

Message# 338_5-11-2025 – Possessed by an Evil Spirit

Preached first on 5/11/2025

Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

Please remember those who are on the Prayer Request page on the website. I do not have any updates from any of them, but I know that none of them have asked to be taken down - I know they appreciate the prayers. I also want to remind you that Doug and Mindy are due in this week for a visit and if any of you want to be a part of that - please get in touch with us for the details.

Last week I told you I was planning to begin a message on what I believe it means to be possessed by evil spirits, demon possession, controlled by the devil, etc. And, as is the case with every single thing that people think they believe about the Bible - I think there is long past time - a need for a reset. The “church” has missed. Hollywood has missed it. From a Biblical viewpoint - which I would hope would be what all of us strive for - we need a reset.

From the time most of us have been little children - we've been introduced to a world that is mystic, mythological, mysterious. Children are lied to about Santa Claus - satan claus would be a lot better usage of those letters and sounds.

Teresa and I have never participated in what the world calls christmas - christ mass. Amazing how dropping an s at the end of a word, or changing the sound from mass to mus - just makes all of that so much more inclusive. Can't call it mass because then some of the old-fashioned “Baptists” might not join in. Although, amazing how times have changed. When I was a little child growing up in the Baptist “church” - the catholic “church” was the enemy of the Baptists.

This is how it used to be. From the internet - and for those of you who are bothered when I do this - you need to understand that I'm only using this information against them. I hate AI, I hate all that stuff - I'm just saying - this isn't what Charlie is saying - this is what the world itself is saying. Listen to this. I typed in “has the catholic church persecuted the baptists”? Quote:

Yes, throughout history, the Catholic Church and the Baptist movement have experienced periods of conflict, and the Catholic Church has indeed persecuted Baptists. This persecution stemmed from theological differences, particularly regarding baptism

and salvation, and the Baptists' insistence on believers only baptism, which was seen as a challenge to the Catholic Church's theology.

Elaboration:

Theological Disagreements:

The Catholic Church's emphasis on infant baptism and the role of sacraments in salvation differed significantly from the Baptist belief in believer's baptism and salvation through faith alone.

Persecution:

Baptists were often persecuted for their beliefs, facing imprisonment, torture, and even death.

Historical Context:

Persecution of Baptists occurred during periods of religious conflict, particularly in Europe.

Continued Persecution:

While less widespread today, persecution of Baptists, particularly in certain regions, continues in some areas.

Examples of Persecution:

In some places, Baptists have been forced to flee their homes due to religious tensions and persecution. End quote.

I have told you before how that when I was 10 or 11 years old, my Dad took me to see a movie that was made by Bob Jones University, it was called "Flame in the Wind". And it was about the catholic [spanish] inquisition that supposedly went around Europe and the Middle East persecuting and killing Christians. Again from the internet, quote:

The Catholic Inquisition was a series of [catholic] church-led tribunals established to combat heresy, apostasy, and other offenses against Catholic doctrine. It involved investigating, prosecuting, and punishing individuals, sometimes through methods that included torture, isolation, and the threat of violence. While some individuals were forgiven after renouncing their beliefs and receiving penance, others were handed over to secular authorities for punishment, which often included execution or life imprisonment.

Stop here for just a minute. You did not get persecuted, you do not get jailed, arrested - because of your beliefs - you get prosecuted because you broke the Laws of God. Devils and demons persecute people because of belief. Differing beliefs from the catholic "church" - brought persecution at the hands of demons and devils.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

Purpose:

The Inquisition aimed to identify and punish individuals who deviated from Catholic teachings, including those who converted from other faiths to Catholicism. End quote.

Oh. You mean punishment for not believing in infant "baptism." Wow. I wonder what the punishment would be for not believing in "baptism" period? Or how about paying money for the forgiveness of sins? Rejecting the process of indulgences? Could that get you tortured and persecuted by the catholics? Quote:

No, Catholics do not pay for forgiveness of sins. The Catholic Church does not sell forgiveness or indulgences. [Yeah right, (laughing). } While indulgences are a part of Catholic teachings, they are not a means of buying off punishment for sins. Instead, indulgences are granted by the Church to help reduce the temporal punishment due to sins, which is already forgiven through confession.

Or let me add, because their catechism says it - because you've been dipped in - baptized in - some water.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

Forgiveness of Sins:

Catholics believe that sins are forgiven through the sacrament of reconciliation (also known as confession) where a priest, acting in the place of Christ, absolves the penitent of their sins.

