). Secondly, notice that God uses evil spirits as a discipline which demonstrates that anything a demon does is only with the permission of God. As the servants correctly pointed out, it was "an evil spirit **from** God..." demonstrating that God uses the evil spirits to accomplish His purposes in the earth. The idea that Satan and demons are just out running free, doing whatever they please is a gross misconception based on a misunderstanding of the sovereignty of God in all of the earth's affairs. Thirdly, notice the power of Christian music to dispel demons.

prophesied in the middle of the house.<sup>11</sup> David played with his hand, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand; and Saul threw the spear, for he said, “I will pin David even to the wall!” David escaped from his presence twice. Saul was afraid of David, because Yahweh was with him, and had departed from Saul.<sup>12</sup> (*1Samuel 18:6-12*)

An evil spirit from Yahweh was on Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand; and David was playing with his hand. Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear; but he slipped away out of Saul’s presence, and he stuck the spear into the wall. David fled, and escaped that night. Saul sent messengers to David’s house, to watch him, and to kill him in the morning. Michal, David’s wife, told him, saying, “If you don’t save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed.” So Michal let David down through the window. He went away, fled, and escaped. (*1Samuel 19:9-12*)

### **Accounts of Demonic Activity Giving People Clairvoyant and Prophetic Abilities**

In the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon<sup>13</sup>, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Ah! what have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know you who you are: the Holy One of God!”<sup>14</sup> Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” When the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm.<sup>15</sup> (*Luke 4:33-35*)

It happened, as we were going to prayer, that a certain girl having a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much gain by fortune telling. Following Paul and us, she cried out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation!”<sup>16</sup> She was doing this for many days. But Paul, becoming greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” It came out that very hour. (*Acts 16:16-18*)

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<sup>11</sup> Notice that demons can give people the ability to prophesy, a clear warning that we must test all prophecies and never forget that the source of a prophetic word may not be the Holy Spirit (1Th 5:20-21, 1Jn 4:1). Also, take note that Samuel had at one time had the real Spirit of God but lost Him (1Sam 16:14) and, therefore, it must be remembered that just because a person has given a legitimate prophecy in the past this is no guarantee that all subsequent prophecies will be from God.

<sup>12</sup> Note how the evil spirit motivated Saul to act erratically based upon his fears. In my observation the world is filled with people who are behaving erratically and sinful because of fears (such as an unhealthy fear of germs or the fear of losing their job which leads them to sabotage their co-workers) and this fear often becomes so controlling that these people are diagnosed as having mental illness. Fear like this comes from Satan, not the Holy Spirit (Ro 8:15) and for people who are experiencing this, the solution is more spiritual than psychiatric.

<sup>13</sup> People are often confused as to the difference between a “spirit” and a “demon”. As explained in a previous footnote, the “spirits” are the disembodied spirits of the angels who sinned against God in the overseeing of the nations that were entrusted to them. Their punishment was to experience death (i.e. the separation of their spirit from their bodies). The wage of sin is death for everyone, whether they are men or angels (Ro 6:23). Since they are really one and the same (demons and spirits) these two words are sometimes used interchangeably (compare Mt 15:22 with Mk 7:25).

<sup>14</sup> As in the case of the Gadarene demoniac this individual appears to possess knowledge of Jesus’ identity that he otherwise would not have known.

<sup>15</sup> I would also like to draw attention to the fact that this individual was “in the synagogue”. How often are demoniacally inspired or controlled individuals found *inside* of the church, even in places of leadership?

<sup>16</sup> Notice that this again demonstrates that people who are demon possessed will prophesy the truth about Christ and that just possessing a prophetic gift is no indicator that the gift is legitimate.

On the next day, an evil spirit from God came mightily on Saul, and he prophesied in the middle of the house. (*1 Samuel 18:10*)

Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, “Should I go against Ramoth Gilead to battle, or should I refrain?”

They said, “Go up; for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king.”

But Jehoshaphat said, “Isn’t there here a prophet of Yahweh, that we may inquire of him?”

The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of Yahweh, Micaiah the son of Imlah; but I hate him, for he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.”<sup>17</sup>

Jehoshaphat said, “Don’t let the king say so.”

Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, “Quickly get Micaiah the son of Imlah.”

Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting each on his throne, arrayed in their robes, in an open place at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made himself horns of iron, and said, “Yahweh says, ‘With these you will push the Syrians, until they are consumed.’” All the prophets prophesied so, saying, “Go up to Ramoth Gilead, and prosper; for Yahweh will deliver it into the hand of the king.”<sup>18</sup>

The messenger who went to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, “See now, the prophets declare good to the king with one mouth. Please let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak good.”

Micaiah said, “As Yahweh lives, what Yahweh says to me, that I will speak.”

When he had come to the king, the king said to him, “Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth Gilead to battle, or shall we forbear?”

He answered him, “Go up and prosper; and Yahweh will deliver it into the hand of the king.” The king said to him, “How many times do I have to adjure you that you speak to me nothing but the truth in Yahweh’s name?”

