

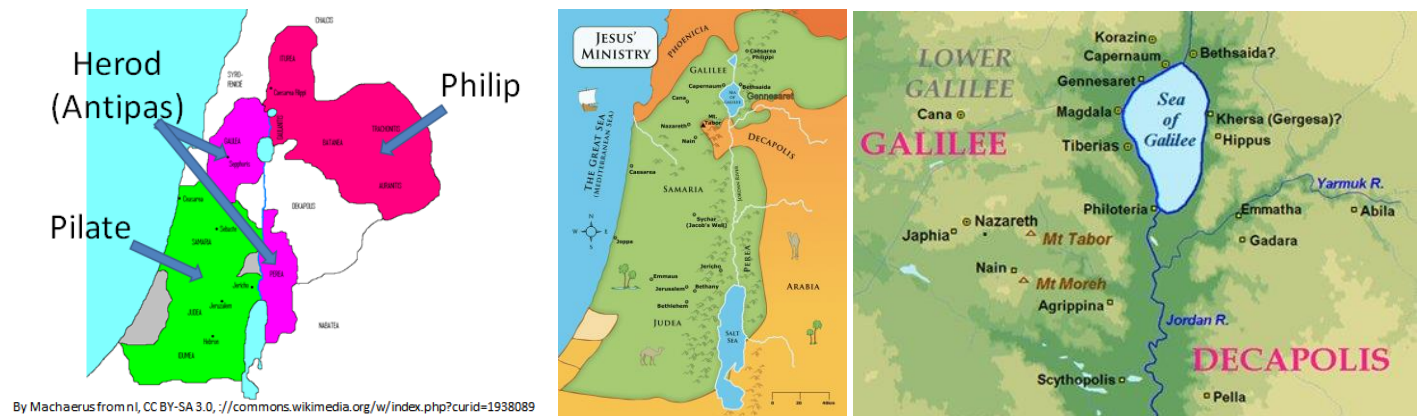
# Who Is Jesus? – Authority I

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Luke 4:31-43

January 21, 2018

## Geography “lesson”:



## Background on Demons:

Ephesians 6:12

*“For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.”*

It is imperative that we find our source of information about Satan and demons only in God’s Word.

Demons are the power behind divination, astrology, magic, sorcery and witchcraft.

God has forbidden each of these activities; their pursuit is an act of rebellion and sin and any power expressed in them comes from those who oppose God: demons.

Related Scriptures: Lev 19:26, 31; Lev 20:6; Deut 4:19; Deut 18:9-12; 2 Kings 21:6

Divination – which we might call “fortune telling” – would include such things as reading chicken livers, or tea leaves, or tarot cards, or palms. In short, divination is trying to determine the future – perhaps even attempting to determine God’s will – through an illegitimate spiritual power.

Horoscopes might also be considered a form of divination, though, perhaps more correctly, are just one aspect of astrology. In reality, astrology is a worship of the stars, not unlike the cult worship of Babylon, Egypt and Canaan. Worship of false gods = worship of demons.

Communicating with the dead – or Necromancy – is also banned by God. The dead cannot communicate with the living. Any alleged visit by the dead is a demon imposter (except Samuel in 1 Samuel 28).

The use of formulas and incantations – Magic – is also forbidden. Whether the desired outcome is wicked (black magic) or pleasant and “good” (white magic), the source of power is the same – demons.

Note: This is not referring to “illusions” as performed by so-called “magicians”, but the very real intervention of a supernatural force.

Likewise, sorcery is forbidden. This also relates to the use of formulas and incantations, but, instead of causing certain acts or events as in magic, sorcery calls on demons to create situations around people.

Witchcraft then – the practice of magic and sorcery – is, of course, also forbidden.

(Above summary adapted from Elmer Town’s Theology for Today).

Demons know that their end is already decided – they will be cast *“into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels!”* (Matt 25:41)

Oh! And one more thing that demons do... they do \_\_\_\_\_ !

**Authority!** This is our key word for the day...

*“Have you come to destroy us?” or “You have come to destroy us!”*

*1 John 3:8b The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the Devil’s works.*

**“Are illnesses the result of demon activity?”**

New Testament examples of illnesses connected to demonic activity:

Matt 12:22 – a man who was blind & dumb

Mark 9:17, 25 – a boy who was mute and a man who was deaf & dumb -

Luke 9:39 – a boy with convulsions and foaming at the mouth

Acts 8:7 – many paralyzed and lame (Philip in Samaria)

Luke 8:27-28 – “mental illness” – living naked in the tombs, unable to be restrained

New Testament examples of illnesses NOT connected to demonic activity:

Centurion’s Servant (Matthew 8:5-13)

Leper (Luke 5:12-16)

Woman Bleeding (Matthew 9:19-20)

Paralyzed Man (Luke 5:17-26)

Blind Men (Matthew 9:27-30)

Woman with the Spirit of Infirmary (Luke 13:10-17)

Man with the Withered Hand (Matthew 12:9-14)

Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19)

Daughter of Phoenician Woman (Mark 7:24-30)

Immobile Man (John 5:1-16)

*Scriptures were those “who were ill” and those “with demons” were described as separate groups...*

*Luke 9:1-2 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

*Luke 13:32 And He said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.*

*Acts 5:16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.*

<http://coldcasechristianity.com/2014/are-demons-the-cause-of-all-human-illness/>

Jesus was on mission...

To preach good news to the poor:

*“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!”*

*to proclaim freedom to the captives*

*and recovery of sight to the blind,*

*to set free the oppressed,*

*to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*

**The good news of the kingdom of God is for all people of all time**

Freedom, healing, favor... Jubilee! A restoration and renewal... a fresh start.

“What have you to do with me, Jesus? You have come to SAVE me!

I know Who You are... the Holy One of God!”