Indulgences:

Indulgences are not a way to purchase forgiveness or release from hell. They are a remission of the temporal punishment due to sins, which are already forgiven.

Amazing how that works.

How Indulgences Work:

Indulgences are granted by the Church under certain conditions, such as acts of piety, prayer, or pilgrimage. [or payment of money]

Historical Context:

The sale of indulgences

[they just said they don't sell indulgences...]

was a practice that occurred in the Middle Ages, but it was later condemned by the Catholic Church. Pope Pius V forbade any financial transactions related to indulgences in 1567.

Misconceptions:

It's a common misconception that Catholics can "buy" their way out of purgatory or that indulgences forgive sins.

[purgatory, indulgences - all Bible words...]

Penance and Atonement:

While penance and doing good works are encouraged in Catholic faith, these are not about paying off a debt to God for sins. They are expressions of repentance and a desire to follow God's will.

How about holy water? Or praying to Mary? Or genuflecting and crossing your heart? Or how about a ton of other catholic requirements that aren't mentioned anywhere in the Bible? Are those things the catholic inquisition would have punished or tortured Christians for? Back to the inquisitions. Quote, then we'll move on:

Methods:

The Inquisition used various methods to extract confessions and gather evidence, including torture, isolation, and the threat of violence.

Outcomes:

Convictions often resulted in penance for repentant individuals, but those who refused to renounce their beliefs were turned over to secular authorities, where they faced severe punishment, including execution or imprisonment.

Because they wouldn't renounce beliefs that opposed catholic doctrine.

Different Inquisitions:

There were several Inquisitions, including the Medieval Inquisition, the Spanish Inquisition, and the Roman Inquisition, each with its own specific procedures and jurisdiction.

Legacy:

The Inquisition remains a controversial topic, with some arguing that it was a necessary tool for maintaining religious order and purity, while others condemn it as a brutal and oppressive practice. End quote.

And you're going to hear me say later in this series - that it is demons that act this way. It is devils that act this way.

So I was raised that the catholic "church" was not Christian. That the catholic "church" persecuted Christians through the ages. But not only do the "baptists" practice catholic theology - like christ-mass - but a couple weeks ago - when driving past some of the largest baptist "churches" in Springfield - I noticed their flags were flying at half mast. I wondered which of their gods had died - you know a president, a senator, a governor - then I remembered - oh brother - it was the pope that they were flying their flags at half mast for - now another one of their gods in a long list of gods.

When our oldest son, Joshua was about 4 or 5 years old, I think, Teresa had the children out shopping. But it was around their christ-masstime and a very nice black woman saw the children and asked Josh if he was ready to see santa claus - and Josh answered, "Do you mean satan claus?" And it totally stunned the woman and she just said, "Oh my." (Laughing)

We did not raise our children with the mythology and lies that most children were raised with. There was no santa claus. There was no easter bunny. There was no halloween with witches and warlocks and demons and devils. Our children - at least not from their parents - were not warned that evil spirits and demons could be lurking for them hiding under their beds at night. The children were not raised in a metaphysical, mythological world of supernatural beings that were flying around trying to cause us harm at every turn. Yes. They were absolutely raised that there is a Spiritual world. But that Spiritual world is a world filled with Biblical principles that teach us how our physical world is supposed to operate. How we are supposed to live. There are not supernatural beings floating around the skies influencing us towards good (yeah, both ways, towards good) or causing us to do evil.

We do not live in a world of supernatural beings that possess the bodies of little girls or boys - then later on grown adults - making their voices sound scary - making their heads spin all the way around their necks - and hissing and screaming if some catholic priest throws water on them - or points a cross at their eyes - or says the sound j e s u s at

them. That is a world of make-believe. It does not exist. It is not real. It's what sells Hollywood movies. It's what keeps people afraid and keeps religious myths and mysteries going in the minds of people.

Sensationalism sells. The hidden, mysterious, supernatural - it sells. Whether it's batman, superman, or Damien the antichrist - that stuff sells and that's why it's so popular in the world.

Teresa, Chrissy and I were talking about this and Teresa said how their world goes from one mythological "holiday" to the next. She even mentioned "St. Patrick's Day" - yes - with their mythological leprechauns and the pots of gold at the end of the rainbow. Easter, Halloween, christ-mass. Satan Claus the fat man who lives at the supposed north pole and spends the year building toys with his elves - then on Dec 24th he fills his sleigh up with the toys and delivers them to the good little boys and girls around the entire world - sliding down the chimneys of people's houses to deliver the toys. And children grow up in their youth believing these lies.