He said, “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. Yahweh said, ‘These have no master. Let them each return to his house in peace.’”

The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Didn’t I tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?”

Micaiah said, “Therefore hear Yahweh’s word. I saw Yahweh sitting on his throne, and all the army of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. Yahweh said, ‘Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth Gilead?’ One said one thing; and another said another.

**A spirit came out and stood before Yahweh, and said, ‘I will entice him.’**

Yahweh said to him, ‘How?’

He said, ‘I will go out and will be **a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.**’

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<sup>17</sup> In this narrative Micaiah is shown to be the only true prophet out of the roughly 400, demonstrating that true prophets are generally always outnumbered by the false ones.

<sup>18</sup> Take notice that false prophets, again, are shown to be speaking in the name of the one true God and ascribing power and authority to Him.

He said, ‘You will entice him, and will also prevail. Go out and do so.’ Now therefore, behold, **Yahweh has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets**; and Yahweh has spoken evil concerning you.”

Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, “Which way did Yahweh’s Spirit go from me to speak to you?”

Micaiah said, “Behold, you will see on that day, when you go into an inner room to hide yourself.”

The king of Israel said, “Take Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king’s son. Say, ‘Thus says the king, “Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.”’”

Micaiah said, “If you return at all in peace, Yahweh has not spoken by me.” He said, “Listen, all you people!”<sup>19</sup> (*1Kings 22:6-28*)

Now concerning spiritual things, brothers, I don’t want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were Gentiles, you were led away to those mute idols, however you might be led. Therefore I make known to you that no man speaking by God’s Spirit says, “Jesus is accursed.” No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” but by the Holy Spirit.<sup>20</sup> (*1Corinthians 12:1-3*)

### **Accounts Of Demons Giving People The Ability To Work Miracles**

For the mystery of lawlessness already works. Only there is one who restrains now, until he is taken out of the way. Then the lawless one<sup>21</sup> will be revealed, whom the Lord will kill with the breath of his mouth, and destroy by the manifestation of his coming; even he whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deception of wickedness for those who are being lost, because they didn’t receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. Because of this, God sends them a delusion, that they should believe a lie; that they all might be judged who didn’t believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.<sup>22</sup> (*2Thessalonians 2:7-12*)

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<sup>19</sup> Notice what is happening in this example. God desired to punish the wicked king Ahab and lead him to his destruction in battle. He did so by allowing an unclean spirit to prophesy through the false prophets that victory would be the king’s if he went to battle. Ahab died in the battle (*1Ki 22:34-38*). This lesson goes to show us several things. First, not all persons claiming to have prophetic gifts are genuinely motivated by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes they are telling people things to lead them to destruction as God’s discipline on them. These false prophets genuinely believe that they are speaking by God’s Spirit. This is why Zedekiah was so angry with Micaiah (*1Ki 22:24*)—he had had a legitimate supernatural experience and was offended at Micaiah’s assertion that it was not real. In truth, it was a real experience, just not one with the Holy Spirit but because of his own sinfulness God allowed him to be deceived. (This should motivate us to examine our own hearts lest we fall into a similar judgment). Secondly, note that God controls these false prophetic utterances and uses them to accomplish His will in the earth.

<sup>20</sup> Apparently an individual in the Corinthian church had come under the influence of an outside spiritual force, which he assumed to be the Holy Spirit, and was led to curse Jesus. This is really in line with the experiences above of Saul (*1Sa 18:10*) and Zedekiah (*1Ki 22:6-28*; *2Ch 18:1-34*), who both spoke under the influence of an evil spirit. In Zedekiah’s case it is certain from the text that he believed he was prophesying under the influence of the Holy Spirit. It leads one to wonder, how many of today’s self-proclaimed prophets are prophesying under the influence of an evil spirit completely unaware that it is not the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> Generally understood to be the Antichrist.

<sup>22</sup> This verse illustrates another principle of how God, in His sovereignty, uses the demons to achieve his purposes in the world. In this instance, Paul tells us that the Antichrist will come with demonically inspired miracles through the working of Satan but he also ends the passage by explaining that God is doing this to bring a “delusion” upon those

I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, **three unclean spirits, something like frogs; for they are spirits of demons, performing signs**; which go out to the kings of the whole inhabited earth, to gather them together for the war of that great day of God, the Almighty.<sup>23</sup>

“Behold, I come like a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his clothes, so that he doesn’t walk naked, and they see his shame.” He gathered them together into the place which is called in Hebrew, Armageddon...I saw the heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it is called Faithful and True. In righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has names written and a name written which no one knows but he himself. He is clothed in a garment sprinkled with blood. His name is called “The Word of God.” The armies which are in heaven followed him on white horses, clothed in white, pure, fine linen. Out of his mouth proceeds a sharp, double-edged sword, that with it he should strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He treads the wine press of the fierceness of the wrath of God, the Almighty. He has on his garment and on his thigh a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

