

The background of the image is a dramatic seascape. The sky is filled with dark, heavy, grey clouds, with a bright light source breaking through on the right side, creating a lens flare effect. The sea below is dark blue-grey with visible ripples and small waves. The overall mood is ominous and powerful.

DEMONS IN THE BIBLE EXPLAINED

“Devils” (Demons)

Old Testament

They shall no more offer sacrifices unto devils after whom they have gone a whoring.

Lev 17:7

They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not.

Deut 32:17

He (Jeroboam) ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made.

2Chron 11:15

They sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils.

Psa 106:37

God

The Only True God

Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any.

Isa 44:8

I am the LORD and there is none else, there is no God beside me.

Isa 45:5

For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

Psa 96:5

The Oracle of Delphi

The Spirit of Python



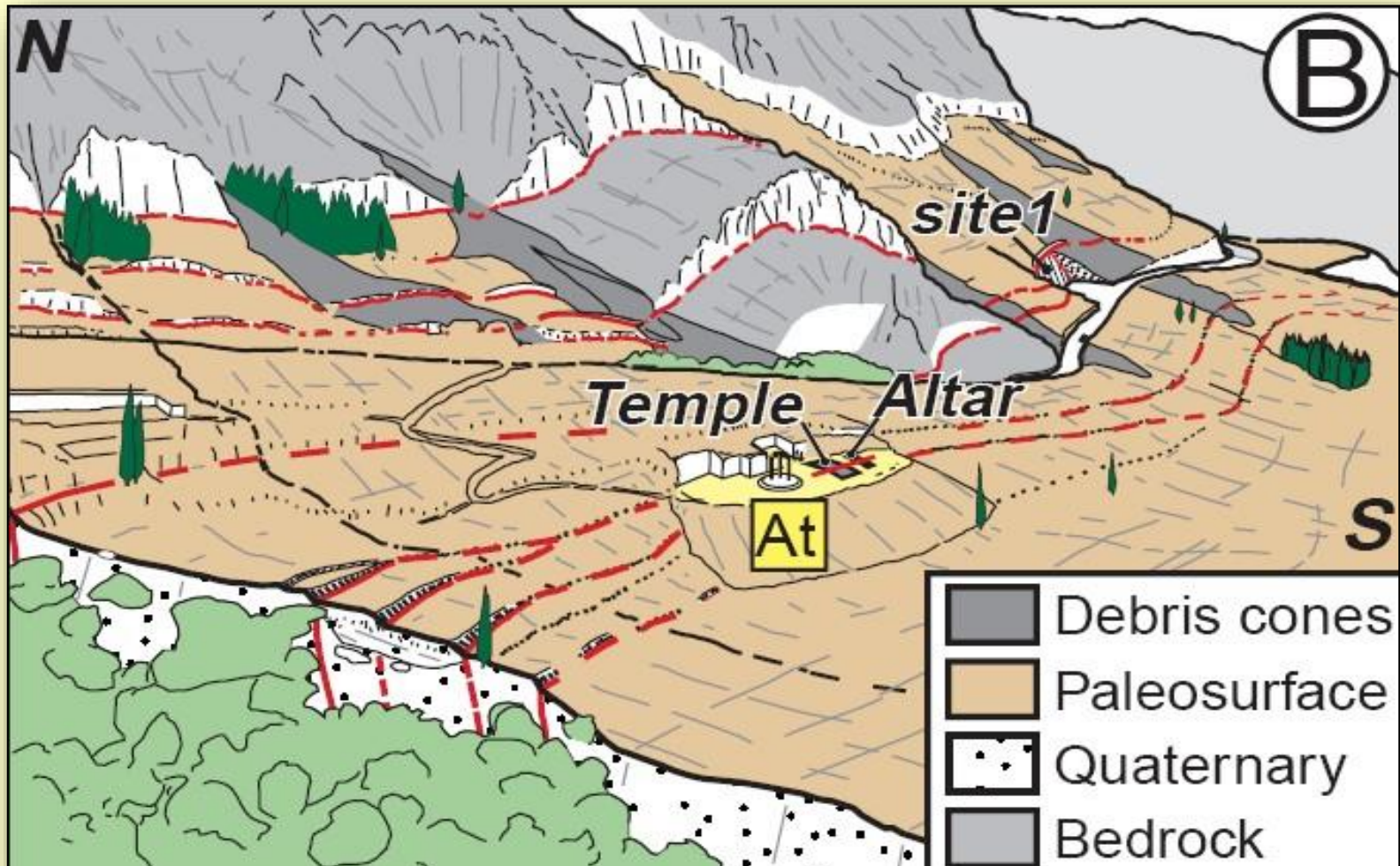
The Oracle of Delphi

The Spirit of Python



The Oracle of Delphi

The Spirit of Python



Bible Idiom

A Mode of Speaking Peculiar to a Language

“The numbers speak for themselves”

“Money Talks”

Rebuke	an unclean spirit	Lu 9:42
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Rebuke	a fever	Lu 4:39
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Rebuke	the wind	Mt 8:26
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Cast Out	devils	Mt 8:16
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Cast out	sorrow	Job 39:3
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Cast out	hypocrisy	Mt 7:5
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The devils	depart	Mt 17:18
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Leprosy	departs	Lu 5:13
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Diseases	depart	Ac 19:12
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The Mind Under Stress

States of supposed 'possession' have probably been with man always, and certainly remain with him still. What is believed to happen is that God, or the Holy Spirit or the Devil, angels or evil spirits, satans or zars or pepos, or whatever the entities are called, enter a mans body and take control of him. For thousands of years all over the globe certain forms of madness and other major abnormalities of behaviour have been accounted for in this way.

But possession has also very often been deliberately induced, to give a human being the most direct and immediate possible experience of a deity, by becoming its living vessel, and to enable him to act as a channel of communication ... to earth.

The Mind Possessed, William Sargant, p44

Demonic Possession

