

Sunday, June 26, 2011—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 5:1-20: The Maniac of Gadara

Introduction

- We already touched on this passage a few weeks ago when we studied about the binding of the Strong Man. I suggested to you that Satan’s plan to confront the Lord Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry was to infest the nation of Israel with evil Spirits.
 - Mark 3:27
 - Luke 11:22—these evils spirits were the armour Satan was trusting in to withstand Christ.
- This morning we are to look specifically at how the Maniac of Gadara factors into that discussion.

Mark 5:1-5

- ***“And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. 2) And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3) Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: 4) Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. 5) And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.”***
- Mark 5:1—remember that when we last saw Christ and this disciples they had been boat crossing the Sea of Galilee when Jesus calmed the storm (Mark 4:35-41). Now in verse one they have safely crossed to the other side.
- Mark 5:2—immediatley upon exiting the ship Christ is meets and man living in the tombs possessed with an unclean spirit.
 - Matthew 8:28-29—reports that there were two men possessed with devils who confronted Christ when he entered into the country of the Gergesenes. While on the surface the Bible may seems to be contradicting itself this is not the case. Mark and Luke do not contradict this statement in Matthew they merely focus on the more prominent of the two demon possessed men.
 - Matthew 8:29—these demons knew why they were there. They were there to confront the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Mark 5:3-5—again this buy was living in the tombs and could not be bound or tamed.
 - Luke 8:27, 29

Mark 5:6-9

- ***“But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, 7) 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. 8) For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. 9) And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.”***
- Mark 5:6-7—again we see that even the unclean spirits knew who Jesus was.
 - Matthew 8:29—the demons knew why they were there. They were there to confront the Lord Jesus Christ. The request that Christ not torment them before the time speaks to this fact. There was an appointed time when the demons knew they would confront or content with Christ.
- Mark 5:8-9—Jesus orders the unclean spirit to leave the man, however, before departing the man Christ has a conversation with the demon.
 - What is thy name? The demon answers Christ and tells him his name was Legion because there were many devils possessing this man. According to *Strong’s Concordance* a legion is “a body of soldiers whose number differed at different times, and in the time of Augustus seems to have consisted of 6826 men (i.e. 6100 foot soldiers, and 726 horsemen).”

Mark 5:10-12

- ***“And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. 11) Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. 12) And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.”***
- Mark 5:10—in this verse Legion “besought him much” that is he begged Christ to not send them out of the country.
- Mark 5:11—is somewhat of an editorial comment. It informs that close by there was a great herd of swine feeding.
- Mark 5:12—the devils request to be sent into the herd of swine.
- So the devils comprising the Legion ask two things 1) not to be sent out of the country, 2) to be sent instead into the herd of swine.
- Luke 8:31—have you ever wondered where the evil spirits went once Christ cast them out? These demons plead that Christ not send them into the deep. What does this mean?

What is the Deep?

- Hebrews 8:1-2—the Bible speaks of the throne of God as being located in the heavenly sanctuary in the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man.
- Hebrews 8:5—the tabernacle Moses built was patterned after the one God pitched in heaven.
- Isaiah 40:22—God created the heavens as a tent for himself to dwell in. Remember that Hebrews says that the tabernacle Moses built was patterned after the one God pitched in heaven.
- Genesis 1:2
 - The face of the deep and the face of the waters are the same thing.
 - The deep is the container in which the universe is held. At the time of this verse it was full of water.
 - The face of the deep is the top of the deep.
 - Genesis 7:18 (14)—Noah’s ark floated on the top of the water.
- Genesis 1:3-5
 - The light here is not the sun because the sun was not created until the 4th day (Gen. 1:14-19). The light here is the glory of God himself (Revelation 21:23).
 - John 8:12—Jesus says he is the light of the world.
 - Psalm 74:16 (634)—notice that the light and the sun a different.
 - God divided the darkness form the light. This is talking about how God has partitioned himself off from the universe.
 - Job 38:30 (594)—the face of the deep is frozen
 - Job 37:18

- Revelation 4:2-9 (1334)—these verses are talking about the third heaven where we find the throne of God. The Sea of Glass sits before the throne of God. Therefore, the throne of God is located on the other side of the Sea of Glass.
- Job 26:9 (585)—God has divided the light of his glories presences from the rest of the universe by holding back the face of his throne on the far side of the sea of glass.
- Genesis 1:6-8
 - The firmament is an open place in the waters. This is the second heaven where the lights of heaven are placed on the 4th day in verses 14-19.
 - The firmament is both below and above the waters.
 - Psalm 136:6 (666)—earth above the waters
 - Psalm 148:4 (670)—waters above the heavens
 - Genesis 7:11 (14)—this explains where all the water came from to flood the entire earth.
 - Notice that the words it is good are missing from verse 8. This is because the 2nd heaven is the abode of fallen angels.
 - Ephesians 6:12 (1255)—according to Paul our struggle is with spiritual wickedness in high places.
 - Isaiah 24:21 (734)—in the Ages to Come the angelic beings on high will be punished also.
 - Job 15:15 (578)—the heavens are not clean in his sight.
 - Job 41:1, 31-34 (596)
- Luke 8:31—the reason the Legion pleads with Christ not to send them out of the country or into the deep is because they know they were sent to Earth for the purpose of contending with Christ over Israel. They know there will be hell to pay for not having fulfilled their purpose.
- This is all part of the binding of the strong man that we already studied. By casting out these demons Christ is pulling back the fingers of Satan's control on the nation of Israel.