I saw an angel standing in the sun. He cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the sky, “Come! Be gathered together to the great supper of God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, small and great.” I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him who sat on the horse, and against his army. The beast was taken, and with him the false prophet who worked the signs in his sight, with which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword of him who sat on the horse, the sword which came out of his mouth. All the birds were filled with their flesh. (*Revelation 16:13-16, 19:11-21*)

I saw another beast coming up out of the earth.<sup>24</sup> He had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke like a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. He makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. **He performs great signs, even making fire come down out of the sky to the earth in the sight of people.** He deceives them who dwell on the earth because of the signs he was granted to do in front of the beast; saying to those who dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast who had the sword wound and lived. It was given to him to give breath to it, to the image of the

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“who [already] didn’t believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”. This is what Paul talks about in Romans 1:18-32 where he refers to people who have already rejected God being given over to a “reprobate mind” wherein they actually begin thinking that the wrong thing is the right thing as a judgment from God upon them for their sinfulness (see Ps 81:10-12). In the case of the Antichrist, the people who follow him will have already rejected God and as a judgment God will allow Satan to empower the Antichrist so that he seems divine in order to further bring people who have already rejected God towards their damnation.

<sup>23</sup> In this instance, God is shown sovereignly using the demons to lead those who have already rejected God to their doom at Armageddon. The demons are allowed to perform miracles which persuade the already wicked kings to head to a battle which they can never win as judgment for their having already rejected God’s will for their lives. This is really no different than what happened with Ahab in the last section and serves as one more strong warning to be cautious of those who claim to have miracle working powers.

<sup>24</sup> Understood by many to be a false prophet who will be used by God to entice those who have rejected Him to place their faith in the Antichrist.

beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause as many as wouldn't worship the image of the beast to be killed. (*Revelation 13:11-15*)

Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, as Yahweh had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers. They also, **the magicians of Egypt, did the same thing with their enchantments**. For they each cast down their rods, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. (*Exodus 7:10-12*)

Yahweh said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your rod, and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their streams, and over their pools, and over all their ponds of water, that they may become blood...'"

Moses and Aaron did so, as Yahweh commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. The fish that were in the river died; and the river became foul, and the Egyptians couldn't drink water from the river; and the blood was throughout all the land of Egypt. **The magicians of Egypt did the same thing with their enchantments**; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he didn't listen to them; as Yahweh had spoken.<sup>25</sup> (*Exodus 7:19-22*)

Yahweh spoke to Moses, Go in to Pharaoh, and tell him, "This is what Yahweh says, 'Let my people go, that they may serve me. If you refuse to let them go, behold, I will plague all your borders with frogs...'" Yahweh said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the rivers, over the streams, and over the pools, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.'" Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt. **The magicians did the same thing with their enchantments**, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.<sup>26</sup> (*Exodus 8:1-7*)

### **Accounts Of Demonic Activity Affecting Christian Leaders And Ministry Efforts**

By reason of the exceeding greatness of the revelations, that I should not be exalted excessively, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me,<sup>27</sup> that I should not be exalted excessively. Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me. He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me. Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in

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<sup>25</sup> In this can be seen the aforementioned principle of being given over to a reprobate mind. Pharaoh's heart was already sinful and, to fulfil His plan, God allowed him to become even more hardened by witnessing the demonically inspired miracles of his false magicians.

<sup>26</sup> It has been suggested that Pharaoh's magicians used simple sleight of hand or illusions to give the impression that they worked magic. While this is certainly possible (and often the case with false prophets) if they knew of a method to control animals such as the frogs they were aware of a technique that no modern veterinarian is aware of and were able to do something that no one living today knows how to do leading me to conclude that there was a supernatural element to some of their enchantments.

<sup>27</sup> The Greek word for "messenger" here is *angelos*, a word elsewhere translated as "angel" giving rise to the belief that this incident involved some form of direct spiritual contact with an angel from Satan.

persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then am I strong.<sup>28</sup>  
(*2Corinthians 12:7-10*)

But we, brothers, being bereaved of you for a short season, in presence, not in heart, tried even harder to see your face with great desire, because we wanted to come to you—indeed, I, Paul, once and again—but Satan hindered us.<sup>29</sup> (*1Thessalonians 2:17-18*)

### **Accounts of Demonic Activity Causing The Testing Of One's Faith**

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God, and turned away from evil. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. His possessions also were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the children of the east. His sons went and held a feast in the house of each one on his birthday; and they sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. It was so, when the days of their feasting had run their course, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned, and renounced God in their hearts." Job did so continually.

Now on the day when God's sons came to present themselves before Yahweh, Satan also came among them. Yahweh said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Then Satan answered Yahweh, and said, "From going back and forth in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

Yahweh said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant, Job? For there is no one like him in the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one who fears God, and turns away from evil."