In the room there was drumming and dancing, the men and women going round and round to an ever increasing and exciting crescendo of drums until they were possessed by a variety of gods and goddesses. It is possible to tell by the behaviour of the dancers which particular deity is possessing them and, often, talking through them.

The states of possession and trance in Recife were some of the most violent and dramatic we had yet seen anywhere. Extraordinary facial changes occurred and almost all of the possessed ended up in a state of collapse. Often they fell to the floor and had to be carried out to a special private room.

The Mind Possessed, William Sargant, p151

Demonic Possession

In ancient Mesopotamia, all forms of sickness, including psychological illnesses, were put down to possessing spirits and so numerous were the demons and evil ghosts that might fasten on a man that fear of them has been described as 'one of the most important factors in the daily life of a Babylonian'.

Specialist priests exorcised sufferers. Their principal technique was to transfer the disease-demon to an animal or object by means of impressive and repeated incantations which, with a disturbed patient in a state of heightened suggestibility, may well have had the desired effect.

The Mind Possessed, William Sargant, p59

Evolution: Question

In order to harmonise the doctrine of theistic evolution with the creative record of Gen 1-2, it is suggested that scripture has been deliberately written to accommodate the scientific beliefs of the people of the day.

The argument is:

- Mad people are said to be possessed by “unclean spirits”, “devils” etc
- Jesus went along with this idea and “cast out devils” to cure people

However:

- Doctrinally speaking, there is no such thing as demons
- Medically speaking, we understand today that mental illness is not the result of demons

Therefore:

- In the same way that demon possession was once the accepted explanation of mental illness, but is no longer, the 6-day creation was once the accepted explanation of origins, but is no longer.

Evolution: Answer

- The fact that the Bible explicitly teaches that demons are not true proves that it is not trying to accommodate the accepted explanation of the day because it teaches against it elsewhere. By contrast, when the Bible teaches creation in Gen 1-2, it does not teach against it elsewhere.
- The reason mental illness is described as demon possession is because people with mental illness often displayed the same symptoms as those who allowed themselves to be the mediums of pagan gods.
- “Demon possession” is therefore a **figure of speech, or a synonym** for madness, **not a scientific explanation**. Even today, we use words like “lunatic”, “pandemonium” and “bewitched” without intending to refer to the psychological influence of the moon, demons or witchcraft.