Then how easy is it to just move the children from one lie to the next. They believed in children's fairytales and lies - and now, it's on to adult fairytales and lies.

I've heard lots of people say through the years - "the best way for satan to do his dirty work is for people to ignore that he exists".

That is not true. That is a total misconception.

The thing that the world did - men's governments and their churchmen (religion is just an extension of the state) - they did not ignore that a satan or a devil exists - they just completely changed the understanding of what a satan or a devil is. And that has worked a thousand times better than simply saying to people that there is no "devil."

They tell people that the "devil" or satan - is a pitchfork carrying, red-tailed fire breathing supernatural, invisible, all-powerful, omnipresent being who is the enemy of God - just like Boris and Natasha - the evil russians were - to Rocky and Bullwinkle. They changed the understanding of satan and devil in the minds of the people - and in doing so - they have led countless numbers of people away from the simple truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom the Government of God.

I'm telling you that not understanding what devils, demons, satans are - will make you

fail to understand what the Gospel is. It's another way they have changed the truth of the Gospel into a lie.

I've told you this before. Many years ago, Teresa was an invited guest to speak to a large group of people about homebirth. And after the event was over, some "church lady" came to talk to Teresa about something she had said in her presentation and I don't even remember exactly what that was. But somehow, the subject turned to the "devil" and Teresa and I told her that we did not believe the "devil" existed - at least not the way this church lady believed. And I'm telling you - the wrath, the anger, the meanness that came from this woman was astounding. I told her "I was sorry that we had taken her devil away from her." It was amazing and enlightening to Teresa and I. Teresa and I were in our twenties when this took place and it's something neither one of us have ever forgotten.

There is a reason why the "churches" - which are nothing but the religious arm of the state - there is a reason why they have done all they could to change the perception, the understanding of what "the devil" means - satan, demons, devils - they changed the proper Biblical understanding to something other than what the Bible meant for us to understand. And it has changed the entire meaning of the Bible.

The passage that I want to use as the main passage for this series is Matthew chapter 4. Please turn there with me this morning and let's read beginning with verse 1. This is a very familiar passage, we've look at it many times before.

[1] Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

I am going to tell you right now - that if we stopped the message at this point and just had a question and answer session with 100 "church" people - and the question was - "What or who is this devil?" This is the answer that would come back 99 times out of a 100 or more. Again, from the internet - "what is the devil?" Quote:

In religious terms, the devil is typically understood as the chief evil spirit, a supernatural being that is the adversary of God and the tempter of humanity. He is often referred to as Satan, and in some traditions, also as Lucifer or Iblis.

Elaboration:

Western Religions:

In Christianity and Judaism, the devil is often portrayed as a fallen angel who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. He is seen as the leader of demonic forces and the source of evil and temptation.

Other Religions:

The concept of a chief evil spirit or "devil" can be found in various religions, with different names and descriptions. For example, in Islam, Iblis is the primary figure associated with evil.

Biblical Descriptions:

The Bible describes the devil using various terms, including "adversary," "tempter," "father of lies," and "prince of the power of the air," according to Tabletalk Magazine.

And of course, yes, those things are there - but that's not what we're going to be looking at this morning, stay with me, please.

Symbolic Representations:

The devil is often depicted with horns, a tail, and cloven feet. He is also associated with images of darkness and chaos, according to Britannica.

Influence on Human Behavior:

The devil is believed to tempt humans to sin and disobey God, according to Wikipedia. He is also seen as a force that opposes God's will and works against the good in the world. End quote.

Finally, they said something that was right.

Number one answer - *the devil is typically understood as the chief evil spirit, a supernatural being that is the adversary of God and the tempter of humanity.* End quote.

Hopefully, among those of you who have been listening to this ministry for a while - that would not have been your answer. As recently as just a few weeks ago - we addressed this issue again from Matthew 4 - and if you recall - I told you I had my suspicions that this could have very well been Caesar himself. It could have been someone else very high in man's little "government" of that time. This I know - beyond any shadow of a doubt - it was not some supernatural spirit being *depicted with horns, a tail, and cloven feet.*

The world that God created is not some world filled with spirit beings flying throughout the air tempting men to do evil things or trying to get people to do good things (depending on which side you're on). Mysticism and mythology, Greek gods and all of that are lies that are designed to keep people from knowing what devils are - as defined in our Bibles. When a man understands what the Bible truly means when it speaks of devils, or the devil - it will change - or should change - how that man lives his physical life in God's world.

