

Matthew 8:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

Analysis

The mention of 'two possessed with devils' in the country of the Gergesenes introduces the dramatic exorcism that follows. Matthew mentions two demoniacs while Mark and Luke focus on one (perhaps the more prominent). Their dwelling among tombs and exceeding fierceness demonstrates the dehumanizing effects of demonic possession—isolation from community, dwelling with death, and violence. This illustrates Satan's work of theft, killing, and destruction (John 10:10).

Historical Context

The Gergesenes (also called Gadarenes or Gerasenes in parallel accounts) lived in the Decapolis, a predominantly Gentile region east of Galilee. The presence of pigs (verse 30) confirms the Gentile setting, as Jews considered swine unclean. This mission to Gentile territory prefigures the gospel's expansion beyond Israel.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does the demoniacs' condition teach about Satan's goal of dehumanizing and destroying those under his power?
2. How does this Gentile exorcism demonstrate that Christ's power extends beyond ethnic Israel to all nations?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ ἐλθόντι αὐτῷ εἰς τὸ πέραν εἰς τὴν χώραν
And was come him into the other side into the country
G2532 G2064 G846 G1519 G3588 G4008 G1519 G3588 G5561

τῶν Γεργεσηνῶν, ὑπήντησαν αὐτῷ δύο δαιμονιζόμενοι
of the Gergesenes there met him two possessed with devils
G3588 G1086 G5221 G846 G1417 G1139

ἐκ τῶν μνημείων ἐξερχόμενοι χαλεποὶ λίαν ὥστε
out of the tombs coming fierce exceeding so that
G1537 G3588 G3419 G1831 G5467 G3029 G5620

μὴ ισχύειν τινὰ παρελθεῖν διὰ τῆς ὁδοῦ ἐκείνης
no might man pass by way that
G3361 G2480 G5100 G3928 G1223 G3588 G3598 G1565

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:38 (Evil): How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Matthew 4:24 (Evil): And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