Then Satan answered Yahweh, and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Haven't you made a hedge around him, and around his house, and around all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will renounce you to your face."

Yahweh said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power. Only on himself don't stretch out your hand."<sup>30</sup>

So Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh. It fell on a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, that there came a messenger to Job, and said, "The oxen were plowing, and the donkeys feeding beside them, and

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<sup>28</sup> Various opinions exist as to just what exactly the "thorn" was. Two things are clear, however. The thorn was Satanic in origin, yet not beyond the sovereign control of God. As we have seen in other Scriptures, God was using the unclean spirit in Paul's life to accomplish His will (in this case, to keep Paul humble). God's saints can rest assured that Satan is never allowed to do anything to them that God does not allow for their own good (Ro 8:28). This does not mean, however, that Christians have to accept every setback sent by Satan for their whole lives. Some Satanic setbacks are sent to encourage us to pray more fervently and are sent for the purpose of motivating us to more prayer.

<sup>29</sup> We are not told why God allowed Satan to hinder Paul's efforts but we can trust that it was completely under the control of God and used to accomplish His greater plan and purpose as Paul himself tells us that God guides and works out everything in the universe according to His will (Ep 1:11).

<sup>30</sup> Notice how that Satan was completely bound by the will of God and could do nothing to Job without God's permission.

the Sabians attacked, and took them away. Yes, they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

While he was still speaking, there also came another, and said, “The fire of God has fallen from the sky, and has burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

While he was still speaking, there came also another, and said, “The Chaldeans made three bands, and swept down on the camels, and have taken them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

While he was still speaking, there came also another, and said, “Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young men, and they are dead. I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Then Job arose, and tore his robe, and shaved his head, and fell down on the ground, and worshiped. He said, “Naked I came out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away. Blessed be Yahweh’s name.” In all this, Job didn’t sin, nor charge God with wrongdoing. (*Job 1:1-22*)

The Lord said, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan asked to have all of you, that he might sift you as wheat, but I prayed for you, that your faith wouldn’t fail. You, when once you have turned again, establish your brothers.”

He said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death!”

He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will by no means crow today until you deny that you know me three times.”

...He came out, and went, as his custom was, to the Mount of Olives. His disciples also followed him. When he was at the place, he said to them, “Pray that you don’t enter into temptation.”

He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and he knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

An angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. Being in agony he prayed more earnestly. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

When he rose up from his prayer, he came to the disciples, and found them sleeping because of grief, and said to them, “Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

While he was still speaking, behold, a multitude, and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He came near to Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said to him, “Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” A certain one of them struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, “Let me at least do this”—and he touched his ear, and healed him. Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and elders, who had come against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you in the temple daily, you didn’t stretch out your hands against me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”

They seized him, and led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house...all the disciples forsook him, and fled...But Peter followed from a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard, and had sat down together, Peter sat among them. A certain servant girl saw him as he sat in the light, and looking intently at him, said, "This man also was with him."

He denied Jesus, saying, "Woman, I don't know him."

After a little while someone else saw him, and said, "You also are one of them!" But Peter answered, "Man, I am not!"

After about one hour passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Truly this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean!"

But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. The Lord turned, and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord's word, how he said to him, "Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times." He went out, and wept bitterly.<sup>31</sup> (*Luke 22:31-62, Matthew 26:56*)

### **Accounts Of Demons Inciting War And Bringing Discipline For Wickedness**

Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother's brothers, and spoke with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, "Please speak in the ears of all the men of Shechem, 'Is it better for you that all the sons of Jerubbaal, who are seventy persons, rule over you, or that one rule over you?' Remember also that I am your bone and your flesh."

His mother's brothers spoke of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words. Their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, "He is our brother." They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal Berith, with which Abimelech hired vain and light fellows, who followed him. He went to his father's house at Ophrah, and killed his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, being seventy persons, on one stone: but Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself. All the men of Shechem assembled themselves together, and all the house of Millo, and went and made Abimelech king, by the oak of the pillar that was in Shechem...

Abimelech was prince over Israel three years. **Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem;** and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech, that the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come, and that their blood might be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers. The men of Shechem set an ambush for him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who came along that way by them, and Abimelech was told about it. Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brothers, and went over to Shechem; and the men of Shechem put their trust in him. They went out into the field, harvested their vineyards, trod the grapes, celebrated, and went into the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech. Gaal the son of Ebed said, "Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that

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<sup>31</sup> This story often focuses on Peter as the object of testing by Satan (in the same way Job was tested) but notice at the beginning that Jesus said it was a test for all of them ("Satan asked to have all of you"). Jesus encouraged them to pray as they got closer to the time of testing but they were more interested in sleeping than praying. All of the disciples failed the test (because they all ran and abandoned Jesus), which is why Jesus encouraged Peter to establish his brothers after he repented of his own failed testing. Like with Job and the Apostles, Satan appears to be allowed to test all Christians to see if they are genuine in what they are professing (see Re 12:9-10).

we should serve him? Isn't he the son of Jerubbaal? Isn't Zebul his officer? Serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem, but why should we serve him? I wish that this people were under my hand! Then I would remove Abimelech." He said to Abimelech, "Increase your army, and come out!"

When Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger burned. He sent messengers to Abimelech craftily, saying, "Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem; and behold, they incite the city against you....Abimelech rose up, and all the people who were with him, by night, and they laid wait against Shechem in four companies...Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech. Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many fell wounded, even to the entrance of the gate. Abimelech lived at Arumah; and Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers, that they should not dwell in Shechem...Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and killed the people in it. He beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.

When all the men of the tower of Shechem heard of it, they entered into the stronghold of the house of Elberith. Abimelech was told that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together. Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him; and Abimelech took an ax in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it up, and laid it on his shoulder. Then he said to the people who were with him, "What you have seen me do, make haste, and do as I have done!" All the people likewise each cut down his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put them at the base of the stronghold, and set the stronghold on fire on them; so that all the people of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women. Then Abimelech went to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it. But there was a strong tower within the city, and all the men and women of the city fled there, and shut themselves in, and went up to the roof of the tower. Abimelech came to the tower, and fought against it, and came near to the door of the tower to burn it with fire. A certain woman cast an upper millstone on Abimelech's head, and broke his skull.

Then he called hastily to the young man his armor bearer, and said to him, "Draw your sword, and kill me, that men not say of me, 'A woman killed him.' His young man thrust him through, and he died."

When the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they each departed to his place. **Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did to his father, in killing his seventy brothers; and God repaid all the wickedness of the men of Shechem on their heads; and the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal came on them.**<sup>32</sup> (*Judges 9:1-56*)

### Accounts of Satan Motivating Or Tempting People To Sin

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. He ate nothing in those days. Afterward, when they were completed, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."<sup>33</sup> Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"<sup>34</sup> The devil, leading him up on a high

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<sup>32</sup> Several things stand out in this narrative. First, notice how that demons were used by God in this instance to bring discipline to Abimelech for his wickedness. Secondly, note how that wars can be started by demons. Thirdly, notice that it is God who is in control and using the demons to bring it about to fulfill His will. Satan did not make the decision to do this, God did.

<sup>33</sup> The implication seems to be that this was a temptation to give up the fast. Note Satan's use of Jesus' obvious weakness in this attack.

<sup>34</sup> De 8:3

mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.<sup>35</sup> The devil said to him, “I will give you all this authority, and their glory, for it has been delivered to me; and I give it to whomever I want. If you therefore will worship before me, it will all be yours.”<sup>36</sup> Jesus answered him, “Get behind me Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall serve him only.’”<sup>37</sup> He led him to Jerusalem, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, cast yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will put his angels in charge of you, to guard you;’ and, ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest perhaps you dash your foot against a stone.’”<sup>38</sup> Jesus answering, said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”<sup>39</sup> When the devil had completed every temptation, he departed from him until another time.<sup>40</sup> (*Luke 4:1-13*)

The chief priests and the scribes sought how they might put him (Jesus) to death, for they feared the people. **Satan entered into Judas**, who was surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered with the twelve. He went away, and talked with the chief priests and captains about how he might deliver him to them. They were glad, and agreed to give him money. He consented, and sought an opportunity to deliver him to them in the absence of the multitude. (*Luke 22:2-6*)

Now before the feast of the Passover, Jesus, knowing that his time had come that he would depart from this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, **the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot**, Simon’s son, to betray him, Jesus...was troubled in spirit, and testified, “Most certainly I tell you that one of you will betray me....It is he to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. After the piece of bread, then **Satan entered into him**. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”<sup>41</sup> (*John 13:1-27*)

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<sup>35</sup> Note Satan’s ability to give visions.

<sup>36</sup> There is some question as to whether Satan’s boast of being able to give the kingdoms of the world “to whomever I want” was truthful. Jesus told Pilate that “You could have no power at all against me, except it were given to you from above” (Jn 19:11) and Paul indicated that “there is no [civil] authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God...[the civil authority] is a servant of God to you for good...he is a servant of God...” (Ro 13:1-4). According to Jesus “the devil...is a liar (Jn 8:44)”. It is sadly often the case that persons believe Satan’s lie that if they would sin it would turn out for their best, only to experience the exact opposite.

<sup>37</sup> An abbreviated combination of verses such as Exodus 34:14, Deuteronomy 6:13, and 10:20.

<sup>38</sup> Ps 91:11-12. Note Satan’s twisting of the Bible in order to entice Jesus into sin. It has often been the case that persons who want to sin will find a “Scriptural justification” for their behavior, supplied with what they were looking for by Satan himself.

<sup>39</sup> De 6:16

<sup>40</sup> Notice Jesus’ strategy for handling temptation. When faced with temptation Jesus always referred back to the Scriptures to see what God said an individual should do in that situation and then He did it.

