

Matthew 8:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

Analysis

Jesus' permission 'Go' demonstrates His sovereign authority to command even demons, while the pigs' violent death reveals demonic destructiveness. The entire herd rushing into the sea and perishing shows that Satan's nature is theft, killing, and destruction. This dramatic sign authenticated the exorcism's reality to observers and illustrated the deadly power from which the demoniacs were delivered. The economic loss (2000 pigs) was significant but trivial compared to two souls freed from demonic bondage.

Historical Context

The destruction of approximately 2000 pigs (Mark 5:13) represented major economic loss for the owners, explaining why the Gadarenes later asked Jesus to leave (Matthew 8:34). This shows that some value profit over human souls—a perennial temptation in every age.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the pigs' destruction reveal about the nature and goals of demonic powers?
2. How does the Gadarenes' preference for pigs over the Savior challenge materialistic values in contemporary culture?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς Ὑπάγετε οἱ δὲ ἐξελθόντες
And he said unto them Go And when they were come out
G2532 G2036 G846 G5217 G3588 G1161 G1831

ἀπῆλθον εἰς τὴν ἀγέλη τῶν χοίρων καὶ οἴδού, ὥρμησεν
they went into herd of swine And behold ran violently
G565 G1519 G34 G5519 G2532 G2400 G3729

πᾶσα ἡ ἀγέλη τῶν χοίρων κατὰ τοῦ κρημνοῦ εἰς
the whole herd of swine a steep place into
G3956 G3588 G34 G5519 G2596 G3588 G2911 G1519

τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ ἀπέθανον ἐν τοῖς ὕδασιν
the sea And perished in the waters
G3588 G2281 G2532 G599 G1722 G3588 G5204

Additional Cross-References

Mark 5:13 (Parallel theme): And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

Revelation 20:7 (Parallel theme): And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Acts 4:28 (Parallel theme): For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Acts 2:23 (Parallel theme): Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Luke 8:33 (Parallel theme): Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

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