I was thinking about this again this week. As I was thinking about the catholic inquisition supposedly torturing people because of their beliefs. I just find that so hard to believe. (But maybe it happened, I don't know - I certainly think it could have). Who cares what someone believes? What matters most is how we live our lives? Who do you serve? Who do you obey? How do you live your physical, day to day life. That's what matters. For the follower of Christ - who lives a radically different way than the way the world lives - yes - it absolutely starts with belief. But when we believe that Christ is King now. When we believe that God has a Government, God has a Nation and He wants all men everywhere to repent from following the kingdoms of the world and enter into His Government, His Kingdom - yes - it starts with that belief system - and ends with how does that belief system affect your day to day physical life? That's what matters.

The churches are filled with all sorts of differing beliefs. Catholics, baptists, mormons, presbyterians, methodists - they have all sorts of different beliefs - but when they walk out those doors and into the streets, to their homes, to their jobs, etc., the reality is - they all live exactly the same way. Their differing beliefs do not cause them to live their lives any differently. The baptist lives the same way as the catholic (maybe with a little less liquor). The jehovah's witnesses and the mormons - they all live the same way - except - at least the jehovah's witness doesn't vocally say the "pledge of allegiance." But they still live exactly the way as the rest of them do, though. They are all state citizens - living their lives in obedience to the state. For the true follower of Christ - that belief system will change - it will radically change the way a man lives his life.

Now verse 2.

[2] And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungred.

[3] And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

[4] But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

[5] Then the devil taketh Him up into the holy city, and setteth Him on a pinnacle of the temple,

And again. There's that word "devil" and the minds of pretty much every living person in the world today - thinks of a supernatural spirit being as they try to picture in their minds what this story looks like.

[6] And saith unto Him, If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee: and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.

[7] Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

[8] Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

And once again, the word devil. And once you see this, you get it. You realize we are not reading about some evil, supernatural creature. And the reality is - there is a possibility that this story could actually all be allegory. It could all be a story that is told for the purpose of helping us to understand principles by which we are to live our lives. And I see all sorts of principles here that we've talked about many times before. This could all be Spiritual lessons for us to learn. But, if this was all real, all literal - still the conclusions are Spiritual lessons - Spiritual principles - we are not talking about some supernatural creature when it comes to the understanding of the devil - whatever that character is in this story.

[9] And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.

[10] Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.

[11] Then the devil leaveth Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.

And now, in verse 10 - we see this devil with a name. And that name is Satan. And finally, the devil leaves Christ and we now have the understanding that it is okay to call "the devil" - Satan - as they are interchangeable as defined here in verses 10 and 11.

If we were to stop here - and take Matthew chapter 4 out of our Bibles - lay it on the

table - and use this for the basis of our understandings concerning Satan and the devil - we would be making a huge mistake. If we are influenced by the "church." And, just like everything else that the "church" world has done - this is exactly what many of them have done. And, because they have never understood that the whole duty of man is to Fear God and keep His Commandments - they do not ever see the connection between this Satan, this devil and its relationship with the kingdoms of men - and how Jesus flatly rejected them. Which is here to show followers of Christ - that we are to be doing exactly the same thing that Jesus did.

Jesus said people are not to be servants - they are not to serve - they are not to obey - that's what serve means - people are not to serve the little g "governments" of men - the kingdoms of the world - but they are to serve God - and serve God only.

As I have read this passage of Scripture for so many years - that's what has been so outstanding for me. It's not been trying to figure out who this Satan was, or who this devil is or was - it is about the exclusive worship of God - which means this - Come out of the kingdoms of the world - and into the Government of God. Obey the Laws of God and refuse the "laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, CONstitutions" of men.

Why? Because this was something new that Jesus brought to the scene? No way. This is the First Commandment restated and in action.

Thou shalt have no Gods - no rulers, judges or magistrates Besides God - no rulers but God. No judges but God. No magistrates but God.

Let every soul be subject to God.

This is the theme of the Bible from cover to cover - yet hardly anyone gets it - and I'll tell you this morning - that one of the reasons they don't get it - is because they don't understand what the Bible means when it uses the word devil or devils or Satan or the word demon or demons.

