

# Mark 3:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

## Analysis

Scribes from Jerusalem accused: 'He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.' This blasphemous charge attributes Jesus' exorcisms to satanic power. 'Beelzebub' (Βεελζεβούλ) derives from Ba'al Zebub ('lord of flies'), Philistine god (2 Kings 1:2), here identified with Satan. The accusation is absurd—Satan casting out Satan—yet reveals hardened hearts desperately rationalizing undeniable miracles. When unable to deny power, opponents attribute it to evil. This leads to teaching on blasphemy against Holy Spirit (vv. 28-29).

## Historical Context

Jerusalem scribes represented official religious establishment investigating Jesus. Their presence indicates institutional concern. The charge was serious—deuteronomic law mandated death for false prophets (Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 18:20). By attributing power to Beelzebub, they justified eventual execution. This accusation recurs (Matthew 9:34; 12:24; John 7:20; 8:48; 10:20). Early Christians faced similar charges.

## Related Passages

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

### Study Questions

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1. How do hardened hearts rationalize clear evidence of God's work to maintain unbelief?
2. What does this accusation reveal about danger of persistent rejection of truth?
3. How should believers respond when opponents attribute God's work to evil?

### Interlinear Text

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καὶ τὰ γραμματεῖς τὰ ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων καταβάντες  
And which the scribes which from Jerusalem came down  
G2532 G3588 G1122 G3588 G575 G2414 G2597

ἔλεγον ὅτι Βεελζεβοὺλ ἔχει καὶ ὅτι ἐν τὰ ἄρχοντι  
said G3754 Beelzebub He hath And G3754 by which the prince  
G3004 G954 G2192 G2532 G1722 G3588 G758

τὰ δαιμόνια ἐκβάλλει τὰ δαιμόνια  
which devils casteth he out which devils  
G3588 G1140 G1544 G3588 G1140

### Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 15:1** (References Jerusalem): Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

**Matthew 10:25** (Parallel theme): It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

**Matthew 12:24** (Evil): But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

**Matthew 9:34** (Evil): But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.

**John 7:20** (Evil): The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

**Mark 7:1** (References Jerusalem): Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem.

**Matthew 11:18** (Evil): For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.

**John 8:52** (Evil): Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

**John 8:48** (Evil): Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

**Luke 11:15** (Evil): But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.

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