<sup>41</sup> The question has been raised as to Judas’ ability to resist the temptation to betray the Lord with some holding that he was a mere puppet unable to resist his place as an agent in the cause of Jesus’ death and others holding that he acted of his own volition. We have the promise from Scripture that God “will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth (1Ti 2:4)” and “The Lord...is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2Pe 3:9).” These statements include Judas. However, Judas opened the door for demon possession by stealing from the disciples’ treasury (Jn 12:4-6). The sin in his life opened the way for him to come under the judgment of God that He exercises through the agency of unclean spirits. This should serve as a stern warning to all to repent and forsake all of their sins, lest they experience this kind of judgment. Sin opens the door for oppression and possession. Judas did not have to follow the course that he chose but choosing sin is like a snowball effect. The more one chooses it the further into darkness it drags one as it opens the door for Satan to have more and more control over the individual. Notice also that God used the judgment against Judas to bring

The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul. Not one of them claimed that anything of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common...neither was there among them any who lacked, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet, and distribution was made to each, according as anyone had need...But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira, his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, **why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit**, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While you kept it, didn't it remain your own? After it was sold, wasn't it in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You haven't lied to men, but to God." Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and died. Great fear came on all who heard these things. (*Acts 4:32-5:5*)

Yahweh God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Yahweh God planted a garden eastward, in Eden, and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground Yahweh God made every tree to grow that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...Yahweh God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it. Yahweh God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but you shall not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die."...

Now the serpent was more subtle than any animal of the field which Yahweh God had made. He said to the woman, "Has God really said, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, but not the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, 'You shall not eat of it. You shall not touch it, lest you die.'"

The serpent said to the woman, "You won't really die, for God knows that in the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took some of its fruit, and ate; and she gave some to her husband with her, and he ate it, too. Their eyes were opened, and they both knew that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together, and made coverings for themselves.<sup>42</sup> (*Genesis 2:7-17; 3:1-7*)

**Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to take a census** of Israel. David said to Joab and to the princes of the people, "Go, count Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring me word, that I may know how many there are."

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about His plan of having Jesus crucified for the sins of the world, further evidence that God uses the unclean spirits to accomplish His will. Note also that Judas' eventual suicide (Mt 27:3-10, Ac 1:16-19) is a behavior characteristic of a person demon possessed.

<sup>42</sup> In this instance Satan is seen working through the snake (Re 12:9). Notice how that Satan twisted God's words to deceive Eve.

Joab said, “May Yahweh make his people a hundred times as many as they are. But, my lord the king, aren’t they all my lord’s servants? Why does my lord require this thing? Why will he be a cause of guilt to Israel?”

Nevertheless the king’s word prevailed against Joab. Therefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, then came to Jerusalem. Joab gave up the sum of the census of the people to David. All those of Israel were one million one hundred thousand men who drew a sword; and in Judah were four hundred seventy thousand men who drew a sword. But he didn’t count Levi and Benjamin among them; for the king’s word was abominable to Joab.

God was displeased with this thing; therefore he struck Israel.<sup>43</sup> (*1Chronicles 21:1-7*)

### Accounts Of Unclean Spirits Giving False Teachings

But the Spirit says expressly that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **seducing spirits** and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron... (*1Timothy 4:1-2*)

‘Now a thing was secretly brought to me. My ear received a whisper of it. In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, fear came on me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake. **Then a spirit passed before my face.** The hair of my flesh stood up. It stood still, but I couldn’t discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes. Silence, then I heard a voice, saying, ‘Shall mortal man be more just than God? Shall a man be more pure than his Maker? Behold, he puts no trust in his servants. He charges his angels with error. How much more, those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed before the moth! Between morning and evening they are destroyed. They perish forever without any regarding it. Isn’t their tent cord plucked up within them? They die, and that without wisdom.’<sup>44</sup> (*Job 4:12-21*)

### Accounts Of Individuals Forming Relationships With Unclean Spirits

Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. Saul had sent away those who had familiar spirits and the wizards out of the land. The Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and encamped in Shunem; and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped in Gilboa. When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. When Saul inquired of Yahweh, Yahweh didn’t answer him by dreams, by Urim, or by prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, “Seek for me a woman who has a **familiar spirit**,<sup>45</sup> that I may go to her, and inquire of her.”

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<sup>43</sup> The sin in this instance was that David was ascribing his victory to the power of the people, rather than the power of God from whom all victory really comes.

<sup>44</sup> In this case, Job’s friend Eliphaz the Temanite relates how a spirit appeared to him at night and taught him a doctrine. The only problem is that later in the book God specifically rebukes Eliphaz, telling him that he has not spoken correctly about Him: “It came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, ‘My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has’ (Job 42:7NASB).” This illustrates two principles. First, demons can be seen on occasion (Eliphaz said that he saw him). Secondly, we must base our beliefs on Scripture, not supernatural encounters.

