

# ***THE END***

## **THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT!**



**SUMMARY:** Observations of the results today indicate that the Devil is not present as he was in the first century, but rather is restrained in some way. If you sin today, you cannot say that “The Devil made me do it”. The Devil may not be here today as in the first century, but his temptations are. If you fall for the temptations, it was your choice.

### **BASIC QUESTION**

Does Satan operate similarly today as in the first century, or are his activities substantially modified and/or restrained? Or more specifically, when you sin can you say that the Devil made you do it?

### **THREE BASIC ALTERNATIVES OF THE DEVIL’S CONTEMPORARY INFLUENCE:**

1. The Devil has the same range of mobility and influence as he had in the first century.
2. The Devil is restrained similarly to a dog on a leash, and you must come within the reach of the leash for the Devil to gain control over you.
3. The Devil is presently thrown into a figurative “bottomless pit” and can have no physical control over you at this time. His temptations are still here, but you elect to be tempted by them.

### **HOW TO DECIDE:**

Determine what he actually did in the first century and what the symptoms of his actions were.

Matt 17:14-15 – Indwelling demons, became a lunatic, ill, fell into fire and water

Mark 5:1-5 – Indwelling unclean spirit, tore chains apart, crying out, gashing himself with stones, left & entered 2000 pigs

Luke 8:27- Indwelling demons, naked in public & entered pigs

Acts 19:16 – leaped on, subdued, overpowered – they fled naked & wounded.

List scriptures subject to interpretation, which might apply to the first century, now, or both.

I Cor. 10:20-21 – do not become sharers in demons.

II Cor. 11:14-15 – Satan’s servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness

James 4:7 – “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

I Peter 5:8 – “Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”

List scriptures specifically stating that he will have influence in this century. - None

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List scriptures specifically limiting his actions to the first century. - None

List scriptures indicating some limitation to the Devil's future power.

Rev. 20: 2,3,7,10 – “And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed”

Is today not what you would expect when the Satan is restrained as is Biblically predicted? It has been suggested that there would be no sin in the world at that time. If that were true, there would be 1000 years of sinless people on earth, a characteristic only of Christ himself.

DEMON AND SATAN – ALL NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES (NAS)

See the prior lesson on WHY A DEVIL.