

One Thing We Need to Know

Brothers and sisters, when we speak of the world, we must have a clear insight - Although the term "world" carries slight differences in meaning throughout the Bible, one of its key meanings refers to a power that stands opposed to the kingdom of God and to Christ.

Read the verses below:

***1 John 2:15-16** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

***1 John 5:19** We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

***James 4:4** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?*

However, when we believe in Jesus, we do not belong to this world. As the Bible states, once we believe in the Lord:

- We are transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son, which means that we do not belong to this world anymore. (Colossians 1:13)
- And also, we are called citizens of the kingdom of heaven, not the citizens of this world. (Philippians 3:20)

Mark 5:1-20

The Nature of the World System and its Final Destiny

Mark Chapter 5:1-20 mainly try to convey to us that, when the Lord Jesus led His disciples from one side of the sea to the other, the first scene He revealed to them was a picture of what the world (The system opposed to the will of God) looks like today.

We can explore this picture of this evil world from the following aspects:

1. The Name of this Place

Gerasenes - Reward at the end

What does Gerasenes mean? Gerasenes signifies reward at end. When we come into this world, everyone differs in birth circumstances, upbringing, and personal ideals. Despite all these differences, all people share one common reality: each of us strives relentlessly toward the ultimate goal, the final purpose, and the ultimate reward.

Why do people in this world keep pursuing their personal goals? It is precisely **a manifestation of spiritual emptiness**. If a person is

filled with the Spirit of God, they will naturally lose taste for many worldly things and become insensitive to them. Satan takes advantage of man's spiritual emptiness to fill their hearts with other things. For instance, when a person is without God, they will obsessively chase money. This is exactly falling into Satan's snare: whenever people devote themselves to anything other than glorifying God, they fall prey to Satan's schemes. **For Satan seeks to use them(People without God) to build his own kingdom.**

So, what is meant by "reward at the end"? It is the greatest deception Satan has ever laid upon those who live in this world. Satan deceives people into believing that if they strive and struggle relentlessly, they will obtain what they truly desire and receive the genuine reward. Yet we all know that human desires can never be fulfilled. Once you attain this reward, you will crave an even greater one; and upon gaining that greater reward, you will long for something still more significant. Human desires are never insatiable. Exploiting this unquenchable longing within humanity, Satan continually stirs people to toil away in life, strive endlessly, and chase their personal dreams with relentless effort. Ultimately, **Satan seeks to manipulate mankind to build his own kingdom.**

2. The man possessed by demons who lived among the tombs

It may seem like a wonderful thing, for everyone living in this world keeps striving relentlessly toward their own goals. Yet the Bible describes such **worldly people as those possessed by unclean spirits, who were living in tombs.** (Verse 2-3)

The Gospel of Mark records one demon - possessed man, while the Gospel of Matthew records **two**; the number two signifies witness, meaning these two possessed men are the witness of all worldly people living on the earth.

Everyone living in this world dwells under a system of death — tombs. And this kind of people who are possessed by all kinds of unclean spirits called "Legion".(Verse 9)

Question: Why does the account of Mark 5:3 use the plural form of "tombs" rather than the singular?

A fallen man is beyond all restraint

Mark chapter 5:3-4 describe this demon-possessed man: nothing could restrain him, and people could find no way to control him—even when they bound him with iron chains.

Brothers and sisters, this is so much like the condition of today's world. Modern society seems to be bound by countless chains—the worldly customs, human relationships between people, the laws of society, and the moral values by which people live in this world.

Unbelievers often assume that human beings can be restrained by these outward bonds. But once we believe in the Lord and observe the world around us, we realize that **humanity's natural instinct is to break free from all restraint**. Especially for those who possess greater authority, wealth, and social status, their first impulse is always to escape constraints, such as the law. Countless successful people spend their lives seeking loopholes in the law. Even many prominent figures and national leaders disregard the law, acting arbitrarily without accountability.

Brothers and sisters, this is the true manifestation of fallen humanity. **No fallen person can ever be subdued by external morality, laws, or worldly social customs**. Only the Lord can truly subdue them—and this is exactly what is depicted in Mark 5:6 -10.

The pigs are a foreshadowing of humanity' s fallen products

Why are pigs mentioned in this passage? Because pigs are unclean. In this story, the people who raised pigs foreshadow that all the things people care about, live by, build up, and produce belong to the products of fallen humanity.

What are the products of fallen humanity? Anything that cannot endure forever is regarded as fallen in God' s sight, for in God' s eyes, only what is eternal holds true value.

When Jesus faces all the sinful products brought forth by fallen mankind, His way of judgment is to cast them into the sea to be destroyed. In other words, all these corrupt and evil things coming from fallen humanity will one day be completely wiped out and utterly eliminated at the second coming of Jesus Christ.(2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:8, Revelation 19:19-21)

Question: Why did the villagers, upon hearing that the pigs had rushed into the sea and drowned, beg Jesus to leave their region?

The Other Questions

- What spiritual insights can we draw from Mark 5:6-9?
- In Mark chapter 5:10, why did the demons repeatedly beg the Lord Jesus not to drive them away from that region?
- What inspiration can we draw from Jesus' response in Mark chapter 5:19?

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