<sup>45</sup> A familiar spirit is an unclean spirit that a person has formed a relationship with (i.e. one that they have become “familiar” with). Forming such a relationship was strictly forbidden by the Law of Moses (Le 19:31, 20:6, 20:27, De 18:10-12).

His servants said to him, “Behold, there is a woman who has a familiar spirit at Endor.”

Saul disguised himself and put on other clothing, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night. Then he said, “Please consult for me by the familiar spirit, and bring me up whomever I shall name to you.”

The woman said to him, “Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?”

Saul swore to her by Yahweh, saying, “As Yahweh lives, no punishment will happen to you for this thing.”

Then the woman said, “Whom shall I bring up to you?”

He said, “Bring Samuel up for me.”

When the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, “Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!”

The king said to her, “Don’t be afraid! What do you see?”

The woman said to Saul, “I see a god coming up out of the earth.”

He said to her, “What does he look like?”

She said, “An old man comes up. He is covered with a robe.” Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground, and showed respect.

Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me, to bring me up?”

Saul answered, “I am very distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me, and answers me no more, by prophets, or by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I shall do.”

Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, since Yahweh has departed from you and has become your adversary? Yahweh has done to you as he spoke by me. Yahweh has torn the kingdom out of your hand, and given it to your neighbor, even to David. Because you didn’t obey Yahweh’s voice, and didn’t execute his fierce wrath on Amalek, therefore Yahweh has done this thing to you today. Moreover Yahweh will deliver Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines; and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Yahweh will deliver the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines.”

Then Saul fell immediately his full length on the earth, and was terrified, because of Samuel’s words...

Now the Philistines fought against Israel, and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain on Mount Gilboa. The Philistines followed hard after Saul and after his sons; and the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, the sons of Saul. The battle went hard against Saul, and the archers overtook him; and he was distressed by reason of the archers. Then Saul said to his armor bearer, “Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and abuse me.”

But his armor bearer would not; for he was terrified. Therefore Saul took his sword, and fell on it...So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against Yahweh, because of Yahweh’s word, which he didn’t keep; and also **because he asked counsel of one who had a familiar spirit**, to inquire, and didn’t inquire of Yahweh. Therefore he killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse. (*1Samuel 28:3-20, 1Chronicles 10:1-4, 13-14*)

Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Hephzibah. He did that which was evil in Yahweh’s sight, after the abominations of the nations whom Yahweh cast out before the children of Israel. For he

built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he raised up altars for Baal, and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel did, and worshiped all the army of the sky, and served them. He built altars in Yahweh's house, of which Yahweh said, "I will put my name in Jerusalem." He built altars for all the army of the sky in the two courts of Yahweh's house. He made his son to pass through the fire, practiced sorcery, used enchantments, and **dealt with those who had familiar spirits**, and with wizards. He did much evil in Yahweh's sight, to provoke him to anger. (*2Kings 21:1-6*)

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. He did that which was right in Yahweh's eyes, and walked in all the way of David his father, and didn't turn away to the right hand or to the left...Moreover **Josiah removed those who had familiar spirits**, the wizards, and the teraphim, and the idols, and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might confirm the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in Yahweh's house. There was no king like him before him, who turned to Yahweh with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; and there was none like him who arose after him. (*2Kings 22:1-2, 23:24-25*)

#### **Accounts Of People Injuring Themselves Under The Influence Of Evil Spirits**

They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. When he had come out of the boat, immediately a man with an unclean spirit met him out of the tombs. He lived in the tombs. Nobody could bind him any more, not even with chains, because he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him, and the fetters broken in pieces. Nobody had the strength to tame him. Always, night and day, in the tombs and in the mountains, he was crying out, and **cutting himself** with stones. (*Mark 5:1-5*)

After many days, Yahweh's word came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab; and I will send rain on the earth."

Elijah went to show himself to Ahab...When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

He answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but you, and your father's house, in that you have forsaken Yahweh's commandments, and you have followed the Baals. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel to Mount Carmel, and four hundred fifty of the prophets of Baal, and four hundred of the prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab sent to all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together to Mount Carmel. Elijah came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you waver between the two sides? If Yahweh is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him."

The people didn't say a word.

Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left as a prophet of Yahweh; but Baal's prophets are four hundred fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, and put no fire under; and I will dress the other bull, and lay it on the wood, and put no fire under it. You call on the name of your god, and I will call on Yahweh's name. The God who answers by fire, let him be God."

All the people answered, "What you say is good."

Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one bull for yourselves, and dress it first; for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.”

They took the bull which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, “Baal, hear us!” But there was no voice, and nobody answered. They leaped about the altar which was made. At noon, Elijah mocked them, and said, “Cry aloud; for he is a god. Either he is deep in thought, or he has gone somewhere, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he sleeps and must be awakened.”

They cried aloud, and **cut themselves in their way with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.**<sup>46</sup> When midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the evening offering; but there was no voice, no answer, and nobody paid attention.

