

# 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

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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' (Βεελζεβοὺλ) 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

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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

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**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	Βεελζεβοῦλ	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.