

## **WHAT DEMONS KNOW**

Jesus proved that He is LORD over every realm. He is in charge of the weather able to calm the storm with a word. And He has absolute Lordship authority over all the forces of evil.

### **Matthew 8:28 (NKJV)**

**28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.**

All three synoptic gospels (Matt, Mark, and Luke) record this event (cf. Matt. 8:28-34; Mk. 5:1-20; Lk. 8:26-39). Here in verse 28 some manuscripts read “Gergesenes” and some read “Gadarenes”.

“Early manuscripts of Matthew describe this event as occurring in the region of Gadarenes. In contrast, early manuscripts of Mark and Luke describe it as occurring in the region of Gerasenes (Mk 5:1; Lk 8:26). Gadara and Gerasa were located in the same province. The different readings mean very little in this light, and they likely arose due to transcription errors rather than disagreement between the original texts of the Gospels.” - **Holman Christian Standard Bible**

“Variants are not problems with inspiration but with copyists and should not be considered a major issue here. Since there is both a Gergesa (eastern shore) and Gadara (a city on the southeast and the territory around it), either Gaderene and Gerasene could be an appropriate term.” – **Ed Glasscock**

In other words there is overlap here between these two designations. Gadara was a key city in this area. D.A. Carson says, “The locale seems to have been in the district controlled by the town of Gadara near the village of Gerasa...”. This area fits all the geographical implications in the corresponding texts.

“The topography there fits Matthew’s description, with fertile but steep slopes that plummet into the sea.” – **The Moody Bible Commentary**.

This area was called Decapolis because there were 10 Gentile cities in this territory.

As Jesus came into this territory, He was met by two demon-possessed men. They lived in the tombs there and were so fierce that no one could pass that way. But here comes Jesus, and things were about to change.

Understand that in the Bible, there are two spiritual forces of power. One is of God, and the other is of Satan. Demons are fallen angels who follow Satan. They are spirit beings. God ALONE ultimately has power over these forces of darkness. In Matthew 12, Jesus shows that only God has power over demons, and His ability to cast them out shows that He is God (see Mt. 12:28-29).

Matthew reports that two demoniacs were involved here, while Mark and Luke record only one. But that is no problem. They don't say there was ONLY one. It seems that Mark and Luke emphasize the more prominent one, but actually, there were two in view, as brought out by Matthew.

Demon possession is real, and it is scary. Demon possession means that these evil spirits actually live in a person and control them.

“Demoniacs in the NT are pictured neither as gross sinners nor as victims of insanity (though demonism may produce such effects), but as persons whose minds have come under the control of an evil spirit or spirits.” – ***The Wycliffe Bible Commentary***

Sometimes it is exhibited in supernatural strength. Luke records that the demon-possessed man wore no clothes and that when kept under guard broke the chains and was “driven by the demon into the wilderness” (cf. Lk. 8:29).

#### **Mark 5:3–4 (NKJV)**

**3** who had his dwelling among the tombs; and **no one could bind him, not even with chains,**

**4** because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the **chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken** in pieces; **neither could anyone tame him.**

Naked, out of control, untamable. What a pitiful situation. Demons, like Satan, have a malicious spirit that desires to harm people. Christ's kingdom miracles were always good and beneficial in contrast to Satan's work, which is always destructive and harmful. Thus, it should have been obvious to all that the power of God was working through Jesus!

#### **Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV)**

**1** “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has **anointed Me** To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To **proclaim liberty to the captives**, And the **opening of the prison to those who are bound;**

Jesus the Messiah came to set Satan's captives free! He, being the God-Man, had the power to do it!

**Matthew 8:29 (NKJV)**

**29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"**

No one dared pass that way for fear of these demon possessed men, but when Jesus came it was the demons who cried out in fear! Such is the power of Jesus!

Note the disciples in the storm failed to properly recognize Jesus, but these demons knew full well Who Jesus was as the "Son of God" and they recognized His sovereign authority over them.

**"What have we to do with You"** is literally "what to us and to You". It reflects a Hebrew idiom that always indicates hostility indicating we have nothing to do with each other (cf. 2 Sam. 16:10; 1 Kg. 17:18; 2 Kg. 3:13).

Note they recognize Jesus for Who He truly is as the "Son of God". Son of God means that Jesus shares the very nature of God and that He truly is God of very God. Son of God does not mean Jesus is in anyway lesser than God but rather shares the very nature of God. When Jesus called God His Father in John 5 the Jews properly understood that He was "making Himself equal with God" (Jn. 5:18). "Son of God" is clearly a Messianic term as seen in Ps. 2:7 and 12.

It is interesting to note that Satan and the demons called Jesus **"Son of God"** but they never called Him **"Son of man"**. Jesus in His veiled state of humility emphasized His human role calling Himself **"the Son of Man"** but the demons know full well Jesus is God and therefore invariably called Him **"Son of God"** in recognition of His divine authority!

**Son of God** (Jesus is God)

JESUS IS THE GOD-MAN! (Fully God and fully man in one person)

**Son of Man** (Jesus is Man)

These demons clearly recognized Jesus' absolute AUTHORITY over them asking, **"Have you come here to torment us before the time?"**

They have no doubt it is coming, the only question they had is about the timing. Jesus said that hell is prepared for the devil and his angels.

**Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)**

**41** “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Realize that at the time of the flood certain especially bad demons were bound in a special holding place called in the Greek Tartarus where they are awaiting final judgment. Perhaps these demons were wondering if this too was to become their fate as well.

**2 Peter 2:4 (HCSB)**

**4** For if God didn’t spare the angels who sinned but threw them down into Tartarus and delivered them to be kept in chains of darkness until judgment;

We see here that demons recognize the Deity of Christ; they know judgment day is coming and that this is their fate; and that they cannot act apart from permission of the sovereign authority – Who is Christ. Demons have good theology – the problem is that their allegiance is to Satan and rebellion.

**James 2:19 (NKJV)**

**19** You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

It is not enough to merely have good theology. It is not enough to simply believe intellectually. The issue is the HEART. Even the demons believe intellectually, and they tremble emotionally, but their heart allegiance is not with Jesus. They follow Satan and not Jesus. The issue is the HEART! The Bible says “with the heart one believes unto righteousness” (Rom. 10:9).

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved (Acts 16:30-31).