

## FREE FROM OPPRESSION | BE FREE

**Bumper** → WELCOME → Table: JPH+Online → **BF: Free From Oppression (Sin, Opinions, Apathy)**  
We need to be AWARE of spiritual forces... → **SPIRITUAL OPPRESSION.**

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight." – **CS Lewis**, "Screwtape Letters"

**Have you seen evidence of the Devil lately?** You know, it is curious. In the Gospels, the Devil is doing all sorts of things. He's making pigs run off cliffs, he's possessing people and whatnot. And that doesn't happen very much anymore. **No.** It's because he's smart. **So what's he doing now?** What he's doing now is getting people not to believe in him or in God. He's much more successful that way. – **A. Scalia Interview**

**Ephesians 6:12** - For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

**Lk. 8:26-29** → **What are demons and what is their mission?** → Demons? ...fallen spiritual beings (Seraphim).  
26 So they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes, across the lake from Galilee. 27 As Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man who was possessed by demons came out to meet him. For a long time he had been homeless and naked, living in the tombs outside the town. 28 As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down in front of him. Then he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, I beg you, don't torture me!"

29 For Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to come out of him. This spirit had often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon's power.

- The demon in this account POSSESSES this man resulting in homelessness, nakedness, living in the tombs, outside of town, controlling the man's body, super human strength, & leads him into the wilderness.
- 3 Falls = Genesis 3, 6, & 11 = Humanity partners with spiritual rebellion. – **Bible Project Vids**
  1. Day star or Bearer of light (In Latin = Lucifer - BEFORE the Fall) - Isaiah 14:12
  2. Satan = "Adversary" - Job 1:6
  3. Devil = "Slanderer" - Matthew 4:1
  4. Angel of Light - 2 Corinthians 11:14
  5. The Accuser of the children of God - Revelation 12:10
  6. Tempter - Matthew 4:3
  7. Liar - Jn. 8:44
  8. The Father of Lies - Jn. 8:44
  9. Ruler of Demons - Mt. 9:34
  10. Beelzebul - "lord of the flies/dung" - Mt. 12:24
  11. The Evil One - Mt. 13:19
  12. Adversary - 1 Peter 5:8
  13. Roaring Lion - 1 Peter 5:8
  14. Apollyon (Greek) / Abaddon (Hebrew) = Destroyer - Revelation 9:11
  15. Ruler of this World - Jn. 14:30 / 1 John 5:19
  16. God of this Age - 2 Cor. 4:14
  17. Ruler of the authority of the Air - Ephesians 2:2
  18. Belial - "vileness" - 2 Cor. 6:15
  19. Old Serpent - Rev. 12:9
  20. Dragon - Rev. 12:9

