

SATAN IS NOT DIVIDED AGAINST HIMSELF

Satan is not divided against himself, but with all his might he works to divide God's people. When the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan, Jesus, in turn, reasoned with them that this makes no sense. Although Satan is a master at creating ungodly, destructive division, he does not apply that against himself. That would be absurdly illogical. So, Jesus said...

Matthew 12:26 (NKJV)

26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

Here is the logic part! If Satan casts out Satan, that means he is divided against himself, and that is totally self-defeating. In that case, his kingdom for sure would not stand.

But Satan is not that dumb! He is not divided against himself. Rather, he heads up a well-organized kingdom of evil, as seen in Ephesians 6:12, where it indicates the saints wrestle against these organized forces of evil.

Jesus called Satan "the ruler of this world" (Jn. 12:31). Paul referred to him as "the god of this age" (2 Cor. 4:4). He is the spirit who "now works in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). Jesus spoke of the "power of Satan" in Acts 26:18 and Paul referred to this as "the power of darkness" in Colossians 1:13. The devil has his angels which are a well organized host of rebel spiritual forces otherwise known as demons (cf. Mt. 25:41).

It is absurd to think the devil is actually divided against himself. Rather, he is trying to divide and conquer every God-ordained institution, whether it be the home, the church, or the state. And he is very well organized in his efforts to sow division everywhere.

If you want to see how good Satan is at sowing division, just look at what he did during the COVID years. He exploited it for all its worth on every level. Even God's people got to fighting about all kinds of things for which no one even had answers.

I always say the one thing about the devil is that he is good at what he does. He is a master deceiver and a master at sowing division. But it is crazy to think that he is divided amongst himself. Rather, the devil and his minions are very much united in their evil schemes.

We have no hint anywhere in Scripture that the demonic forces of evil are at war or opposed to each other. They are not! There is rank and file but they are not divided.

Matthew 12:27 (NKJV)

27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

Not only was their premise illogically absurd, but it was also inconsistent with their own claims. The “sons” in view were evidently the disciples of the Pharisees who claimed to have an exorcism ministry (cf. Acts 19:13-16).

“Whether or not the Jews did perform valid exorcisms is not necessary to the argument. The fact that the Pharisees claimed it made the argument effective.” – *Wycliffe Bible Commentary*

I take it that they did not REALLY do this although they claimed it and therefore Jesus is basing His argument on logical consistency based on their CLAIMS.

Note it does not seem that what Jesus was doing was in any way NORMAL even though the Pharisees may have claimed power over demons. As we move further into the NT this claim to have power over demons is seen to be typical of false teachers and their boasting (cf. 2 Pet. 2:10-11, Jude 8-9).

Luke 4:36 (NKJV)

36 Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, “What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.”

The plain sense is that what Jesus was doing in casting out demons was unprecedented.

Matthew 8:16–17 (NKJV)

16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,

17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.”

No one else was doing this. We have NO example of demons being cast out in the OT. And in the NT in Acts 19:13-16 we see that when Jewish exorcists tried to mimic Paul in doing so that the man in whom the evil spirit

was overpowered them, resulting in them fleeing naked and wounded. That is NOT a successful exorcism ministry!

So I take it that Jesus simply used their CLAIM as a premise to show their hypocritical inconsistency. If Jesus cast out demons by Beelzebub then logical consistency would mean that their disciples (Jewish exorcists) must also be doing the same thing – something the Pharisees would NEVER admit. The consistency of this argument could not be escaped – that is if they were truly consistent.

Therefore Jesus says their own “sons” would in effect judge them as being inconsistent. Logical consistency says if the power to cast out demons is of Satan, then all those who are doing it must be doing it by the power of Satan. Thus, Jesus shows the absurdity of their hypocritical inconsistency!