

(Matt. 12:22-23) - We are consistently reminded by the miracles the Lord Jesus Christ performed that the main reason for them was to point to Him as the one true Messiah, *"THE SON OF DAVID,"* Who is the Son of God incarnate and Who was not only able to heal people physically, but was also able to heal His people spiritually and eternally. Many followed Him only because of the miracles but not because they had God-given faith in Him as the Savior of sinners. Here, He healed *"ONE POSSESSED WITH A DEVIL, BLIND, AND DUMB."* When the man both spoke and saw, *"ALL THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED, AND SAID, IS NOT THIS THE SON OF DAVID?"* As stated, "the Son of David" was (and is) a messianic title showing Jesus of Nazareth to be the long-awaited Messiah, the Lord our Righteousness (Jer. 23:5-6; 33:15-16). Seventeen verses in the New Testament describe Jesus as "the son of David" showing how Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfillment of the prophecy of the seed of David (2 Sam. 7:12-16). Jesus is the promised Messiah, which means He had to be of the lineage of David. Matthew 1 gives the genealogical proof that Jesus, in His humanity, was a direct descendant of Abraham and David through Joseph, Jesus' legal father. The genealogy in Luke 3 traces Jesus' lineage through His mother, Mary. Jesus is a descendant of David by adoption through Joseph and by blood through Mary. All of this shows the establishment of the kingdom of God came through Jesus, God manifest in the flesh (Matt. 1:21,23).

(Matt. 12:24) - The hatred of the Pharisees for Jesus was expressed in this awful and extreme accusation, claiming that Jesus *"DOTH NOT CAST OUT DEVILS, BUT BY BEELZEBUB THE PRINCE OF THE DEVILS,"* attributing the work of Christ to Satan and not to God. This shows how much they hated Him and His truth. Like many religious but unregenerate people, they were convinced that they were God's true people, but they themselves were deceived by Satan and lost in their sins. Christ told them, *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it"* (John 8:44). As the Lord would show later, they were *"blind leaders of the blind"* (Matt. 15:14). Their whole religion was a perversion of God's law and God's Word of salvation (Rom. 9:31-10:3). A spiritual connection with Satan is known by the false gospels that unbelievers embrace. This is why it takes the power and grace of God to show us and convince us of the one true way of salvation by God's free and sovereign grace in and by the Lord Jesus Christ and by His righteousness imputed alone (Rom. 10:4).

(Matt. 12:25-26) - *"AND JESUS KNEW THEIR THOUGHTS"* - Only God truly knows the hearts and minds of people, and His Word reaches to the heart to expose the reality of a person's state before Him (Heb. 4:12-13). This is another one of the many proofs that Jesus was (and is) God manifest in the flesh. He knew their thoughts and their hearts (John 2:23-25). *"AND SAID UNTO THEM, EVERY KINGDOM DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF IS BROUGHT TO DESOLATION; AND EVERY CITY OR HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF SHALL NOT STAND."* By this, Christ exposed the absurdity of their accusation. If He had cast out demons by the power of Satan, then Satan would be opposing himself. How could Satan's kingdom continue if it was engaged in an attack against itself? Their slander was ridiculous and unreasonable - *"IF SATAN CAST OUT SATAN, HE IS DIVIDED AGAINST HIMSELF; HOW SHALL THEN HIS KINGDOM STAND?"*

(Matt. 12:27) - The Pharisees themselves claimed to have the power to *"CAST OUT DEVILS,"* and they taught that this power was from God alone. How, then, could they honestly attribute Jesus' power to cast out devils to *"BEELZEBUB"* (another name for Satan). Their slander was not only outrageous, but also inconsistent with their own teaching. They,

therefore, would be condemning themselves because they claimed to do the same thing. They would also be accusing their own students whom they taught that this was a power that could come only from God. Their own pupils would be their judges and condemn them for such reasoning.

(Matt. 12:28) - The Lord, then, challenged them by using their own teaching against them - *“BUT IF I CAST OUT DEVILS BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, (which they taught concerning the issue of casting out devils), THEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS COME UNTO YOU,”* (i.e. they would have to admit that the kingdom of God is come by His arrival). All that Jesus said and did was proof that He Himself was sent of God, and His claim of being God manifest in the flesh and of being the Messiah (the Savior of sinners) was (and is) true. This would expose them as being of the devil and not of God (John 8:44). It would also prove Him to be the Messiah- King Who by His obedience unto death brought in and establish the kingdom of God in the salvation of His people by His grace and mercy. When Christ came into the world, He came to bring in the spiritual and eternal kingdom of God, the kingdom of grace and righteousness - *“That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom. 5:21). Christ is the true King of kings, and His sceptre (His rule) is a sceptre of righteousness by which He judges the world (Acts 17:31). All of His subjects have been saved by His grace and brought by Him to submit to Him as the Lord their righteousness. He sends His Spirit forth to bring them to bow to His claims as the Savior-King.

(Matt. 12:29) - The fact that that Jesus casts out demons proves that He is of God and against Satan. From the very beginning of His first advent, He was at war with Satan whom He described here as *“A STRONG MAN.”* Satan is very strong, but his strength does not compare to the strength of our Lord. Satan is working to deceive many people, but *“the gates of hell will not prevail against”* our Savior (Matt. 16:18). Christ has already and will *“SPOIL HIS HOUSE.”* Our Lord defeated Satan when Satan sought to kill Him at His birth. He defeated Satan on the mount of temptation when He withstood all that Satan tried to use to lure Him away from serving and doing the will of His Father. He defeated Satan when He cast him down by going to the cross to redeem His people with His blood and to satisfy God’s justice for His people by establishing righteousness by which God has justified them (John 12:31-32). Christ has defeated Satan every time He sends the Holy Spirit to give spiritual and eternal life to His chosen people and bring them to faith in Christ and repentance of dead works and idolatry (2 Cor. 4:3-6; Col. 1:9-14).

(Matt. 12:30) - *“HE THAT IS NOT WITH ME IS AGAINST ME; AND HE THAT GATHERETH NOT WITH ME SCATTERETH ABROAD”* - There is no such thing as neutrality when it comes to the Lord Jesus Christ. Every person is, like Moses, on the Lord’s side (Exod. 32:26), committed to Christ and His Gospel, or, they are, like the Pharisees, enemies of and totally opposed to Christ and His Gospel. Those who are against Christ are committed to the world, the flesh, and the cause of Satan. Jesus of Nazareth was not in league with Satan. He is the Good Shepherd Who gave His life in the cause of the glory of God and for His sheep to redeem them from sin and release them from the deception of Satan. Christ gathers His sheep unto Himself by the preaching of the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and effectual grace (John 10:16). He brings us into a spiritual union with the Father and with Himself (1 John 1:3). He brings His people out from under the power of darkness and brings them into His kingdom which has come and has been established by His blood to redeem all of them from their sins (Col. 1:12-14).