



Title: The Manifestation of the King (part 3) – The Miracles of Power – Over the Storm (Natural Realm) and Over the devils (Satanic Realm)

Text: Matt. 8:23-34

23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. 24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. 25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. 26 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. 27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

28 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, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. 29 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? 30 And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. 31 So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. 32 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. 33 And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. 34 And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.

Introduction:

1. Matthew carries out his thesis – proving that Jesus Christ is King and the Messiah.
2. In the previous section the Lord Jesus has power of the Physical and Bodily realm (by healing).
3. Here the Lord Jesus is demonstrated to be powerful in every realm.

I. The Messiah has power over the Natural Realm. (vv.23-27)

- A. The stilling of the storm reveals to the disciples (the “men”) that the Lord Jesus is not merely human.
- B. See, Pss. 89:9; 107:23-30.

II. The Messiah has power over the Satanic Realm. (vv.28-34)

- A. The devils confess that Jesus is the Son of God. The Modernist Critical texts and many English translations omits – “Jesus.” This omission affects the doctrine of Christology.
- B. Even the devils know that Jesus is the Messiah/King.
- C. The term “Son of God” is equivalent to Messiah (Matt. 16:16; Lk. 4:41).
- D. The devils are anticipating a future judgment – “before the time.” (Time of Judgment).
- E. Here in this pericope (or passage) is the first example of opposition to the Messiah. They asked Jesus to leave! The Jews wanted the physical blessings but not the spiritual blessings.

Conclusion:

1. Our fears do not indicate that we have no faith, but that we have little faith.
2. The Lord Jesus responds to strengthen His disciples’ faith and prove to them that He is Lord.
3. Matthew’s account of the devil possessed men is shorter than that of Mark and Luke’s account. There is no problem between these accounts – just an emphasis and a personal record of the events. (Gergesenes is the same place as Gadarenes, etc.).
4. What can we do when the storms and when Satanic forces arise? We can trust in the Lord!