

<Introduction>

“The generation dominated by demons” by Jeremiah

Today, let’s examine the generation dominated by demons.

<The churches will be compromised by demons by the End of Times>

The Bible tells us that the churches will be compromised and influenced by demons by the End Times. It is stated thus below.

1 Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

This part explains that in later times (i.e. End Times) there will be deceptive spirits and demons in the churches and some Christians will be deceived by them.

I have previously talked about how the doctrine of demons has infiltrated the churches. While this is true, the problem is not about the doctrine but also about the spirit, hence we need to understand that there will be the work of demons in churches which ought to be filled by the power of the Holy Spirit.

<The generation which rejected Jesus was influenced by demons>

We don’t want to see all of God’s people being completely deceived by demons, but it has happened in the past while Jesus was on earth. Let’s take a look at the scripture below.

Matthew 12:43 “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.

12:44 Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order.

12:45 Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

From the scripture above, the Lord said “That is how it will be with this wicked generation” and pointed out that the generation that existed when the Lord was on earth was going to be dominated by 7 demons. Now, what does this actually mean? Let’s think about it.

“When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.”

This describes that demons are cast out and they have nowhere to go. This was fulfilled in the era of Jesus. In this generation, many demons were cast out by Jesus as stated below.

Matthew 8:16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

Demons were cast out in this generation, but it was temporary as they eventually returned as stated below.

Matthew 12:44 Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order.

12:45 Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

This indicated that the demons returned. Why did they come back to live in this generation? The reason is found where it says "it finds the house unoccupied". This means that there is a master who ought to be in the house. So, we can interpret that because the master was not there, demons seized the opportunity and resided there.

It was historically true that there wasn't a master/king, which means people of this generation referred to Jesus as demon-possessed or Beelzebul's follower and rejected him despite it was Jesus who actually cast out demons. Eventually, they arrested Jesus because He was said to teach heresy hence, crucified him to get rid of him. Therefore the King, master of the house, was eliminated and the house became unoccupied.

As a result, this evil generation was dominated and deceived by demons. Here, we have to realize how the Lord said that ALL of God's people in this generation were deceived altogether. Is this possible? It seems incomprehensible to us but when you read the scriptures, it becomes clear that it really happened.

The scripture below is from the bible and describes that the people of this generation were deceived by the devil and ended up crucifying their own King.

Matthew 27:22 "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!"

27:23 "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

27:24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

Here, we can see how the Jews, who were supposed to be scholars of the Bible, were deceived and eager to kill the man sent by God. This could only have been influenced by demons.

We have to realize that none of these crowd, priests, or rabbis felt that they were being deceived by demons. They felt they believed in God and the Bible and also practiced its teaching. However, they were actually rejecting the King, being deceived by seven demons. The same thing will be repeated in End Times when people who insist to be genuine Christians will be deceived by demons.

There is other part in the Bible which describes in a different way that the people in this generation didn't accept the Holy Spirit. The scripture below describes how those people were deceived as a result.

Luke 13:34 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

13:35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'

As it is written, "Spirit descends like dove", the bird represents spiritual movement. So, "how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings" explains that despite the fact that the Holy Spirit tries to lead God's people, they didn't follow. This shows how evil this generation was; rejecting the Holy Spirit, being deceived by the demons hence, getting self-destroyed.

What happened to those who were led by the demons to reject Jesus, crucifying him on the cross? They fought against Rome who was the ruler at the time and were destroyed. Because of this, Jerusalem was surrounded by the Roman army in **A.D. 70** and every single civilian was slaughtered. It is obvious that they destroyed themselves. This is how the generation which was deceived by demons ended, we can learn a very important lesson from this.

<Demons will deceive again in End Times>

Now, what happened on the day the Lord came down prophesied what will happen when He returns. It is possible that in End Times, God's people will turn evil and rejected the Holy Spirit, resulting in demons dominating the churches. The scripture below also describes how the Holy Spirit will be rejected by the churches and the anti-Christ will dominate then.