As it is with every single thing in our Bibles, we can't start in the middle or start in the end and work our way backwards. We start at the beginning and work our way to the end. We build on principles from Genesis, from Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers etc., going through the Judges, through the Kings, through the prophets - then through the Book of Acts, the epistles then the end. And when we stay faithful to that method of study - so many things will be revealed - and will be revealed properly and in the correct time.

Seeing this story in Matthew chapter 4 - that is not the first time we find “the devil” in our Bibles. If we had known from early on what this word meant - by the time we get to Matthew chapter 4 - we'd get it. We wouldn't get caught up in the mysticism of the world, or the “church” - we would know what this word means Biblically speaking - and we would instantly see how it lines up with everything else that tells us what our purpose in life is.

Our purpose in life is to

Fear God and keep His Commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. It is the conclusion of the whole matter.

This is what it's about. It's about living the way the Creator intended for His Creation to live - and it's very simple

Thou shalt have no other gods besides Me.

Contrary to what the churchmen have said. Contrary to what men's little “governments” say - God did not abandon His First Commandment. That Commandment is as valid today as it was when He first told Moses to write it down or when He wrote it down for Moses. And those who do not understand this Commandment or think that it was done away with - are lost. They have never found Christ.

They may have found “church.” They may have found some warm and fuzzies in hearing the sound j e s u s or singing songs about j e s u s - but they have never found the Jesus of the Bible Who is the Christ, the King, the promised Messiah - the One Who fulfilled the Davidic Covenant to David and Who was given the throne - and to which every knee is to bow and every tongue is to confess that Christ is King and Him Only are we to serve.

Turn with me to Deuteronomy chapter 17, please and let's look at the first time the word devils occurs in our English Bibles. It seems to me that if we have any chance of understanding “the devil” in Matthew chapter 4 - we should be looking at when, how and why the word was used first in our Bibles. The Bible is the only book available to men where people think they can just skip the entire beginning of the Book - pick things out from the middle or the end - and then somehow think they know what the whole Book is about. That's really strange to me. Verse 1, Leviticus 17.

- [1] And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
[2] Speak unto Aaron, and unto his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them; This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, saying,
[3] What man soever there be of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth it out of the camp,
[4] And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer an offering unto the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD; blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people:
[5] To the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices, which they offer in the open field, even that they may bring them unto the LORD, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest, and offer them for peace offerings unto the LORD.
[6] And the priest shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar of the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and burn the fat for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Now let me ask you this. Does that practice continue in the New Covenant world? Do the blood sacrifices continue in the New Covenant?

In the Old Covenant world, there was a way in which God commanded sacrifices to be made. God said, "Do it this way." And, if you don't do it My way - you are sinning. God is saying - "It's My way or the highway." Man didn't come up with that saying. God did. It's God's way - period. That's how we are supposed to be doing things.

The other night I heard someone telling someone else "I'm a republican." And the first thing that came to my mind was, "Where is that in the Bible? Where does that come from?" How is that the way of God? If you say you are a Christian, you are supposed to be a Christian. There's no republican, there's no democrat. There's no independent. Where did people who supposedly call themselves Christians - where is all this stuff coming from? If someone says they are of Christ - then be of Christ. It's God's way or the highway. Christians are supposed to be Citizens of God's Nation. Christians are not supposed to be citizens of the world. It's God's Way or the highway. And when we step outside of God's Way - this is what is said in Leviticus 17:7 - the principle is still valid today. The sacrifices ended. Yes. But the principles remain.

- [7] And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their

generations.

The principle here is that when men decide to do things their own way. When men decide they aren't going to do things God's Way - the way He said to do them - they are sacrificing to - they are serving - they are obeying devils. And it's a statute - a principle - a Law of God that continues throughout the generations.

[8] And thou shalt say unto them, Whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers which sojourn among you, that offereth a burnt offering of sacrifice,

[9] And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer it unto the LORD; even that man shall be cut off from among his people.

Again. It's the principle that remains. The sacrificial system is over. That is Old World - but the principles remain - and the principle, the statute is that we are not to do our own thing. We are to obey, to serve, to sacrifice - exclusively to the God of Heaven.

[10] And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set My face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people.

[11] For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

What's the principle here? What's the principle, the statute that is perpetual throughout the generations? It is the blood of Christ - and the blood of Christ exclusively. You don't partake of strange blood. You don't partake of any blood - any belief system, if you will - that which sustains us - that which is the source of life - except for that of Christ. Anything else is devils. Anything other than the way God said to do things is the way of devils. That's how devils operate.

