

ARE MEN POSSESSED WITH "DEVILS" OR "DEMONS" TODAY?

This is a question I was asked the other night by a member of this congregation who had been talking with a denominational friend who had asked her the question. I was on brother Kenneth Green's radio program in Louisville, Kentucky a few days ago and this was one of the questions that was phoned in. There seems to be wide-spread interest in this question today, so let us now turn to the Bible to see what it teaches on the subject.

Zechariah prophesied when demon possession would end in Zechariah 13: 1 - 3: *"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. And it shall come the pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall not more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land. And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the Lord: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth."*

From this prophecy we learn:

(1) There would be a "fountain" opened for the sins of all the people -- the blood of Christ (Matt. 26:28; I John 1:7; I Pet. 1: 18 - 19).

(2) When the fountain was opened, the Lord would cut off the names of idols out of the land.

1. The true church would not yield to forms of idolatry. Under the Messiah's rule the name of idols would be cut off.
2. Only an apostate church can yield to forms of idolatry. God's people under Christ (when they are true to Him) are free from idolatry.

(3) When the fountain was opened true prophets would cease, for there would no longer be any need for them. The prophets were inspired teachers (Eph. 2:20; 3:5; 4:11).

1. Paul said prophets ceased *"When that which is perfect is come"* (I Cor. 13:10). That which is perfect is the New Testament -- the complete revelation (II Tim. 3: 16 - 17; James 1:25). So when the New Testament was completed, prophets passed out of the land.

(4) Zechariah said when the true prophets passed out of the land the "unclean spirit" would also pass.

1. So when the true prophets ceased, the unclean spirits ceased to possess men as they did in the time of Christ and His apostles and prophets.

So the answer to the question is: "No, men are not possessed with "devils" today as they were in the first century during the days of Christ and His apostles.

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