At the time of the evening offering, Elijah the prophet came near, and said, “Yahweh, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Hear me, Yahweh, hear me, that this people may know that you, Yahweh, are God, and that you have turned their heart back again.”

Then Yahweh’s fire fell, and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces. They said, “Yahweh, he is God! Yahweh, he is God!” (*1Kings 18:1-2, 17-39*)

#### **Accounts Of Unclean Spirits Motivating People To Hurt Others**

But some of the itinerant Jews, exorcists, took on themselves to invoke over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” There were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did this. The evil spirit answered, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?” The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived at Ephesus. Fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. (*Acts 19:13-17*)

#### **Accounts Of Unclean Spirits Influencing Animals**

Now there was a herd of many pigs feeding far away from them. The demons begged him, saying, “If you cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of pigs.” He said to them, “Go!” They came out, and went into the herd of pigs: and behold, the whole herd of pigs rushed down the cliff into the sea, and died in the water. (*Matthew 8:30-32*)

Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt. **The magicians did the same** thing with their enchantments, **and brought up frogs on the land** of Egypt.<sup>47</sup> (*Exodus 8:6-7*)

#### **Accounts Of Possession With No Specific Details Given**

Jesus went about in all Galilee...The report about him went out into all Syria. They brought to him all who were sick, afflicted with various diseases and torments, possessed with demons, epileptics, and paralytics; and he healed them. (*Matthew 4:23-24*)

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<sup>46</sup> It is believed by some that they were led to cut themselves by the unclean spirits that they were worshipping. Under normal circumstances, people do not hurt themselves (Ep 5:29).

<sup>47</sup> Compare also the influence of Satan upon the snake in the garden of Eden (Ge 3:1-15).

When evening came, they brought to him many possessed with demons. He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick... (*Matthew 8:16*)

For a woman, whose little daughter had an unclean spirit, having heard of him (Jesus), came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by race. She begged him that he would cast the demon out of her daughter. But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not appropriate to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Yes, Lord. Yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." He said to her, "For this saying, go your way. The demon has gone out of your daughter." She went away to her house, and found the child having been laid on the bed, with the demon gone out.<sup>48</sup> (*Mark 7:25-30*)

At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to him all who were sick, and those who were possessed by demons. All the city was gathered together at the door. He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. He didn't allow the demons to speak, because they knew him. (*Mark 1:32-34*)

He (Jesus) went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out demons. (*Mark 1:39*)

He called to himself the twelve, and began to send them out two by two; and he gave them authority over the unclean spirits...They went out and preached that people should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed many with oil who were sick, and healed them. (*Mark 6:7-13*)

Now when Jesus had risen early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. (*Mark 16:9*)

When the sun was setting, all those who had any sick with various diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. Demons also came out from many, crying out, and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Rebuking them, he didn't allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.<sup>49</sup> (*Luke 4:40-41*)

It happened soon afterwards, that he (Jesus) went about through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the Kingdom of God. With him were the twelve, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out; and Joanna, the wife of Chuzas, Herod's steward; Susanna; and many others; who served him from their possessions. (*Luke 8:1-3*)

The unclean spirits, whenever they saw him (Jesus), fell down before him, and cried, "You are the Son of God!"<sup>50</sup> (*Mark 3:11*)

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<sup>48</sup> Compare the parallel account in Matthew 15:22-28.

<sup>49</sup> Note how that even demons will acknowledge the Messiahship and Sonship of Jesus.

<sup>50</sup> This seems to indicate that unclean spirits can sometimes be seen. Otherwise, how could Mark have known that they "fell down" before him unless they had been actually seen doing so? Does this explain some sightings of "ghosts"?

He came down with them, and stood on a level place, with a crowd of his disciples, and a great number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; as well as those who were troubled by unclean spirits, and they were being healed. (*Luke 6:17-18*)

In that hour he cured many of diseases and plagues and evil spirits; and to many who were blind he gave sight.<sup>51</sup> (*Luke 7:21*)

Multitudes also came together from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing sick people, and those who were tormented by unclean spirits: and they were all healed. (*Acts 5:16*)

Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and proclaimed to them the Christ. The multitudes listened with one accord to the things that were spoken by Philip, when they heard and saw the signs which he did. For unclean spirits came out of many of those who had them. They came out, crying with a loud voice. Many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. (*Acts 8:5-7*)

And God did special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that handkerchiefs or aprons from his body were brought unto the sick, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. (*Acts 19:11-12*)<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> This lets us know that while demons can cause illnesses, not all illnesses are demonic.

<sup>52</sup> It is important to note that in the above instances one of the reasons that these individuals had been allowed to be overtaken by these unclean spirits was so that they could be delivered in front of others to demonstrate the authority and power of Jesus. This is one reason that God allows people be afflicted by evil spirits, so that they may be delivered as a testimony to persuade others to believe in Christ. All the more impetus for us to be open, as the Lord leads us, to praying for the deliverance of those whom we encounter that are in bondage to Satan.