2 Thessalonians 2:6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

2:7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

Who is holding back here? It says “but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.”, it prophesied that the Holy Spirit will be removed from the churches eventually. As a result, “he”-the anti-Christ starts dominating the churches. Although it is not ideal to reject the Holy Spirit in churches only to be dominated by demons, it is clearly prophesied in the Bible and it will happen in the future.

There is another part of scriptures which describes that the Holy Spirit will be rejected of the churches in End Times. In Revelation, we read that the Lord is no longer in Laodikeia which is the last of 7 churches. Here is the scriptural reference.

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Here, although Jesus is supposed to be the head of the church and the house, He has been rejected by the 7th church. This is just like the empty house we read before and it seems to imply that the church which rejected the Lord would eventually be controlled by demons.

Just like a prisoner runs from the prison after a guard has been shot dead, the Holy Spirit will be rejected and demons / the anti-Christ will dominate the churches.

You think that you have never heard of the Holy Spirit being rejected by the churches and demons dominating instead. If you read the Bible carefully, you will realize that this is mentioned many times.

<The generation with signs of demons >

When demons start to work in the churches, what happens? The Bible describes that it happens through signs and wonders as written below.

Matthew 24:24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,

2:10 and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

2:11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

Here, it is written that “all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serves a lie” will rise in the churches.

If you study this generation from this point of view, you will realize that those signs and wonders are actually celebrated in the churches right now. Peter Wagner and Benny Hinn insist on the existence of the so called “the third wave of the Holy Spirit”. This is a prime example of the signs and wonders.

Pentecostal churches as well as many other churches openly accept those signs and wonders. They claim that they are witnessing God’s amazing miracles. The question is, are these miracles really from God? There are many people out there who say that these are the works of demons.

Once again, the Bible tells us that the churches will become uncontrollable in many ways which includes the compromised doctrines as demons will dominate instead of the Holy Spirit. We should remember this.

<Bounding the strong man>

Let’s think more about how demons are infiltrating the churches. As below, the Lord talked about bounding the strong man first.

Matthew 12:28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

2:29 “Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

Here, the Lord described how a house protected by the strong man gets attacked. It was by bonding the strong man first. This was a prophetic word which was fulfilled later. What this tells us is that Satan bonded Jesus who was the strong man in order to take control over God’s people then. This is described in the scripture reference below.

Matthew 27:1 Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed.

27:2 So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

As it is written here, elders of the people who have been deceived executed Jesus with their own hands as they were persuaded by demons because Jesus was seen as

the strong man in the house. As a result, God's people were deceived by Satan. Then, their house was robbed and their furniture was stolen.

The same will be repeated in End Times. Eventually, God's people will refer to the Holy Spirit as demonic and try to cast him out of God's house. That is how they get deceived by Satan as was prophesied, there is another scripture reference in Matthew.

Matthew 12:31 And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

12:32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

This describes the blasphemy against Holy Spirit by bounding the strong man. We can imagine that the fact that God's people regarded Jesus as Beelzebul and cast Him out will be repeated. In End Times, God's people who have been deceived will treat the Holy Spirit as Beelzebul and reject him.

This has actually started happening. There is a strong emphasis on binding demons in Pentecostal churches today. This seems good but this movement actually has been carefully planned and started by Satan. The "binding" will eventually lead to binding the Holy Spirit when people are deceived. The time will come when the strong man in the church will be bounded. Some people have already been deceived and accepted demonic personalities like Benny Hinn. It won't be long before they reject the Holy Spirit, so we must remember to do the Lord's will in End Times.

What does "Rich person" mean in the Bible?

I have been wondering what Jesus meant when he said in scripture below.

Matthew 19:23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.

19:24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

The lord said, "it is hard for rich to enter the kingdom of God" but if you literally interpret this, it could be understood that anyone who has lots of assets and money will find it difficult to enter the kingdom of God. Surely, the money has strong power to solve problems in this world. So it seems reasonable because you wouldn't need to rely on God if the money can help you get through most of the time. It may be difficult to even have faith in God.

Of course, we need the money to live so it is impossible not to have it at all, but it seems that it is not God's will for us to want more money than necessary or love money more than God.