21. Deceiver of the whole world - Revelation 12:9

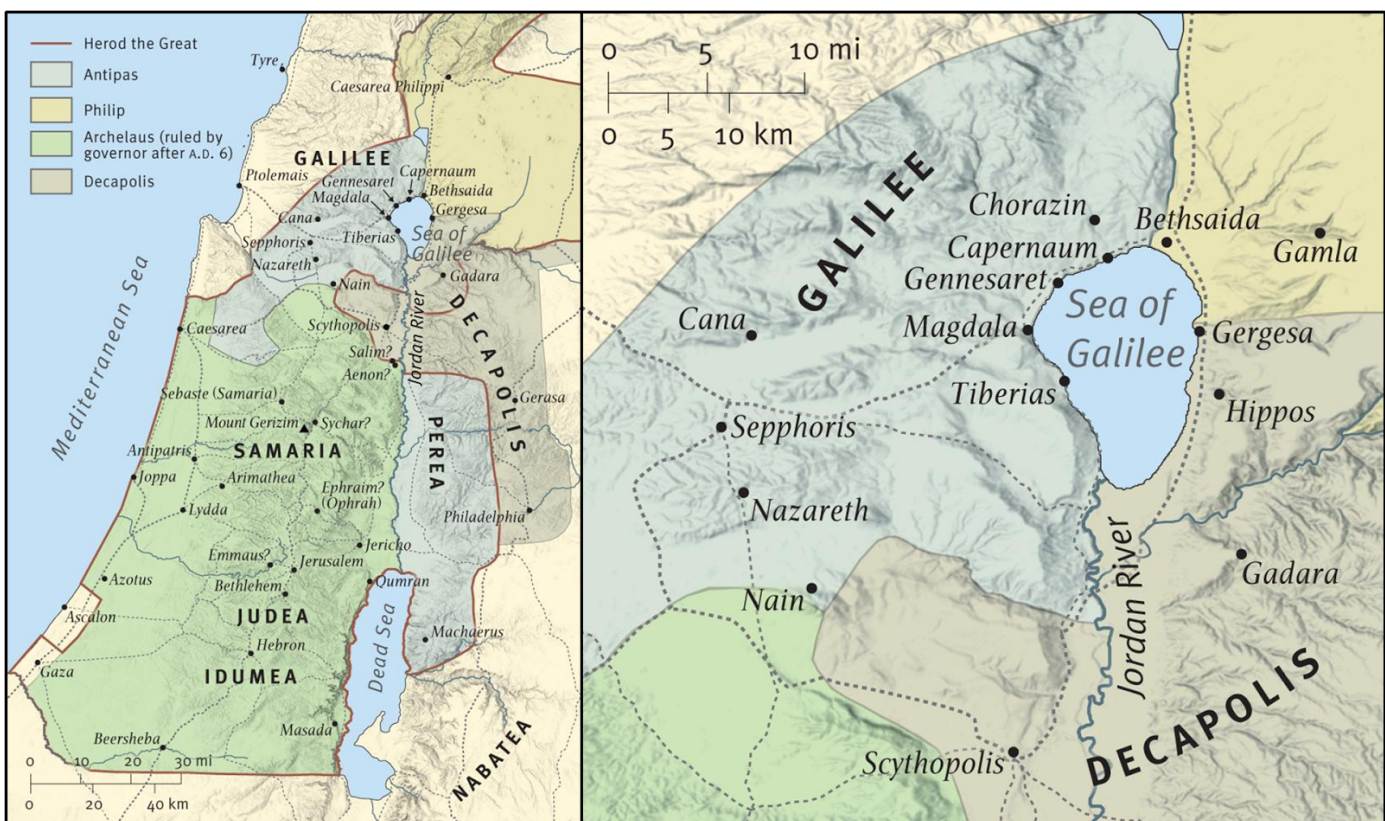
- These demons know who Jesus is (SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD) & where they will eventually end up (31).
- A demon can OPPRESS the MIND & BODY (2 Cor 12:7)...but POSSESSES the SOUL. (2 Cor. 6:14).
- Etymology: δαίμονι (daíomai = "to divide, cut" + -μων (-mōn) - article on mental health / demonic
- Possession & oppression could be interchangeable if our lives can't move forward. → ...DESTRUCTION.
- Where have i allowed false teaching, division, lies, slander, sin? → Compromise opens the door.

Lk. 8:29-33 → Who is Jesus and what is his mission? → Map of Galilee → He goes out of his way...  
30 Jesus demanded, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, for he was filled with many demons. 31 The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit.

32 There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby, and the demons begged him to let them enter into the pigs.

So Jesus gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned.



- He gives the pigs permission to be destroyed (the abyss). Pigs were unclean animals used for sacrifice. Judgement.
- Jesus is the SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD & he came to set us free from spiritual oppressors free. → Lk. 4:16-21
- Jesus calls out what needs to be cast out of our lives when we call out to him. → SURGERY is painful but necessary!
- The name of Jesus has power BECAUSE his name has authority over spiritual dark powers. Demons must obey.
- PERSONAL: SMALL GROUPS: Friday Night Prayer, Post Service Prayer, CONTACT ME → Ephesians

Lk. 8:34-39 → How will we respond? → What do we stand to lose? What do we stand to gain?

34 When the herdsmen saw it, they fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. 35 People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been freed from the demons. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. 36 Then those who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed. 37 And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them.

So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake. 38 The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, 39 “No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.

- **THE MAN:** Someone's son, brother, friend...he had a career, wife, a family...**HE'S A HUMAN.**
- **When we are led by a demon into the wilderness, we end up an ANIMAL. When we are led into the wilderness by God, we end up a HUMAN.** → **KNOW WHO IS LEADING YOU,** → **He will restore your identity, community, & MISSION.**
- **Matthew 10:1 - Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.** → **God frees us to free others.** → **“1st Apostle to the Gentiles...” - NT Wright**
- **We exercise authority** → Judah's sickness.
- **Pig Owners: They are afraid...power or loss...but they “beg Jesus to go away.”**
- **How will you respond?**

→ **Be free from spiritual oppression.** → **PRAYER**

**TALK ABOUT IT** - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Do I believe in the Devil & demons? Why or why not? Am I open to the spiritual nature of reality?
2. Where have I “opened a door” to spiritual oppression through compromise, sinful behavior, or believing a lie?
3. How does this account give me hope Jesus desires me to walk in full freedom from spiritual oppression?
4. How does this account challenge me to trust the authority that Jesus gives me to lead others into freedom?
5. **PRAYER:** “Father, free us and help us to understand the authority Jesus gives to us to lead others to freedom.”

