

Is Modern demon possession possible?

1. Have you noticed demon possession in the Bible? Appears quite common in the Gospels, no mention in the Old Testament, a few cases in Acts, and then suddenly no mention at all in the Epistles.
 - a. What about the evil spirit sent upon King Saul?
 - i. This spirit is sent by God, not a fallen angel from Satan.
 - ii. Only comes when God's Spirit is removed from Saul.
 - iii. The evil spirit comes and goes at God's command, not a possession or indwelling. Music wouldn't have helped the demon possessed in the Gospels.
 - iv. 1 Sam 16:14-23; 18:10; 19:9.
 - b. What about the medium of Endor? 1 Sam 28:8f.
 - i. Not a demon, but the spirit of Samuel.
 - ii. The medium seems very surprised and/or frightened.
 - iii. Kinda like Moses and Elijah at the Mount of Transfiguration, Matt 17:1ff.
 - iv. Consequences from God.
 - c. Spiritual activity is not the same thing as demon possession. Satan was active in Job's case without demon possession.
 - d. Common in the ministry of Jesus (Mt 4:24).
 - e. Not even mentioned in the Corinthian church (1 Cor 12:27ff).
2. **Satan - ADVERSARY**, also known as the devil, Lucifer, the tempter, accuser, etc.
 - a. A created angel of God, probably was an archangel type like Michael (Jude 9)
 - b. Rebelled against God, other angels followed him.
 - i. Demons, also called unclean spirits (Luke 4:33) are fallen angels.
 1. What else has super natural powers than angels?
 2. No other creature is mentioned...
 - ii. Satan is the prince of the demons, (Mt 12:24; Rev 9:11).
3. **The Fall of Satan.**
 - a. Uncommon View: Satan was cast down during the ministry of Jesus.
 - i. Job - how could sinful Satan be in God's presence?
 - ii. Luke 10:18 - Jesus saw Satan cast down from Heaven like lightning.
 - iii. Rev 12:9 - Satan is cast down after the war in Heaven.
 - b. Common View: Satan rebelled before the Garden.
 - i. Satan tempted Adam & Eve to sin, versus James 1:13.
 - ii. Satan and the snake were punished.
 1. Crawling on his belly.

2. Prophecy of enmity with the seed of the woman, head and heel bruising.

iii. ADVERSARY - the ACCUSER

1. Job - slander, incitement, blame.

a. Sons of God presented themselves AND Satan.

b. Satan's realm or roaming was upon the earth, as with Adam & Eve.

2. Opposed Michael the archangel in the dispute over Moses' body (Jude 9).

3. David - Satan opposed Israel and David (1 Chron 21:1, taking advantage of 2 Sam 24:1f).

4. Daniel - Gabriel needed help from Michael to fight against the prince of Persia (Dan 10).

c. A fascinating THIRD Option: Satan fell the same time as man in the Garden?

i. Satan was a cherub and wanted what was God's?

ii. Isaiah 14:12-15, 22.

iii. Ezekiel 28:12-19.

1. Section of Prophecy directed against the King of Tyre.

iv. Dual fulfillment prophecy?

1. Compare Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23.

2. The Egyptian Kings is called a river monster, Ezk 29:3.

3. Family resemblance!

a. The Fall of Satan?

b. The Fall of Adam?

d. Satan and his demons were cast into the Abyss awaiting Final Judgement.

i. 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6.

ii. The Abyss is about restricted access or influence (Rev 12).

1. Satan is a roaring lion whom we must resist (1 Peter 5:8f).

2. Why else would you need the full armor of God to stand firm against the schemes of the devil? (Eph 6:10f).

4. The Reach of Satan.

a. Satan was cast out of Heaven after the Great Rebellion

b. Satan and his demons were temporarily given more access to humanity during the ministry of Jesus.

i. Luke 10:18f compare to Revelation 9:1f.

ii. Progressive Parallelism the Book of Revelation.

1. Christ in the midst of the lampstands (1:1-3:22).

2. The vision of heaven and the seals (4:1-7:17).

3. The seven trumpets (8:1-11:19).

4. The persecuting dragon (12:1-14:20)
5. The seven bowls (15:1-16:21).
6. The fall of Babylon (17:1-19:21).
7. The great consummation (20:1-22:21).

iii. Revelation 9:1f - the time of the Ministry of Jesus.

iv. Revelation 12:1f - the coming of Jesus and the age of His Church.

v. Purpose: to demonstrate the sovereignty of Jesus.

c. Satan and his demons were cast back into the Abyss by Jesus awaiting Final Judgement (Jhn 12:31-33).

i. Rev 20:1f.

ii. Luke 8:31. Back into the Abyss.

iii. He will be Judged (Mt 25:41).

d. The nature of evil is self-destructive.

5. **The Promise** - Romans 8:9ff.

a. No demon possession today, thanks to Jesus defeating Satan.

b. Zechariah 13:1-2 fulfilled.

c. Without Apostles, what remedy would be available today?

d. Satan is bound, restricted, or chained awaiting eternal punishment at the Final Judgement.

e. Satan and his demons CANNOT overcome the Holy Spirit that is given to dwell in us.

f. Satan, while restricted, does exist.

i. If you go looking for him, you'll find him!

ii. Like a viscous dog on a chain... bound, chained, restricted.

1. Only has the power of deception to pull us in.

2. Only had the power of deception in the Garden.

g. **IMPORTANT CONCLUSION:** Romans 8:37-38. May we be as convinced!