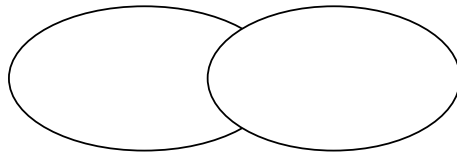




DEMONS DEVILS AND THINGS

1. Jesus in his work talked about the coming *kingdom of God*. Broadly speaking this represented the victory of good over evil - the triumph of God over Satan.
People believed that two forces were at work in the world. - the realm of good and the realm of evil.
Man was caught in the middle.



2. As God was thought to be at work in the world, so too was the devil. Names by which the devil was known were the *devil* or *Satan* or *Beelzebub*.
3. Areas where first century man thought the devil was at work.
 - a) illness People were thought to be possessed by the devil if they had an unusual illness.
eg Mark 9:14-28 the epileptic boy.
Luke 13:11 a physically handicapped woman.
 - b) mental illness eg Mark 1:21-28 man with an unclean spirit in the synagogue.
Mark 5:1-21 the healing of Legion.
 - c) in ordinary people - devils could move in and attempt to take over.
eg Mark 8:33 Peter is called Satan
Luke 11:24 describes the action of unclean spirits.
 - d) in desert areas eg Matt 4:1-11 Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness.
This belief that certain wild and unpopulated areas were inhabited by devils or evil spirits was not restricted to the Jews.
The Arabs of southern Palestine talk of desert *Jinns* who live in wild places and attack travellers.
 - e) in the sea eg the word used by Jesus to calm the storm Mark 4:35-41 is the same word he uses to cast out unclean spirits.
The pigs containing evil spirits from Legion run back into the sea in Mark 5:13.
Jesus walks on top of the water placing evil under his feet in Mark 6:45-52.