## LINKS / RESOURCES:

Book: “The Screwtape Letters” by CS Lewis

Book: “Demons: What the Bible Really Says About the Powers of Darkness” by Dr. Michael Heiser

Video: Bible Project Series on “Spiritual Beings”: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/intro-spiritual-beings/>

Video: Bible Project Series on “Satan & Demons”: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/satan-demons/>

Video Interview by Frank Turek of Dr. Michael Heiser: <https://youtu.be/ifNdJPgJATA>

Article: “When exorcists need help, they call him”: <https://www.cnn.com/2017/08/04/health/exorcism-doctor/index.html>

Article: “A Pastor’s Reflections: Demon Possession and Mental Illness”: <https://wscal.edu/blog/a-pastors-reflections-demon-possession-and-mental-illness>

Article: “In Conversation: Antonin Scalia”: <https://nymag.com/news/features/antonin-scalia-2013-10/>

## QUOTES / SONGS:

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” – **CS Lewis** (S.L.)

**Excerpt from: “In Conversation: Antonin Scalia”**

*I even believe in the Devil.*

**You do?**

*Of course! Yeah, he’s a real person. Hey, c’mon, that’s standard Catholic doctrine! Every Catholic believes that.*

*Every Catholic believes this? There’s a wide variety of Catholics out there ...*

*If you are faithful to Catholic dogma, that is certainly a large part of it.*

**Have you seen evidence of the Devil lately?**

*You know, it is curious. In the Gospels, the Devil is doing all sorts of things. He’s making pigs run off cliffs, he’s possessing people and whatnot. And that doesn’t happen very much anymore.*

**No.**

*It’s because he’s smart.*

**So what’s he doing now?**

*What he’s doing now is getting people not to believe in him or in God. He’s much more successful that way.*

**That has really painful implications for atheists. Are you sure that’s the Devil’s work?**

*I didn’t say atheists are the Devil’s work.*

**Well, you're saying the Devil is persuading people to not believe in God. Couldn't there be other reasons to not believe?**

*Well, there certainly can be other reasons. But it certainly favors the Devil's desires. I mean, c'mon, that's the explanation for why there's not demonic possession all over the place. That always puzzled me. What happened to the Devil, you know? He used to be all over the place. He used to be all over the New Testament.*

**Right.**

*What happened to him?*

**He just got wilier.**

*He got wilier.*

**Isn't it terribly frightening to believe in the Devil?**

*You're looking at me as though I'm weird. My God! Are you so out of touch with most of America, most of which believes in the Devil? I mean, Jesus Christ believed in the Devil! It's in the Gospels! You travel in circles that are so, so removed from mainstream America that you are appalled that anybody would believe in the Devil! Most of mankind has believed in the Devil, for all of history. Many more intelligent people than you or me have believed in the Devil.*

**I hope you weren't sensing contempt from me. It wasn't your belief that surprised me so much as how boldly you expressed it.**

*I was offended by that. I really was.*

**I'm sorry to have offended you!**

*Have you read The Screwtape Letters?*

**Yes, I have.**

*So, there you are. That's a great book. It really is, just as a study of human nature.*

**SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.**

**Ephesians 6:12**

*For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

**2 Corinthians 12:7**

*5 That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses. 6 If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, 7 even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.*

**2 Corinthians 6:14**

*14 Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? 15 What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? 16 And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.*

**Luke 4:16-21**

*16 When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. 17 The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:*

*18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, 19 and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."*

*20 He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. 21 Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"*

**Colossians 2:13-15**

*13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.*

### **Matthew 10:1**

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.

### **Matthew 17**

14 At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. 16 So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn't heal him."

17 Jesus said, "You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." 18 Then Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and it left him. From that moment the boy was well. 19 Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?"

20 "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

### **Isaiah 65:1-7: Judgment and Final Salvation**

65 The Lord says,

"I was ready to respond, but no one asked for help.

I was ready to be found, but no one was looking for me.

I said, 'Here I am, here I am!'

to a nation that did not call on my name.

2 All day long I opened my arms to a rebellious people.

But they follow their own evil paths  
and their own crooked schemes.

3 All day long they insult me to my face

by worshiping idols in their sacred gardens.  
They burn incense on pagan altars.

4 At night they go out among the graves,  
worshiping the dead.

They eat the flesh of pigs

and make stews with other forbidden foods.

5 Yet they say to each other,

'Don't come too close or you will defile me!  
I am holier than you!'

These people are a stench in my nostrils,  
an acrid smell that never goes away.

6 "Look, my decree is written out in front of me:

I will not stand silent;

I will repay them in full!

Yes, I will repay them—

7 both for their own sins

and for those of their ancestors,"  
says the Lord.

"For they also burned incense on the mountains  
and insulted me on the hills.

I will pay them back in full!