

THE IN-BETWEEN

Angels, Demons, the Devil, Heavenly Powers, Dark Powers, Human Beings Between Death and Resurrection

Section 8

The Spiritual Realm During the Time of Jesus

(roughly 6 BC to AD 30)

Focal Point — GABRIEL FORETELLS THE BIRTHS OF JOHN AND JESUS

Luke 1:5-38

- This angel, Gabriel, also appears in Daniel 8:16 and 9:21, over 500 years earlier. How long can angels live?
- verse 19 — This angel says he stands in the presence of God. What might that mean? Could this indicate special authority or responsibility, or do all angels stand in God's presence?
- verse 20 — Can angels punish people? (*Can you think of any times in the Old Testament when an angel brought God's punishment on people?*)
- Why does Gabriel punish Zechariah for his question but not punish Mary for hers? What does this tell us about angels' ability to discern human intentions?

Matthew 1:18-25 — This angel appeared to Joseph in a _____. What did he instruct Joseph to do?

Luke 2:1-21 — Where did these angels appear—on the earth or in the sky? _____

- "Angel" literally means "messenger." What message did the first angel bring to the shepherds?
- Why do you think angels would praise God (verses 13-14) in response to the birth of the Messiah? Why would such an event matter to them?

Matthew 2:13-23 — Twice an angel appears to Joseph in a dream (maybe three times; no angel is mentioned in verse 22). What instructions are given to Joseph in these dreams?

John 1:43-51 — What might "angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" mean?

Focal Point — THE DEVIL TEMPTS JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS

Matthew 4:1-11 / Luke 4:1-13 (also mentioned briefly in Mark 1:12-13)

- List the 3 names/titles given for the devil in Matthew 4:1-11:

- What was the devil trying to achieve as he tempted Jesus?

- Matthew 4:1 — Why did the [Holy] Spirit lead Jesus out “to be tempted by the devil”? For that matter, why does God let the devil tempt anyone?
- What did the devil say about angels (Matthew 4:5-6)?
- Luke 4:5-7 — The devil said all the authority and splendor of the kingdoms of the world had been given to him, and he could give it to anyone he wished, apparently including Jesus. Was this true? In what sense might the kingdoms of the world belong to the devil? (Hint: See Genesis 3:1-15, Ephesians 2:2, and 1 John 5:19.)
- What strategies did Jesus use to resist the devil’s temptations?
- Matthew 4:11 — What did angels do for Jesus after his temptation?

Focal Point — JESUS DRIVES A DEMON OUT OF A MAN

Luke 4:31-37 (also Mark 1:21-28)

- What is a demon? (Hint: Notice what Luke and the people call this demon in 4:33 and 4:36.)
- Can demons really possess human beings?
- How did this demon know who Jesus was?
- verse 34 — What did this demon believe about Jesus’ power?
- What does Jesus’ power over this demon say about his authority from God?

Recurring Theme — Jesus Drives Demons Out of People

Luke 4:33-35 (similarly in Mark 1:23-26) — In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit... “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

Matthew 8:16 — When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

Mark 1:32-34 — That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed... He also drove out many demons...

Mark 1:39 — So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Luke 4:41 — Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!”

Matthew 4:24 — News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.

Luke 6:17-18 — A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people...who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured...

Luke 7:21 — At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits...

Matthew 12:22 — Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.

Matthew 8:32 / Mark 5:9-13 / Luke 8:29-33 — *Jesus drives a “legion” of demons out of a man (two men in Matthew).*

Matthew 15:21-28 / Mark 7:24-30 — *Jesus heals a woman’s demon-possessed daughter, apparently from a distance.*

Matthew 17:40-20 / Mark 9:14-29 / Luke 9:37-43 — *Jesus drives out a demon that his disciples were unable to drive out.*

Luke 13:10-13 — On a Sabbath...a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman you are set free from your infirmity.” Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

Luke 13:32 — He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’”

Recurring Theme — Demons Know Who Jesus Is (and Jesus Won’t Let Them Tell)

Luke 4:33-35 (similarly in Mark 1:23-25) — In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, “Go away!” What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!”

Mark 1:34 — ...but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Luke 4:41 — Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

Mark 3:11-12 — Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him.

Mark 5:7 (similarly in Matthew 8:29, Luke 8:28) — He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!”

Matthew 5:33-37 — Who is “the evil one”? In what sense would swearing oaths instead of simply saying “Yes” or “No” come from the evil one?

Matthew 6:9-13 — In Jesus’ model prayer, he teaches us to pray that God would not lead us into _____, but would deliver us from the _____.

