

The Deception of Demons

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Demons: fiction and fact

- Much of what contemporary Christians believe about demons is incorrect
- Instead of being based on the Bible, much is based on
- 19th and 20th century Spiritualism—séances, speaking with the dead
- Occult practices now on prime-time television
- All of this is totally forbidden

- **Leviticus 19:31**

'Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.'

- **Leviticus 20:27**

"Men and women among you who act as mediums or psychics must be put to death by stoning. They are guilty of a capital offense." (NLT)

- **Deuteronomy 18:10-13**

Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God. (NIV)

What they are not

- **Demons are not the souls of departed spirits, as psychics and mediums would have you believe**
- They are fallen angels. When Satan rebelled, approximately 1/3 of the angels followed him in rebellion.
- Satan is not omnipresent and neither are demons
 - But there are many of them
- Not cartoon characters in red suits
- “The greatest evil is not now done in those sordid ‘dens of crime’ that Dickens loved to paint. It is not even done in concentration camps and labour camps. In those we see its final result. But it is conceived and ordered (moved, seconded, carried, and minuted) in clean, carpeted, warmed and well-lighted offices, by quiet men with white collars and cut fingernails and smooth –shaven cheeks, who do not need to raise their voices. C. S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters*

Demons are not in hell

- **Nor are they tormenting people in hell**
- In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word used to describe the realm of the dead is *sheol*. (in some English translations: hell) It simply means the “place of the dead” or the “place of departed souls/spirits.”
- The New Testament Greek word that is used for hell is “hades,” which also refers to “the place of the dead.”
- Other Scriptures in the New Testament indicate that sheol/hades is a temporary place, where souls are kept as they await the final resurrection and judgment.
- OT: The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.
Psalm 9:17
- NT: The Rich Man and Lazarus—see next slide
- Bottom Line: God is in control of judgment—now and forever

Luke 16:19-31: A view of the current afterlife

- ¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.
- ²²“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’
- ²⁵“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’
- ²⁷“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’
- ²⁹“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’
- ³⁰“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’
- ³¹“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

2 places, temporary & permanent

- What the story of Rich Man And Lazarus tells us is that:
- There has always been a separation of believers and unbelievers
Luke 16:19-31.
- The righteous have always gone to paradise; the wicked have always gone to hell (hades).
- For right now, both heaven (paradise) and hell (Sheol) are “temporary holding places” until the day when Jesus Christ comes back to judge the world based on whether or not they have believed in Him.
- The first resurrection is of believers who will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive rewards based on meritorious service to Him.
- The second resurrection will be that of unbelievers who will stand before the Great White Throne Judgment of God. At this point, all will be sent to their eternal destination—the wicked to the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15), and the righteous to a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21-22).
- From www.gotquestions.org and other sites

The final judgment

- The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works... .¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Rev. 20: 10-15
- *Contrast-for those of us who know Jesus*
- *John 14:1 I go to prepare a place for you.*

Scripture review

- Sheol/Hades is a realm with two divisions (Matt. 11:23 Acts 2:27-31), the abodes of the saved and the lost.
- The abode of the saved was called “paradise” and “Abraham's bosom.”
- The abodes of the saved and the lost are separated by a “great chasm” (Luke 16:26).
- When Jesus ascended to heaven, He took the occupants of paradise (believers) with Him (Eph. 4:8-10).
- The lost side of Sheol/Hades has remained unchanged. All unbelieving dead go there awaiting their final judgment in the future.

Where are demons now?

- **Most demons (not all) are here on earth**
 - “And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.” Jude 6
- I Peter 5:8 Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.
- **Demons help carry out all of the works of Satan**
- **They exist in a well-organized structure.**
 - Eph. 6:12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Their primary purpose is to deceive

- —Bill Crowder, **From Daily Bread**
- But I fear . . . as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. —2 Corinthians 11:3
- “All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must seem inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near.” Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*
- Likewise, the spiritual warfare that Satan wages against us is also based on deceit. In fact, the very first sin was the result of the enemy’s deception. Notice what Paul said: “I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3).
- This truth is what gives such importance to our Lord’s warning that Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44), ever seeking to deceive us. What is our defense? **To saturate our hearts in the truth of God’s Word. Only God’s inspired truth can protect us against the deceptions of the enemy.**

Many aspects to his deception

- **There is no truth in him**
- John 8:44b . . . and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
- **He can incite believers to lie**
- Acts 5:3 "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land?"
- **Demons disseminate false teachings**
- 1 Tim. 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.
- **False teachings today**
 - Cults, such as the Mormon church, all non-biblical religions—teaching of demons
 - The idea that all religions are OK
 - Anything that goes against what the Bible teaches
 - Subtle ways of thinking, anytime we justify ourselves

Conclusion

- You need to know the Truth so you will recognize lies
- First we know the Truth by knowing Jesus
- Then we need to learn our Bibles well so that we will recognize the lies of the enemy
- Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the *one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world*. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. I John 4:1-6