[12] Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood.

[13] And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust.

[14] For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for

the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.

Now, for the remedy. For the remission of this sin.

Now as an added bonus - let's just finish this chapter to once again see how "baptism" - should have never been called "baptism" beginning in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - but rather it should have been called washing or bathing - washing and bathing as an Old Covenant requirement for violating the Laws of God. We have no problem saying that the blood sacrifices are over - but when it comes to the water requirements of the Law - we say that continues. When Old Covenant Israelites and the strangers that sojourned among them violated the Law of God - it wasn't just a blood sacrifice that was required. It was blood and water. It was water and blood. Verse 15.

[15] And every soul that eateth that which died of itself, or that which was torn with beasts, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even: then shall he be clean.

[16] But if he wash them not, nor bathe his flesh; then he shall bear his iniquity.

Wash his clothes. Bathe himself in water. This was done for the remission of sins in the Old Covenant World. But just like the blood sacrifice requirements of the Old Covenant - when Christ finished the Old Covenant - He not only ended the blood sacrifices - He also ended the wash the clothes and bathe the flesh requirements of the Old Covenant for the remission of sins. Which has been renamed as "baptism."

Here is Leviticus 17 we see a sin committed. We see a violation of the Laws of God clearly stated. And what was the remedy? Huh? Was it a sacrifice? Was it a blood sacrifice? No it was not. The remedy. The way to forgiveness, forgiveness of this sin of violating the Law of God concerning proper sacrifice - was to wash the clothes and bath the flesh. Wash. Wash is what it was called. It was not called "baptize." When we see or hear the word bapto or any variation thereof in our English Bibles - we should be thinking of passages like Leviticus 17 - wash the clothes, bathe the skin. That's what was going on with John the Washer. He was leading Israelites into obeying the Law God gave Moses - just like what we see here in Leviticus 17.

I have - I don't know - a thousand times - asked people who demand "water baptism" in the New Covenant world - "Ok, what does that look like? If "water baptism" is for today - open your Bible and show me exactly what it looks like." And to this day - there is not

a single one of them that have ever opened the Law God gave Moses and pointed to and said, "There you go, that's what it looks like." And even for those who don't know that the water washings were in the Law - they think John the Washer brought something new to the scene - and the only thing they can tell you is to go to some "church" somewhere - and there - you will see what they so adamantly claim is Biblical "baptism." And they'll go so far as to tell you that you are "lost" if you do not participate in a "church water ritual" that they can't even find in the Bible. The best they can do is claim that it is tradition.

But I just showed you a passage of Scripture where men who did not do things the way God said to do it - were described as people who followed devils and went whoring after them. Friends, if you are telling someone that God said to do this, or God said to do that, you better make sure you have chapter and verse ready to show exactly what it is that God said to do. Those that say that God commands physical water applied to the flesh for the remission of sins in the New Covenant World - they better be ready to tell you what that looks like, how it's done, who does it - what the ritual is supposed to look like - but they can't. They can't because it's not in the Book.

Old Covenant water washing was in the Law God gave Moses to point to the Living Water which is Jesus Christ - just like the blood was - where if a man partake of that water - he will never thirst again. He will never need to be washed over and over again - the way it was required in the Old Covenant Law.

So, as we begin in the beginning of the Book, looking for the proper understanding of the word devil - it does not appear to me that the "devil" in Leviticus chapter 17 fits what we've been told all our lives. The Hebrew definition for devil in Leviticus 17 is saw-eer and it means a he-goat for sacrificing. Ok? A he-goat for sacrificing.

Now, let's find the next time we see the word devils in our English Bibles. This one is going to be very interesting. Turn to Deuteronomy chapter 32 and again, let's start in verse 1.

[1] Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

[2] My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

[3] Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

[4] He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.

[5] They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of His children: they are a perverse and crooked generation.

And understanding what the word god means - rulers, judges, magistrates - a perverse and crooked generation has found themselves another god.

[6] Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not He thy father that hath bought thee? hath He not made thee, and established thee?

Friends, I believe the same questions should be asked today. Isn't He the Rock? Isn't His work perfect and His Ways judgment? Isn't He a God of truth, without iniquity just and right? We live in a world that only gives lip-service to some god - little g. Whether it's the little g of the jews - Trump loves that one. Whether it's the little g god of the catholics - Trump loves that one, too. They find good in all the gods of the world. But they have all abandoned the One True God of the Bible because we live in a perverse and crooked generation. Perverse because they have thrown out God's Laws in favor of their own. And when you throw out God's Laws - you throw God out. You can't separate God from His Laws. As much as they want to. All they do today is give lip-service to something they think is a god somewhere.