However, that doesn't mean that if you are born in a rich family you can't live as a Christian or inherit the kingdom of God. I don't think it is bad to have lots of money, either. The truth is, it is not God's will to be obsessed with wealth or the money regardless of the actual amount. As I previously mentioned, you are not supposed to put the money or wealth before God. Therefore in case you have plenty of those, I think God will be pleased if you are not controlled by them or decide to offer them in order to serve Him.

This is just one aspect of what the phrase "rich person" means. Since I felt there was something else in this, I was asking God if there was another meaning every time I read this scripture. And just recently, as I studied Psalm 41 at the service, my question about "rich person" has been finally answered. Now, let's have a look at Psalm 41 first.

Psalm 41:1 Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the Lord delivers them in times of trouble.

Below is what Ps. Jeremiah preached before.

In the King James Version, it says "the poor" instead of the weak, and it means "the poor in spirit". When we think about being poor, we normally imagine that someone doesn't have money and is begging. This applies spiritually as well, so if you are poor in spirit, you will be just like a beggar who desperately seeks more spiritual awareness in life. This person is seen as blessed in God's eyes and will inherit the kingdom of God.

When this was preached, I couldn't agree more. Also as I was praying later, I suddenly came to realize that "the opposite of the poor is the rich!" What I mean by this is that if you are spiritually poor, you will keep praying to receive it more but if you are spiritually rich, I think that you may not pray to God and instead rely on your own strength. Therefore I understood then that the rich people in the Bible are actually those who would say "It is just easy to be a Christian so I don't need to pray".

I guess that even though you are not monetarily rich, a person like this can be seen as spiritually "wealthy" or "rich" from God's point of view. I would like to show you the scripture which was given to me then.

Revelation 3:17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

“I have acquired wealth” could be matched with being **“rich”** which I mentioned previously. To those who **“acquired wealth and do not need a thing”**, God says **“you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked”**. Although it is only my imagination, God may be talking about someone who quietly thinks **“I have no problems”**, saying, **“I have power and ability as well, so I don’t need God’s help”** and doesn’t ask God for help and guidance. God describes those people as **“wretched...”** Now, let’s take a look at another scripture here.

1 Timothy 5:3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.

5:4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

5:5 The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.

5:6 But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.

This part describes **“widows”**. You may wonder, what is the relationship between our theme and **“widows”**? **“Widows”** are people who have lost their spouses and it has significant meaning with respect to the Bible as well. Regardless of sex or marital status, if you are a Christian who has hope in Jesus, you are referred to as a **“widow”**. In this sense, the word **“orphan”** in the Bible has the same meaning in that though there is a physical father, the Father in heaven is the one who you truly rely on as a Christian. But, according to 1st Timothy, there are two types of Christians who can be described as **“widows”**. They are **“real widows”** and **“self-indulging widows”**. As you can read in chapter 5, it depends on if you rely on Christ who is the real husband.

“Christians who pray” are considered as **“real widows”**, while others are seen as **“self-indulging widows”** since the phrase, **“dead even while she lives”** as seen in chapter 6 implies this. This means you are physically alive but dead spiritually. Therefore when you are not relying on or praying to God, you will become dry in spirit and it will be the same as being dead because God’s spirit is not resident in you.

However, if you live like a **“real widow”** who always prays and has hope in God, you will be seen as **“poor in spirit”** which is actually to be praised by God.

This is my testimony about understanding the dangers of being spiritually **“rich”** by using words such as **“poor in spirit”**, or **“real widow”**. It may appear that this is talking about non-Christians who don’t know God yet, but it is actually deeply related to Christians as well. I used to think of it at a complicated level before it was shown to me so clearly but now I can understand how simple it is. It all comes down

to whether you rely on God in your life as a Christian or put your power and thought first. I think it will be difficult to inherit the kingdom of God if we continue to live like “rich”.

On the other hand, as long as we focus on living as “poor in spirit”, the kingdom of God is promised to us so I would like to remain this way. I am going to wrap up by introducing the scripture which clearly describes it and gives hope to us.

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Glory and honor be unto God who always gives us important messages.

<Other information>

◆Despite the Davidic dynasty was promised for its eternal existence by God, it has disappeared in the history after 400 years since the Babylonian Exile.

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