

Sunday, May 01, 2011—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 3:22-27: The Binding of the Strong Man

Mark 3:22-23

- *“And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. 23) And he called them [unto him], and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?”*
- The Scribes that came down from Jerusalem accuse Christ of having Beelzebub. Beelzebub is another name for Satan in Scripture. This term specifically designates Satan’s position as the prince of devils.
- Revelation 12:7-9—Satan is the leader of the heavenly hosts that followed him in his rebellion against God. Beelzebub is a term that describes Satan’s position as the prince of devils.
- Mark 3:23—clearly identifies Beelzebub as Satan.
- The Scribes charge regarding Christ is clear. Jesus was possessed of Beelzebub and was using the power of the prince of devils to cast out devils.
- Matthew 12:22-24—Matthew offers more detail regarding the details of Scribes accusation. Jesus had just healed a man possessed with a devil that could not see or speak. This prompted people to conclude that Jesus was the son of David.
- Isaiah 35:4-6—two of the prophetic signs that the Kingdom of God was at hand would be the eyes of the blind seeing and the tongue of the dumb singing. That is why when Jesus heals the man in Matthew 12:22 they immediately conclude that Jesus was the Son of David.
- Matthew 12:24—meanwhile the Pharisees who reject Christ’s true identity as the Son of David offer an alternative explanation. Jesus was casting out devils through the power of Beelzebub the prince of devils.

Mark 3:24-26

- *“And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25) And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26) And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.”*
- Jesus now addresses the ridiculous nature of their charge by offering three examples.
 - A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.
 - A divided against itself cannot stand.

- Satan would never rise up against himself and be divided because he could not stand.
- Therefore, it is totally crazy to accuse Christ of casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub the prince of devils because it would result in Satan dividing himself against himself.
- Matthew 12:25-26—you need to notice in verse 26 that Satan had built a kingdom within Israel.
- Matthew 4:8-9—Satan possessed the authority of the kingdom of the world including Israel.
- Isaiah 49:24-26—Satan held the nation of Israel as his lawful captive. Satan attacked Israel according to the terms of the law and thereby caused them to live the gentile nations that surrounded her. Christ comes in his earthly ministry to contend for his nation with the one who was holding her captive.

Mark 3:27

- ***“No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.”***
- Satan had made himself at home within Israel as was holding God's nations as his lawful captive. Therefore, in order for Christ to reclaim what was rightly his, He first need to bind the strong man and then he would be able to spoil his house.
- Through the casting out of devils Jesus was in the process of binding the strong man and contending for Israel.
- Matthew 12:27—Jesus turns the tables on Scribes and Pharisees and asks them a question of his own.
 - Matthew 10:5-8—if Christ by the power of Beelzebub was casting out devils then based on what authority were the 12 doing the same thing?
 - Luke 22:30—the 12 apostles will sit on twelve thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Matthew 12:28—the casting out of devils by the Spirit of God should have signified to the entire nation of Israel (leadership included) that the kingdom of God has come unto them and was in fact at hand.
- Luke 11:19-20
- Luke 11:21—“keepteh” means to guard or the watch.
 - Luke 2:8

- Satan as a strong man had armed his palace/house so that he might keep his goods safe (Israel). In the context what had Satan armed himself with? Evil Spirits
- Luke 11:22—Christ as the stronger one was in the process of taking from Satan all the armor wherein he had trusted.
- Where do you read about demon possession in the Bible? In the Gospels
- What is going on the gospels that had not happened before or since? The eternal Son of God was on earth incarnate in human flesh to contend with Israel's lawful captive.
- Satan sought to fortify his possession Israel through the widespread use of demon possession. During his earthly ministry, through the casting out of devils, Christ is in the process of removing the strong man's armour so that he can divide the spoils.
- Mark 5:1-13—the Satanic policy of evil was to infest the country of Israel with unclean spirits as form of armour against the presence of the Lord.