

WESTERN
WISDOM
BIBLE
STUDY

JESUS CASTS OUT DEMONS

STILLING THE TEMPEST

To aid those interested in a deeper understanding of the scriptures, we offer a correspondence course of 28 lessons compiled from Max Heindel's writings. These lessons reveal the basic harmony of religion and science, and offer logical explanations for many misunderstood basic doctrines of the Church.

They are given out on a free will offering basis.

"FAITH...OPENS AND EXPANDS OUR MENTAL CAPACITY AS SUNLIGHT UNFOLDS THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWER. FAITH IS THE FORCE IN MAN WHICH OPENS UP THE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WITH GOD AND BRINGS US INTO TOUCH WITH HIS LIFE AND POWER."

JESUS CASTS OUT DEMONS

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, exceedingly fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

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?

And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding.

So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine feeding.

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.

And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told everything, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils.

And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that would depart out of their coasts.

—Matthew 8:28-34

Until recent years the Western World has thought of demonology as "superstition," but the increasing interest in the teachings of occult philosophy has begun to dispel this belief and bring about a better understanding of what actually exists in cases of "devil" possession.

During the time when Christ Jesus was performing His mission teaching and preaching to humanity, the various types of possession, or obsession, were common, as attested by the numerous instances mentioned in the Gospels and other historical records, and exorcism was often attempted by those practising the healing art. However, the Christ, as indwelling Planetary Spirit of our planet, has cleansed its desire body to such an ex-

tent that the evil Spirits and elemental beings no longer have the hold on humanity they once had. Nevertheless, obsession still exists among the lesser developed peoples of the world and to some extent in our own modern society.

The term "swine" is symbolical of the lower desires, and in this case of exorcism, the obsessing entities were returned to their native habitat, the lower Desire World. Water also is symbolical of the emotional nature, so that we may interpret the statement that the swine "perished in the waters" to mean that the evil influences were transmuted by the power of the Christ in the cleansed desire stuff.

It is hardly probable that so exalted a being as Christ Jesus would have condemned any sentient creature, even swine, to death, as those who believe in taking the Bible literally would have us believe.

Christ Jesus was of course the Master Exorcist, for all obsessing entities knew and obeyed His voice. Today more and more ministers and healers are learning to use the power of the Christ Name to free individuals from evil influences. The more one unfolds the Christ Within by living purely and selflessly, the more able is he to protect himself from all outside entities and to help others do the same. As Max Heindel stated:

"When we live lives of purity, when our days are filled with service to God and to our fellowmen, and with thoughts and actions of the highest nobility, then we create for ourselves the Golden Wedding Garment, which is a radiant force for good. No evil is able to penetrate this armor."

It is unjust and absurd of persons advancing in years, to expect of the young that confidence should come all and only on their side; the human heart, at whatever age, opens only to the heart that opens in return.

—Edgeworth

STILLING THE TEMPEST

And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

And behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

And his disciples came to him, and awoke him saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

—Matthew 8:23-27

In this passage we are taught the effects of fearfulness and the power of faith.

Fear is one of the most destructive emotions known to man. It can play havoc with the physical body, deranging digestion, interfering with the metabolic changes and the elimination of waste, and upsetting the whole system. Those who indulge in it surround themselves with a steel-gray auric shell which acts as a barrier to the helpful thoughts and prayers of others.

Faith, on the other hand, "opens and expands our mental capacity as sunlight unfolds the beautiful flower." "Faith is the force in man which opens up the channel of communication with God and brings us into touch with His Life and Power." The poet Tennyson called it:

The great world's altar-stairs that slope thro' darkness up to God.

We also find in this passage of Scripture an indication of a power man will at some future time possess—control of the elements. Christ Jesus possessed this power, so that "even the winds and the sea" obeyed him. Max Heindel pointed out that: scientists have attempted time and again to offer an adequate explana-

tion of the phenomena of wind and storm, but have failed signally. Nor can they succeed while they seek a mechanical solution to what is really a manifestation of life. Could they see the hosts of sylphs winging their way hither and thither, they would know who and what is responsible for the fickleness of the wind; could they watch a storm at sea from the etheric viewpoint they would perceive that the saying "the war of the elements" is not an empty phrase, for the heaving sea is truly then a battlefield of sylphs and undines and the howling tempest is the war cry of spirits in the air.

To explain fully what transpires in a storm we must consider the semi-intelligent action of the sylphs who lift the finely divided vaporized particles of water prepared by the undines, from the surface of the sea and carry them as high as they may before partial condensation takes place and clouds are formed. These particles of water they keep until forced by the undines to release them. When we say it storms, battles are being fought on the surface of the sea and in the air, sometimes with the aid of salamanders to light the lightning torch of separated hydrogen and oxygen and send its awe-inspiring shaft crashing zigzag through the inky darkness, followed by ponderous peals of thunder that reverberate in the clearing atmosphere, while the undines triumphantly hurl the rescued raindrops to earth that they may be again restored to union with their mother element.



I have seen tempests, when the scolding winds

Have riv'd the knotty oaks, and I have seen

The ambitious ocean swell and rage and foam,

To be exalted with the threat'ning clouds

But never till tonight, never till now,

Did I go through a tempest dropping fire.

—Shakespeare