

RESOURCE PAGE

USE WITH SESSION 31 BIBLE EXPERIENCE 'LEVEL 1 CONNECT',
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Demons and the New Testament

In the New Testament there are many references to demons. When they are mentioned they are always in opposition to God and humanity. In Mark 3:22 it says that Beelzebub is the ruler of the demons, so it could be said that demons are his agents.

There are references in the New Testament to people being possessed by demons, with a variety of effects – for example, not being able to speak (Luke 11:14), epilepsy (Mark 9:17–19) and strange behaviour (Luke 8:27). Many have said that the attribution to demons was the way in which the first-century people came to terms with different types of unexplainable sickness. What was then thought to be demonic activity could now be understood as mental and physical illness. However, the New Testament does distinguish between sickness and demonic possession (Matthew 4:24).

It becomes apparent that Jesus is in constant conflict with evil spirits. As Jesus brought the kingdom of God, he received a negative response from the demons. Overcoming the demons needed a greater-than-human power, and as Jesus demonstrated this, he demonstrated his lordship. Jesus is Lord over demons, and he is with us today as we continue to serve God's kingdom.