The appeal of Deuteronomy chapter 32, to return to the God of the Bible - is an appeal that is the same today.

[7] Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.

[8] When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

[9] For the LORD's portion is His people; Jacob is the lot of His inheritance.

[10] He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.

[11] As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

[12] So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

What is being said here? It's a call to remembrance the days where God was King. It

was a call to the days where the people were actually obeying the First Commandment

- Thou shalt have no other gods besides Me.

[12] So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

That was actually a thing. There was a time where God's people actually obeyed Him and obeyed Him exclusively and there was a plea to return to - to remember those days and come back to them.

[13] He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and He made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

[14] Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

[15] But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

[16] They provoked Him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they Him to anger.

Now watch. Look what happened to those who forsook the First Commandment. This is what the Bible says.

[17] They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

Alright. Hang on to your seats now. The Hebrew word here is shade and Strong's says it is the same word as demon. But in the context of this verse - these devils are called gods. And the Hebrew word for gods here is elohims - which means rulers, judges, magistrates.

Let's read this verse, verse 17 from the Greek Septuagint. The same language which we are told our English Bibles were translated from.

17 They sacrificed to devils, and not to God; to gods whom they knew not: new and fresh [gods] came in, whom their fathers knew not.

It's basically the same. Translated basically the same. But let's take a look at the word devils - from the Greek. The word in the Greek is where we get the English - demons.

This is from a website where the authors claim to be presenting Hebrew history - not so much from a Biblical viewpoint - but from a historical viewpoint. And, I've said before, I'm not so sure how much stock we should put into things like this - but I did find this very interesting still. The link is in the notes, quote, the title is called "Demystifying Demons":

<https://weekly.israelbiblecenter.com/demystifying-demons>

As Halloween approaches each year, we tend to get inundated with images of ghosts, ghouls, and other ghastly apparitions. In the modern Western imagination, demons also feature among these otherworldly entities. The term "demon"—from the Greek δαιμόνιον (diamonion)—appears in Scripture, but biblical demons bear no resemblance to the costumes of eager trick-or-treaters. In ancient Israelite thought, "demon" is another word for a foreign god.

A foreign god. A foreign king. A foreign ruler. A foreign judge, a foreign magistrate. The demon - as it should be Biblically understood is a ruler, judge, magistrate - that is foreign to the Nation of God.

Now. I have an admission I need to make to you right now (laughing). I will find it again - but earlier this week - I found a Greek definition for the word - and it was foreign king. For the life of me I can't find it again. I will, though. I saw it. I know it's there, I just need to figure out which lexicon it was in. For now, you'll have to take my word for it - but I found a definition for devils - as found here in Deuteronomy 32 - and it was foreign kings. The word devils in Deuteronomy 32 is foreign kings. Kings that were foreign to Israel. Kings that were not ordained of God. And that is exactly what we see in Matthew chapter 4. Now continuing with "Demystifying Demons."

In the Hebrew of Psalm 96, the psalmist compares the inferior gods of the nations to the supreme God of Israel, saying, "all the gods (אֱלֹהִים; elohim) of the peoples are nothings (אֱלִילִים; elilim), but the Lord made the heavens" (96:5). Many years later, the Jewish-Greek translator of this Hebrew verse would write that "all the gods (θεοὶ; theoi) of the nations are demons (δαιμόνια; daimónia), but the Lord made the heavens" (95:5 LXX). Based on the comparative context of the psalm, it is clear that "demons" is another way of saying "lesser gods."

And the definition of gods - rulers, judges, magistrates.

