

Matthew 12:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Analysis

Seven other spirits more wicked (ἑπτὰ ἕτερα πνεύματα πονηρότερα, hepta hetera pneumata ponērotera)—Seven represents completeness in Scripture; the final state features comprehensive, intensified evil. Ponērotera is the comparative of ponēros ('wicked'), meaning 'more malicious, more actively harmful.'

The last state of that man is worse than the first (τὰ ἔσχατα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐκείνου χείρονα τῶν πρώτων, ta eschata tou anthrōpou ekeinou cheirona tōn prōtōn)—Reformation without regeneration doesn't produce neutrality but intensifies judgment. Jesus applies this to **this wicked generation** (τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ πονηρᾷ, tē genea tautē tē ponēra)—Israel's rejection of Messiah after centuries of prophetic preparation made them worse than pagan nations. Privilege increases responsibility.

Historical Context

Jesus prophetically warned of AD 70 judgment when Jerusalem's destruction proved worse than Babylonian exile (586 BC). The generation that rejected Christ experienced unprecedented suffering, validating Jesus's warning that religious reform without Christ brings greater condemnation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this passage challenge the modern idea that all spiritual paths lead to improvement?
2. Are there areas where you've substituted religious activity for genuine Spirit-filling and authentic relationship with Christ?

Interlinear Text

τότε πορεύεται καὶ παραλαμβάνει μεθ' ἑαυτοῦ ἑπτὰ
Then **goeth he** **also** **taketh** **with** **himself** **seven**
G5119 G4198 G2532 G3880 G3326 G1438 G2033

ἕτερα πνεύματα πονηρότερα ἑαυτοῦ καὶ εἰσελθόντα
other **spirits** **more wicked** **himself** **also** **they enter in**
G2087 G4151 G4191 G1438 G2532 G1525

κατοικεῖ ἐκεῖ· καὶ γίνεται τὰ ἔσχατα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου
and dwell **there** **also** **is** **the last** **man**
G2730 G1563 G2532 G1096 G3588 G2078 G444

ἐκείνου χείρονα τῶν πρώτων οὕτως ἔσται καὶ τῇ
state of that **worse than** **the first** **Even so** **shall it be** **also**
G1565 G5501 G3588 G4413 G3779 G2071 G2532 G3588

γενεᾶ ταύτῃ τῇ πονηρᾷ
generation **wicked**
G1074 G3778 G3588 G4190

Additional Cross-References

Luke 11:26 (Spirit): Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

Mark 5:9 (Parallel theme): And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

Mark 16:9 (Evil): Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

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