1. **Luke 8:26-39**
   * + Where have the Apostles and Jesus traveled too?
     + Where are Gergesa and Gerasa located in relation to Galilee (see the Map)?
     + Read the **footnote for Luke 8:26**, and view the map, then state whether you believe this area was primarily populated by Jews or Gentiles? Please explain your reasoning.
     + **Isaiah 65:1-4**
     + How might Jesus’ travel to this area fulfill the prophecy in **Isaiah 65:1**-**4**?
     + Reflect back on the **Gospel**, what are some indicators that are given as evidence the person is possessed by a demon, aside from the scripture explicitly stating he is?
     + **Leviticus 11:6b-8, Numbers 19:11-18**
     + Why do you think the man in this story had become possessed?
     + Why was he so strong?
     + Why do you think Jesus asked for the Unclean Spirit’s name?
     + What does the name given represent?
     + What might living among the tombs represent for the people of the world today?
     + What might the swine represent?
     + What might being “driven by the demons into deserted places” represent?
     + What comes to mind about your own faith journey when you consider all three questions?
     + Why did the town beg Jesus to leave after he performed this great miracle?
     + What event does the drowning of the swine in the sea bring to mind when you consider the **Old Testament** stories?
     + The healed man begged to remain with Christ, why do you think that is?
     + In the end, what did Christ ask of the man and why do you think Christ made this request?
     + **John 17:3-5, Proverbs 8:22-36, Sirach 24:3-10, John 17:3-5**
     + If Jesus is the Son of the Most High God and God is eternal, how long has Jesus existed?
     + How long has Jesus existed in the flesh?

* **St. Ambrose** (339 AD – 397 AD) *Exposition of The Gospel of Luke 6.45-48*

“Moreover, not unfittingly does St. Matthew say that **they lived in the tombs**, since the **souls of such men seem to dwell among the mounds of sepulchers**. For what are the bodies of **unbelievers in which the Word of God does not dwell, but the tombs of dead men**? Therefore, he was driven to **spiritually deserted places**, barren of virtues, banished by the Law, set aside by the Prophet, **far removed from the Grace**. For he was beset, not by a single demon, but by the assault of a **whole legion**, which when they saw and knew the Lord, prescient that at the time of His Coming they would be driven into the abyss, began to beg for leave to enter into the swine.”

“**Who are the swine**, save perhaps those to whom it is said, ‘Give not which is holy to dogs, neither cast your pearls before swine, lest perhaps they trample them beneath their feet’. **Those of course who, in the custom of unclean animals, devoid of voice or reasoning, have by the vile actions of their life defiled the ornaments of natural virtues**, who are carried by **fury to the precipice**, since they are **not called back by contemplation of any merit**, but, as if thrust down the **slope of wickedness** from the heights to the depths, are **suffocated amid the wavering’s of this world**, perishing by the mode of stranglers with the **passage of the spirit blocked**, for among those who, hesitant, are carried here and there by the slack surge, there cannot be the vital communication of any spirit. Therefore, we see that man himself is the author of his own tribulation. For if someone **had not lived like a swine, the Devil would never have received power over him**, or, if he had received it, not to destroy, but to test him. Or, perhaps, because after the Lord’s coming he could already not corrupt the good, he now seeks the destruction not of all men, but of the fickle, **as a bandit does not lie in wait for armed men, but for the defenseless**, and importunes the weak with wrongs, he who understands that he will be despised by the strong or destroyed by the powerful.”

* **St. Cyril of Alexandria** (378 AD – 444 AD) *Commentary on Luke Sermon 44*

”For they, carefully wrapped in their grave-clothes, are laid in the earth, like one on his mother’s bosom, but he in **great misery** and **nakedness**, wandering among the graves of the dead was **in utter wretchedness**, leading a **disgraceful** life. He was a **proof of the cruelty of the demons and a plain demonstration of their impurity**. Whoever they possess and subject to their power, at once they make him an example of great misery, **deprived of every blessing**, destitute of all sobriety, and entirely **deprived even of reason**. Some say, ‘Why do demons possess people?’ I answer those who wish to have this explained that the reason of these things is very deep. Somewhere one of his saints addressed God by saying ‘Your judgements are a vast abyss”. As long as we bear this in mind, we will perhaps not miss the mark. The God of all purposely permits some to fall into their power. He does not do this so that they may suffer, but **so we may learn by their example how the demons treat us** and may avoid the desire of being subject to them**. For by the suffering of one, many are edified**.”

A map of israel with cities

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