

**Jesus First Trial—Part 3**  
**“Casting Out Demons by the Power of Satan”**  
**Matthew 12:22-30**

**I. The Pharisees’ Blaspheinous Charge (vs. 22-24)**

- a. **Then** does not mean immediately after the previous Sabbath confrontations but probably sometime later in that same year (cf. Mark 3; Luke 11)
- b. Jesus healed the man completely, immediately, and permanently, fulfilling many Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah (Isa. 35:5ff; 29:18; 35:5-6; 42:7, 16)
- c. **existēmi** (ἐξίστημι) = “to be amazed or astonished,” “insanity,” “being out of your mind,” or “beside oneself” (cf. Mark 3:21; 2 Cor. 5:13)
- d. Son of David was a well-recognized title for the Messiah (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12–16; Ps. 89:3; Isa. 9:6–7; Amos 9:11; Matt. 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30–31; 21:9, 15; 22:42; John 4:29; 7:31, 42)
  - i. But the grammar tells us the crowd was skeptical and that they kept asking the question repeatedly.
- e. Until the Pharisees heard it and blasphemously charged Jesus: **“This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”**
- f. **Beelzebul** (Βεελζεβούλ) = **Baal-zebul** (a Canaanite false god) = “Baal, the prince” or “lord of the high place” (cf. 2 Kings 1:2; Matt. 9:32–34; 10:25; 12:24–26; 9:34; 12:24; Mark 3:22–30; Luke 11:14–26; John 7:20; 8:48)

**II. Jesus’ Fourfold Defense (vs. 25-29)**

- a. A L\_\_\_\_\_ Argument (vs. 25-26)
  - i. Jesus supernaturally knew their thoughts.
  - ii. Logically, not a **kingdom, city, house**, or even a sports team can succeed if it is **divided against itself!**
  - iii. So, if Jesus casts out demons by the power of Satan, then Satan is destroying his own kingdom!

- b. A P\_\_\_\_\_ Argument (v. 27)
  - i. Jesus was not the first person to cast out demons.
  - ii. The 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish historian Josephus recorded that their Jewish exorcists in Jesus’ day; he even reported seeing one in person (*Antiquities*, VIII, ii, 5; *The Jewish War*, VII, vi, 3 & the Seven Sons of Sceva Acts 19:13-16)
  - iii. **sons** = pupils, disciples, the “sons of the prophets” (cf. 1 Kings 20:35; 2 Kings 2:3)
  - iv. **they will be your judges**
    1. Whether their **sons** said they cast our demons by the power of God or Satan, the Pharisees were condemned.
- c. An E\_\_\_\_\_ Argument (v. 28)
  - i. **If A=B and B=C then A=C**
  - ii. **Spirit = Pneuma** (πνεῦμα) = Holy Spirit
  - iii. First-class conditional sentence assumed to be true.
  - iv. Matthew’s use of **the kingdom of God** instead of *the kingdom of heaven* signifies how serious Jesus’ declaration! (cf. Matt. 19:24; 21:31; 21:43)
  - v. **come** = “Already But Not Yet”
    1. Jesus’ kingdom has ALREADY come and exists in every person who repents, trusts in, and follows Him (cf. Ps. 2:6; Jer. 23:5; Zech. 9:9; Eph. 1:6; Col. 1:13)
    2. Jesus’ kingdom has NOT YET been fully experienced until He returns to establish His Millennial Kingdom
  - vi. **come upon you = phthanō** (φθάνω) = “to come, to overtake” & **epi** (ἐπι) = “the marker for whom responsibility falls”
- d. A C\_\_\_\_\_ Argument (v. 29)
  - i. The **strong man** is Satan, and **his property** is demonic activity (cf. Mark 3:22-27; Luke 11:21-23)
  - ii. Jesus had proven He was stronger than Satan, and now was plundering his house by casting out demons.
  - iii. We are not empowered or commanded to rebuke, cast out, or bind Satan and his demons (cf. Gal. 5:22-23; Jude 1:9; cf. Zech. 3:2; Eph. 6:10-18; James 4:7; Heb. 12:2)