

# DEMONS

1. Do a Google search on which culture first used the word 'daimon'. What did this word mean to them?

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In Greek mythology the gods were in everything, there were goddesses of the night, gods of the fishermen, or revelry.

In Greek culture the word 'daimon' was used for common gods. The important gods were called 'theos'.



## OLD TESTAMENT WORD MEANINGS

2. There are two Hebrew words translated as 'devils' in the Old Testament. One is H8163 'saiyr' which means 'shaggy; a he goat, by analogy a faun: devil, goat, hairy, kid, rough, satyr.'

Record what details are given about 'saiyr' as it appears in the OT - (it is usually translated 'goat' but sometimes 'demon' (KJV)

Genesis 27:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 16:21 \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 17:7 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Chronicles 11:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 13:21 \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel 8:21 \_\_\_\_\_

3. The second Hebrew word is 'shed', which Strong's concordance defines as '*a demon (as malignant): - devil*'. The Hebrew word is only used two times as 'devils' (KJV). Record what details are given about these 'devils':

Deuteronomy 32:16-17, 21, 39

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Psalm 106:34-40

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The gods of paganism were part of creation itself rather than being the creative force.

For example, they were made from natural elements – wood, stone, metal (Isaiah 44)

And they were believed to control natural forces like the God of the Nile, the God of the rain, etc. (Ba'al zebub – 'lord of the fly' 2 Kings 1:16 and Matthew 10:25 )

Idolatry is the worship of creation rather than the creator.

Superstitions are very difficult to overcome once they are firmly believed.

## WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY ABOUT DEMONS AND IDOLS?

4. What does Romans 1:25 say about idol worship?

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5. Acts 17:16-21 – What relevant points did Paul make to the Athenians who worshipped many, many gods? Did Paul acknowledge that ANY of their gods were real, other than our Father in Heaven?

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6. Acts 17:29-30 – How is God in Heaven different than the idols of men?

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7. In Acts 17:31, Paul quotes from Psalm 96:13. Consider Psalm 96, and see if there are any 'lower gods' that we are told to fear or worship? See also Psalm 115:4-8.

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8. In Acts 17:22, Paul says to the Athenians, *"I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious"* (KJV)

**\*\*The Greek word for superstitious is made of two words meaning 'fearful' and 'demons'. He is saying they are fearful of demons! This was a city given over to idol worship. Compare this to:**

Deuteronomy 32:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 106:35-37 \_\_\_\_\_

### IDOLS = DEMONS

9. Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 32:16-17 in 1 Corinthians 10:18-22.

*"What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything? 20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, (demons) and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils (demons). 21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils (demons): ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils (demons). 22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?"*

Demons are nothing more than the made up, small gods of paganism. They have no real existence outside the figments of the imaginations of the superstitious, but this superstition is very difficult to dislodge by reasoning.

10. Isaiah 45:5-7 – Who is in control of good and evil ('calamity')? Are there any other 'gods' that we should fear?
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## HOW DID GOD AND JESUS DEAL WITH SUPERSTITIOUS MINDS?

11. How did God deal with idol worship in Egypt at the time of Moses and Pharaoh?  
(think of the gods that Egypt worshipped and the plagues)

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12. What brought about the plagues? (See Psalm 78:49 and compare this with the account in Exodus 12:23, 29)

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13. How did Jesus deal with the superstitious minds of the Jews who had been heavily influenced by Greek culture? Was his approach similar to Moses with the gods of Egypt? Or different?

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14. Revelation 9:20 – What should we not worship ('reverence, crouch to, prostrate ourselves')?

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## 2 CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

15. Revelation 16:14-16 – What are the 'spirits of devils' influencing our world today and leading the nations to Armageddon? (compare this to 1 Samuel 16:15-16,23)

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16. How do we explain Ephesians 6:11-18?

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

A. Who was the 'false accusing' adversary to the early Christians, that was constantly stirring up trouble and inflicting beatings on them, jailing them, and even putting some to death?

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B. Under Christ's Law, were New Testament believers to fight their enemies with swords and spears like God commanded them to do under Joshua? (battle against 'flesh and blood')

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C. If the 'heavenly realm' is symbolic of governmental powers (like it is in Daniel 8:8-12,20-25), then what could the "rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world and spiritual forces of evil," refer to?

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D. If Ephesians is referring to the battle like Paul faced against the Pharisees, the high priest, and Roman governors in Acts, how would preparing mentally with God's word (putting on spiritual armour) help?

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### **The Armor of God** (Ephesians 6:13-17)

- Truth
- Righteousness
- Gospel of Peace
- Faith
- Salvation
- Word of God
- Praying always