But, in using this sort of language, Jesus supports false doctrine !?

- Convincing a mental patient that they have been cured is difficult because in order to evaluate their cure, the patient is required to use the very organ where the problem (madness) existed. When healing psychologically disturbed people, Jesus had to use language which was helpful to the sufferer. The doctrinal education could come later.

The Swine

An Unclean Animal

Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them . . .

The swine, though he divide the hoof, and be cloven footed, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.

Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you.

Lev 11:7-8

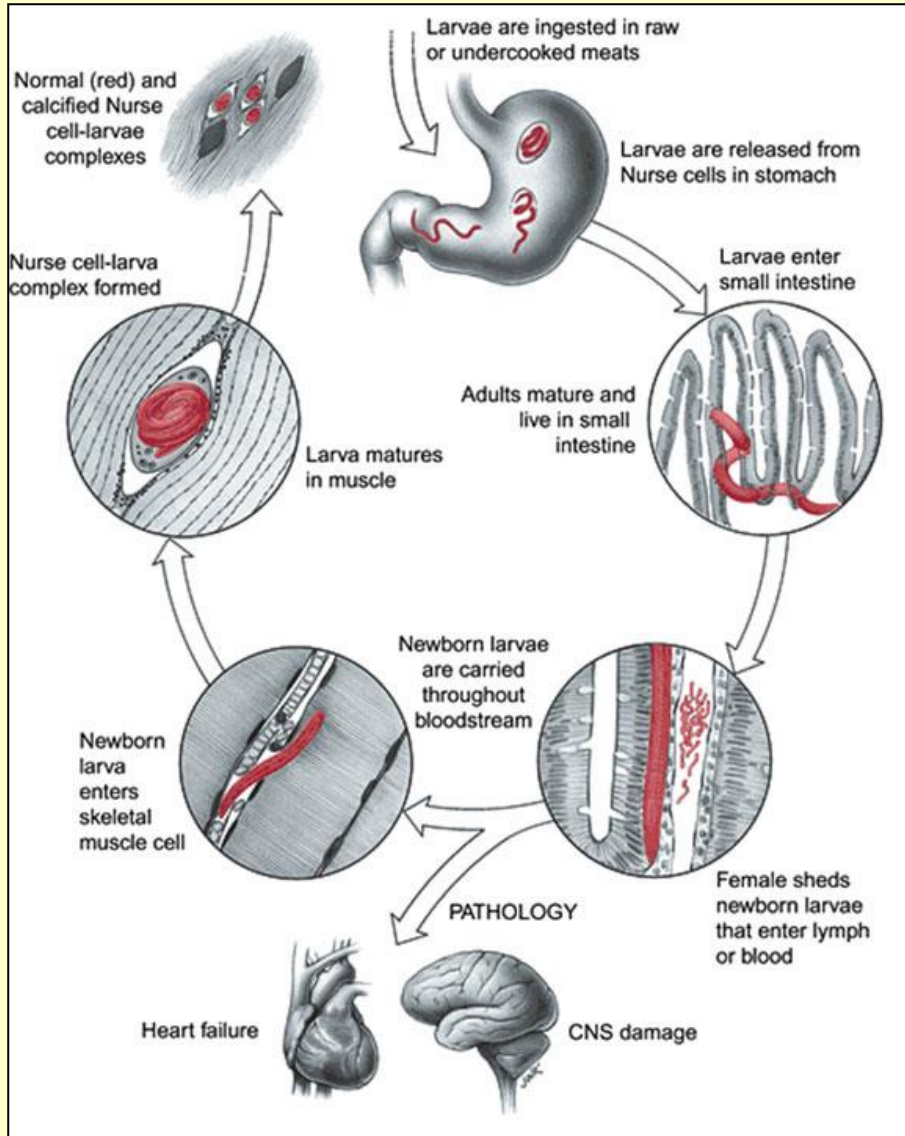
Unclean Spirits

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 to 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 no more be remembered: **and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.**

Zech 13:1-2

Trichinella Spiralis



Adult Worm



Encysted in Muscle

