

25. By following Jesus, all six men will acquire these attributes in their souls, become mature believers, and carry on the Lord's work post resurrection.
26. Therefore, this miracle was primarily designed to teach these six men the process required for spiritual growth.

Casting Out Demons (Mark 5: 1-20)

1. The scene of this account is at the tombs of Gadara which the Lord was passing by when a demoniac approached Him.
2. The man lived among the tombs, had overpowering strength, screamed constantly, and gashed himself with stones.
3. He was possessed by a legion of rank and file demons under the leadership of a commanding officer in the Lucifer's demonic army.
4. The demon general argues with Jesus to leave him alone and to cease tormenting him. Jesus ignores him as He continues to order the demons to come out of the man:

Mark 5:7 - ... shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!"

v. 8 - For Jesus had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirits [**Jesus knows there are many demons inside the man**]!"

v. 9 - And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

5. The demon then began imploring Jesus not to cast them out of the man. Ancient sources and resources vary but the Legions' sizes varied over time of between 4,000 to 6,000 infantry plus several hundred cavalry.
6. There was a huge drift of hogs feeding on a nearby mountain.

7. The demon began to plead with Jesus that He not banish them away from the country. Their assignment from Satan was to operate in the general vicinity of where they could cause the most harm to Jesus and His developing corps of apostles and disciples. So they implored Jesus:

Mark 5:12 - "Send us into the pigs so that we may enter them."

v. 13 - Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.
8. When Jesus released the demons from the possessed man, the demons were on their own. Having requested occupancy inside the pigs, they were left with a decision to stay inside drowned swine or exit into the sea.
9. For mobility, demons must possess a living creature, man of animal, or remain isolated; therefore, they are constantly on the lookout for some unbeliever or animal to indwell.
10. Uninformed clergy or deceitful workers promote the false doctrine of exorcism. If such an event occurs, it is achieved by the cooperation of a demon possessed or demon influenced individual to enable an indwelling demon to exit a person's body. It is a subterfuge to confuse the benighted. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
11. Legitimate removal of a demon in the New Testament is an act of "casting out" and executed either by Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or through an agent such as an apostle.

There is no such thing as exorcism. The Greek verb ἐξορκίζω (exorkízō), which is never used in the New Testament, is the source of the English noun exorcist. Exorcism is a pagan ritual that counterfeits the legitimate act of —casting out demons—ἐκβάλλω (ekbállō)—which only the Lord, the Holy Spirit, and the apostles had the power to perform.
12. Part of the Lord's evidences of being Messiah was performing miracles of healing the sick and casting out demons. (Acts 10:38)

Is Jesus the Messiah?

Christmas

February 01 – February 08, 2015

Signs of Messiahship

13. The fate of these demons, following the drowning of the pigs, leads us to the doctrine of demonology. This is a subject that falls under the category of Satanology, a division of Systematic Theology.

The Doctrine of Demonology

1. There is a location within the lower regions of the earth that is divided into four compartments: Paradise, (a Great Gulf Fixed), Torments, Tartarus, and Abyss.
2. During the time between the Lord's burial and His resurrection, Jesus visited two of these compartments. (1) Paradise is where the souls and spirits of Old Testament believers resided until the ascension of Christ at which point they were transferred into heaven in interim bodies and (2) Tartarus where certain fallen angels called **בְּנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים** (*bene ha Elohim*): "sons of God" presently reside. This term always refers to angels, both elect and fallen. In Genesis 6 they are fallen.
3. These demons are those that procreated with the daughters of men also noted in verse 2. Their offspring are called **נְפִילִים** (*Nephilim*): "**Giants.**" (v. 4)
4. The Nephilim were half angel and half human therefore not true humanity but a corruption of the human race. If allowed to procreate, these invaders would ultimately have corrupted the pure line of Christ.

5. To preserve the purity of the human race, these individuals had to be removed from the Angelic Conflict, a *fait accompli* by the inundation of Earth by the deluge of a global flood.
6. The *bene ha Elohim* were sentenced to the Tartarus compartment of Sheol where they will remain until they are transferred before the Great White Throne Judgment.
7. The other two compartments of Sheol are Torments, the residence of the souls of all unbelievers, until the Great White Throne Judgment is called to order by our Lord, and the Abyss, the prison where other demons are held who violated the rules of engagement of the Angelic Conflict. The most noteworthy resident of Lucifer's general officers is Abaddon¹ (Revelation 9:11; 20:11-15).
8. These four compartments are referred to as שְׁאוֹל (*Shéōl*) in the Old Testament Hebrew and ᾍδης (*Hádēs*) in the New Testament Greek.
9. Jesus Christ has overruling authority over the forces of the Dark Side and of those of the Light.

¹ “They have a king over them, the angel of the Abyss; his name in Hebrew is אַבְדּוֹן (*Abáddōn*): “destruction,” and in the Greek he has the name Ἀπολλύων (*Apollúōn*): “Destroyer.” (Revelation 9:11)