

Matthew 8:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

Analysis

The demons' recognition of Jesus as 'Son of God' demonstrates that spiritual beings (unlike many humans) clearly recognize Christ's divine identity. Their question 'art thou come hither to torment us before the time?' reveals they know their ultimate doom is certain, only its timing uncertain. This shows that mere knowledge of Christ's identity doesn't constitute saving faith—demons believe and tremble (James 2:19) but aren't saved. The 'time' refers to final judgment when demons will be cast into eternal punishment.

Historical Context

The demons' theology is remarkably accurate—they know Jesus is God's Son, understand there is an appointed time for judgment, and recognize their certain doom. Yet this intellectual assent without submission demonstrates that saving faith requires more than mere belief in facts about Christ.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the demons' belief in Christ without salvation teach about the difference between intellectual assent and saving faith?
2. How does the demons' certainty about future judgment contrast with human presumption and false security?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἰδού,	ἔκραξαν	λέγοντες	Τί	ἡμῖν	καὶ	σοί,	Ἰησοῦ
And	behold	they cried out	saying	What	have we	And	thee	Jesus
G2532	G2400	G2896	G3004	G5101	G2254	G2532	G4671	G2424
υἱὲ	τοῦ	θεοῦ;	ἡλθες	ὤδε	πρὸ	καιροῦ	βασανίσαι	
thou Son	G3588	of God	art thou come	hither	before	the time	to torment	
G5207		G2316	G2064	G5602	G4253	G2540	G928	
ἡμᾶς;								
us								
G2248								

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:24 (References Jesus): Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

Luke 4:34 (References Jesus): Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

Mark 5:7 (References Jesus): And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

James 2:19 (References God): Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Luke 8:28 (References Jesus): When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

2 Peter 2:4 (References God): For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

Matthew 4:3 (References God): And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

John 2:4 (References Jesus): Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

Luke 4:41 (References God): And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

2 Samuel 16:10 (Parallel theme): And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?