A similar context emerges in the Greek translation of Deuteronomy, in which Moses declares that those who made the golden calf “sacrificed to demons (δαίμονις; daimoníois) and not God (θεῷ; Theo); [they worshiped] gods (θεοῖς; theois) they had not known” (32:17 LXX). The poetry of Moses’ song corroborates the assertion in Psalms; namely, that demons are foreign gods who are inferior to the God of Israel. Paul cites this same verse from Moses’ song to prohibit the Corinthians from interacting with idols. The apostle agrees that the calf-worshippers sacrificed to “demons and not God” (δαίμονις καὶ οὐ θεῷ; daimoníois καὶ ou Theo), and discourages believers in Corinth from being “companions of demons (δαίμονιων; daimoníon)” (1 Cor 10:20). Therefore, it is fitting that Paul would see the foreign idols in Athens and tell his onlookers, “I perceive that in every way you are respectful of [your] gods (δεδαιμονισμένους; deidaimonestérous)” (Acts 17:22). Paul uses a compound word consisting of δεισι (deisi; “respectful”) and δαίμον (daimon), demon. Unlike in today’s parlance, “demon” did not have a horrific or overtly negative connotation in the first century—Paul’s audience is not offended that he uses “demon” to describe their gods. In fact, when the Athenians overhear Paul’s discourse about Israel’s God, they assume (rightly) that this Jewish person is speaking of “foreign demons” (ξένων δαίμονιων; zénon daimoníon), i.e., non-Greek gods (Acts 17:18). According to the ancients, demons were not menacing creatures with horns and pitchforks; rather, a demon was a general term for another nation’s deity—and for Jews, a “demon” was any god who was not the God of Israel. End quote.

Demons, devils, satans as they appear in our Bibles - refer to the kings - to the gods - the elohims - of the kingdoms of the world. They are the rulers of the kingdoms / governments of men. That's what it is in the Bible. In the Bible, the King of Israel is supposed to be the God of Heaven. And when the Israelites left the God of Heaven to follow other gods - they were called devils. They were called demons. The rulers of the governments of men - according to the Bible - are demons and devils. And this is exactly what we see in Matthew chapter 4.

Was Caesar a devil? Would God cause the writer of Matthew to refer to Caesar as a devil? From the internet, “did Caesar call himself a god”. Remembering, the Israelite thinking of the word demon - a demon was any god who was not the God of Israel, quote.

Yes, Julius Caesar was deified by the Roman Senate after his death, in 42 BC, becoming

known as "Divus Julius" or "Divine Julius". This made him the first Roman to be formally recognized as a god by the Roman state and the starting point for the Roman imperial cult, where subsequent emperors were also deified.

They were made gods. They were made devils. They were demons. They were people - not supernatural beings.

Here's a more detailed look:

Posthumous Deification:

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Caesar was not considered a god during his lifetime, though he was given divine honors and titles.

"Divine Julius":

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The Roman Senate formally declared him a god after his death, naming him "Divus Julius".

Precedent for the Imperial Cult:

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This deification set a precedent for later emperors, who were also often deified after their deaths, according to the Walks Inside Rome.

Worship and Temples:

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Caesar's deification led to his worship in temples and the development of rituals honoring him as a god, according to the BBC.

Divine Associations:

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While Caesar's deification was a political act, it also reflected the growing trend of associating Roman emperors with the gods, according to the Open University.

Augustus's Role:

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Caesar's adopted son, Augustus, later exploited this divine connection to legitimize his rule and further solidify the imperial cult, according to PBS. End quote.

The Judahites of the first century understood demons, devils and Satan as a god - a ruler - a king - a magistrate - a judge - that was foreign to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Again from Deuteronomy chapter 32 verse 17:

[17] They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

From the Blue Letter Bible citing the Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon.

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon [?]

שֵׂד only in plur. שֵׂדִים *idols*, pr. lords (compare שָׂדֵי), Deu. 32:17; Ps. 106:37; from the root שָׂדָה to rule; whence سَيد, سَيد lord, master; Syriac ܫܕܐ demon. LXX., Vulg., *δαιμόνια, daemonia*; since the Jews [rightly] regarded idols to be demons, who allowed themselves to be worshipped by men.

Demons allowed themselves to be worshipped by men? How does that happen? How does an idol, how does a demon allow themselves to be worshipped by men? Same way it happens today. Demons and devils and Satans are the men that run the kingdoms of the world. Demons and devils and Satans are not supernatural spirit beings floating around invisible.

Do you think people in the u.s. today aren't worshipping Trump? They are absolutely are and it is disgusting. And do you think Trump allows himself to be worshiped by men?

Devils as found in Deuteronomy 32 means rulers, lords, masters - that are foreign to the God of the Bible. That's what it means. And if people knew that - by the time they got to Matthew 4 - they would be understanding what was going on in a completely different understanding than they do today.

Today, men think it's perfectly fine to be citizens of the world. They think it's perfectly fine to be led by demons and devils and Satans - and they don't even know that's what's going on.

Men and women boys and girls are in desperate need of the Gospel. The Good News that Christ is King. The Gospel is the Good News that offers people freedom from the rule of devils.