

Mark 3:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

Analysis

Jesus uses political imagery: 'If a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.' This self-evident principle applies to all organizations—internal division causes collapse. 'Divided' (μερισθῆ) means split, fragmented. Jesus' logic is inescapable—self-defeating action ensures destruction. Applied to Satan: if he casts out demons, he destroys his kingdom. Therefore, exorcisms must come from opposing power—God's kingdom overcoming Satan's. This silences opponents while revealing divine authority.

Historical Context

First-century Palestine witnessed numerous failed political movements torn by division—Zealot factions, messianic pretenders, revolutionary groups collapsed through infighting. Roman empire maintained control through divide-and-conquer. Jesus' audience understood political fragmentation's consequences. Application to spiritual realm reveals cosmic conflict underlying history.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' logic about divided kingdoms apply to church unity?
2. What does this principle teach about necessity of unified purpose in ministry?
3. How should you respond to division within Christian communities?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐὰν βασιλεία ἐφ' ἐαυτὴν μερισθῇ οὐ δύναται
And if a kingdom against itself be divided cannot
G2532 G1437 G932 G1909 G1438 G3307 G3756 G1410

σταθῆναι ἡ βασιλεία ἐκείνη·
stand a kingdom that
G2476 G3588 G932 G1565

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 20:6 (Parallel theme): And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.

2 Samuel 20:1 (Parallel theme): And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel.