

MARK 3.22-30

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, **"How can** Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **And if a house** is divided against itself, that house will **not be able** to stand. And if Satan **has risen up** against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but **his end has come.**

But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins **and whatever blasphemies they utter**; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can **never** have forgiveness, **but is guilty of an eternal sin"- for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."**

MATHEW 12.22-32

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute; and he cured him, so that the one who had been mute could speak **and see. All** the crowds were amazed and said, **"Can this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard it**, they said, "It is **only** by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that **this fellow** casts out the demons." **He knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom** divided against itself **is laid waste**, and **no city or** house divided against itself will stand. **If** Satan casts out Satan, he **is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? If I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you.**

Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his property, without first tying up the strong man? Then indeed the house can be plundered. **Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.** Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. **Whoever speaks a word against the Human One will be forgiven, but whoever speaks** against the Holy Spirit **will not** be forgiven, **either in this age or in the age to come.**

[cf. Luke 12.10]

LUKE 11.14-26

Now he was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. But **some of them** said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." **Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom** divided against itself **becomes a desert**, and **house falls on house. If** Satan also **is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? --for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you.**

When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his plunder. **Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.**

"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' When it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first."