

Mark 3:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.

Analysis

Jesus concludes the argument: 'If Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.' The conditional 'if' assumes the scribes' accusation for sake of argument, then demonstrates its absurdity. Satan rising against himself equals self-destruction. The phrase 'hath an end' (τέλος ἔχει) means complete termination—Satan's kingdom would cease to exist. This proves Jesus' exorcisms don't come from satanic power but from superior force—God's kingdom. The logic is undeniable: Jesus' power over demons demonstrates God's authority breaking Satan's rule.

Historical Context

Jewish theology understood Satan as real spiritual adversary opposing God and afflicting humanity. Demonic oppression was widespread. Exorcism was practiced but often ineffective. Jesus' consistent success over demons demonstrated unique authority. This passage anticipates fuller teaching on Satan's defeat—Jesus sees Satan 'fall like lightning' (Luke 10:18); at cross, judgment comes upon 'ruler of this world' (John 12:31); ultimately Satan is bound and destroyed (Revelation 20:1-10).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' victory over Satan encourage you in spiritual warfare?
2. What does Satan's ultimate 'end' teach about certainty of God's triumph?
3. How should you respond to satanic opposition knowing Christ has already won decisive victory?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἰ	ὁ	Σατανᾶς	ἀνέστη	ἐφ'	ἑαυτὸν	καὶ
And	if	G3588	Satan	rise up	against	himself	And
G2532	G1487		G4567	G450	G1909	G1438	G2532
μεμερίσται,	οὐ	δύναται	σταθῆναι,	ἀλλὰ	τέλος	ἔχει	
be divided	he cannot	G1410	stand	but	an end	hath	
G3307	G3756		G2476	G235	G5056	G2192	

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