Matthew 7:21-23 — Is the ability (or at least the claim) to drive out demons proof that we know Jesus and he knows us?

Matthew 9:32-34 — What did this demon do to the man he possessed? Who is the “prince of demons” to whom the Pharisees referred?

Recurring Theme — How People Are Affected by Demon-Possession

Matthew 9:32-33 — While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus.

And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke.

Matthew 12:22 (similarly in Luke 11:14) — Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.

Mark 5:2-4 — When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.

Matthew 15:22 — A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

Mark 9:17-22 (similarly in Matthew 17:14-18, Luke 9:38-42) — A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid”... When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him.”

Luke 13:10-11 — On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.

Mark 3:13-15 — Jesus appointed the twelve apostles to be with him, to go out to preach, and to have authority to...

Recurring Theme — Jesus Gives Others Authority to Drive Out Demons

Mark 3:14-15 — He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

Matthew 10:1, 10:8 — Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness... These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “...Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.”

Mark 6:7, 6:13 — Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits... They drove out many demons...

Luke 9:1 — When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons...

Luke 10:17-20 — The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” He replied... “However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Matthew 10:24-25 — Who is Beelzebul?

Luke 7:33-35 (similarly in Matthew 11:18-19) — Because John the Baptist did not eat bread or drink wine (that is, did not eat what most people ate), people said he had a _____.

Luke 8:1-3 — Mary called _____ had once been possessed by _____ demons, but those demons had come out of her.

Matthew 12:22-29 (similarly in Mark 3:22-30, Luke 11:14-23) — Jesus healed a demon-possessed man who was both _____ and _____.

- The Pharisees claimed that it was by _____, the prince of _____, that Jesus drove out demons.
- According to Jesus, what will happen to Satan’s kingdom if Satan is divided against himself?
- verse 27 — Could the Pharisees’ people actually drive out demons?

Matthew 12:43-45 (similarly Luke 11:24-26) — According to Jesus, when an impure spirit comes out of a person, what does it search for?

- If the impure spirit returns to the person it left and has seven other, more wicked spirits with it, what will happen to that person?

Luke 12:8-9 — Whoever publicly acknowledges Jesus before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge them before the _____ of God. But whoever disowns Jesus before others will be disowned before the _____ of God.

Recurring Theme — Jesus Will Acknowledge His Followers, or Disown Those Who Do Not Follow, Before the Angels

Luke 12:8-9 — “I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God.”

Mark 8:38 — “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Luke 9:26 — “Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”

Revelation 3:5 — “The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

Luke 8:4-15 (similarly Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20) — According to this parable, what role does the devil play in causing some people to fail to believe God’s word and be saved?

Matthew 13:24-30, 13:36-43 — What does the devil do in this story, as Jesus explains it?

- According to this parable, what will the angels do at the end of the age?

Matthew 13:47-50 — According to Jesus, what will the angels do at the end of the age?

Focal Point — JESUS DRIVES OUT THE LEGION OF DEMONS

Mark 5:1-20 (similarly in Matthew 8:28-34, Luke 8:26-39)

- How many people can possess one person (two people in Matthew’s account)?
- Why were the demons afraid that Jesus might torture them?
- Luke 8:31 — What is the Abyss? Why did the demons beg to not be sent there? (Recall Revelation 9:1-11, 20:1-3).
- Notice Mark 5:6-10. Can demons (temporarily) resist Jesus’ command?
- Mark 5:11-13 — Why do you think Jesus did what the demons asked?

- Can demons possess animals?
 - When the pigs died, where did the demons go?
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John 5:25 — What will the dead hear—and what will happen to them when they hear it?

John 6:66-71 — In what sense was Judas a “devil”?

Mark 7:24-30 (similarly in Matthew 15:21-28) — Notice here that Jesus drove the demon out of the woman’s daughter from a distance, without going to her or even seeing her.

Mark 8:31-38 (similarly in Matthew 16:21-27, Luke 9:26) — Why did Jesus call Peter “Satan”?

- When the Son of Man comes again, he will come in his Father’s _____ with the holy _____.

Luke 9:28-36 (also Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-13) — Whom did the three apostles see standing with Jesus when he was glorified?

- How did these two men look?
- What were those two men talking with Jesus about?
- What, if anything, does this event tell us about the situation of the faithful who have died?

Mark 9:14-29 (also Matthew 17:14-20, Luke 9:37-43) — What did the impure spirit do to the boy it possessed?

- Jesus had given his apostles authority to drive out demons (Mark 6:7). Why were they unable to drive out this one? (Notice Mark 8:29 and Matthew 17:20.)

Matthew 18:1-10 — Jesus refers to two types of “little ones” in this teaching: little children and people who believe in him. What does he say angels do for “these little ones”?

- Does verse 10 teach that we have guardian angels? What do you think?

Mark 9:38-41 (similarly in Luke 9:49-50) — Could people not authorized by Jesus genuinely drive out demons?

John 7:14-24, 8:31-59 — Why did some of the people think Jesus was demon-possessed? (Notice 7:19-20, 8:48-53.)

- What does Jesus say about the devil's character in 8:44?
 - the devil was a _____ from the beginning
 - there is no _____ in him
 - when he _____ he speaks his native language
 - he is a _____ and the father of _____

John 9:1-7 & 10:14-21 — Some Jews thought Jesus was demon-possessed, but others disagreed. Why did they disagree?

Luke 10:17-20 — Jesus had sent out 72 disciples to minister in places he would soon visit (10:1). They returned (verse 17) with joy and said, "Lord, even the _____ submit to us in your name."

- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven"? Does this tell us anything about Satan's origin, or is Jesus merely speaking about what the 72 accomplished?

Luke 13:10-17 — What had Satan done to this woman? For how long?

- Can evil spirits go into places of worship like synagogues or, perhaps, churches?

Luke 15:1-10 — What do God's angels do when one sinner repents?

Focal Point — THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

Luke 16:19-31

- In this parable, how did Lazarus come to Abraham's side? Does this happen for all of God's faithful people, or is this an unusual situation?
- In this parable, the rich man and Abraham have a conversation. Can the departed actually speak to one another? Can those who will be saved communicate with those who will not?
- How much of this parable, if any of it, can we say applies to the situation of actual departed spirits?

Luke 20:27-40 (also Matthew 22:23-33, Mark 12:18-27) — Those who take part in the age to come and in the resurrection of the dead will neither _____ nor be given in _____, and they can no longer _____, for they are like the _____.

- What does this statement tell us about angels?
- verses 37-38 — What is the situation of the dead, in God's eyes: Are they dead or alive?

Matthew 24:30-36 (also Mark 13:26-32) — When the Son of Man comes, he will send his angels with a loud _____ call. What will the angels do?

- Jesus says (verse 36), “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the _____ in heaven, nor the _____, but only the _____.”

Matthew 25:31-46 — When the Son of Man comes in his glory, all the _____ will be with him.

- verse 41 — For whom was the eternal fire prepared?

John 12:20-33 — Who spoke to Jesus from heaven? Why did some people think it was an angel or thunder?

- verse 31 — Jesus said, “Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the _____ of this world will be driven out.” To whom is Jesus referring?

Luke 22:1-6, John 13:2 & 13:21-30 — Can Satan himself possess a person? If so, how?

- When Satan first entered Judas (Luke 22:3), what did Judas decide to do?
- When did Satan enter into Judas again (John 13:27)? What did Judas do then?

Luke 22:31-34 — What had Satan asked to do to Jesus’ apostles?

- Why did Satan have to ask before carrying out this plan?

John 14:28-31 — Jesus speaks here of “the prince of this world” coming. For what purpose—a purpose that would ultimately glorify God—was he coming?

John 16:7-11 — What is the status of “the prince of this world” before God?

John 17:13-16 — Jesus prays that God would not take his disciples out of the world but protect them from the _____ one.

Luke 22:39-44 — What did the angel do for Jesus at this poignant moment?

Matthew 26:47-54 — Jesus said, “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than _____ of angels?”

Matthew 27:50-53 — What happened at the tombs when Jesus died?

Focal Point — WOMEN ENCOUNTER ANGELS AT THE EMPTY TOMB

Matthew 28:1-8 / Mark 16:1-8 / Luke 24:1-8 & 24:13-24 / John 20:11-13

In Matthew 28:1-8...

- Who rolled the stone away from Jesus' tomb? _____
- What did he look like? _____
- Who saw him roll away the stone? _____
- What did he do after he rolled away the stone? _____
- What message did he have for the women?

In Mark 16:1-8, the angel looked like a young _____ dressed in a white _____, sitting on the women's _____ side as they entered Jesus' tomb.

In Luke 24:1-8 and 24:13-24...

- How many angels did the women see at Jesus' tomb? _____
- Cleopas and his companion said the women had seen a _____ of angels.

In John 20:11-13...

- How many angels did Mary Magdalene see in Jesus' tomb? _____
- Where were they seated?

- What did they ask her?

Acts 1:9-11 — As Jesus ascended into heaven, two _____ dressed in _____ appeared suddenly, standing beside the apostles. What was their message?