

Research: **Healing of the Demoniac (the blind and dumb man)**

The same account, substantially, is found in Mark 3:22-27 and Luke 11:14-26.

Matt. 12:22-29

22 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

The words, “possessed with a devil,” in Greek (*daimonizomai*) mean “to be under the power of a demon; possessed with devils; vexed with a devil. In the N.T. these are persons afflicted with especially severe diseases, either bodily or mental (such as paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, insanity, etc.) whose bodies in the opinion of the Jews demons had entered, and so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves; accordingly the possessed were wont to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them; and their cure was thought to require the expulsion of the demon” (Thayer 123).

594:22

SPIRITS. Mortal beliefs; corporeality; evil minds; supposed intelligences, or gods; the opposites of God; errors; hallucinations.

Two articles by Mary Baker Eddy for further study:

“Description of devil” (Miscellaneous Writings 190:11-192:9)

“Is there a personal devil?” (No and Yes 22:15-25:7)

24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

“It was necessary for the Pharisees, who had determined to reject Jesus of Nazareth, to account in same way for the miracles he had wrought. Here was a manifest miracle, an exertion of power unquestionably superior to what men could do. The common people were fast drawing the proper inferences from it and coming into the belief that this was the Messiah” (Barnes Notes).

“The ridiculous charge of the Pharisees is strong evidence of the genuineness of Christ’s miracles. They would have denied them if they could, but this was impossible, so numerous and notorious were they.

“So, they started the flimsy theory that Christ was in league with the devil, not really believing it, but out of malice” (Dummelow).

“Mark (33:22) says ‘the scribes which came down from Jerusalem;’ so that this had been a hostile party of the ecclesiastics, who had come all the way from Jerusalem to collect materials for a charge against him” (Jamieson-Faussett-Brown).

Here are a few citations on that Mary Baker Eddy says about “Beelzebub.”

[I have bolded and put them in italics]

Mis 63:2

It was said of old by Truth-traducers, that Jesus healed through *Beelzebub*; but the claim that one erring mind cures another one was at first gotten up to hinder his benign influence and to hide his divine power.

Hea 13:22-26

What are the foundations of metaphysical healing? *Mind*, divine Science, the truth of being that casts out error and thus heals the sick. You can readily perceive this mental system of healing is the antipode of mesmerism, *Beelzebub*.

25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

“A kingdom or family can prosper only by living in harmony. The different parts and members must unite in promoting the same objects. If divided—if one part undoes what the other does—it must fall” (Barnes Notes).

The word “divided” is *merizo* in Greek and means “to separate into parts, cut into pieces, to be split into factions, to divide” (Thayer 399).

581:17-22

BABEL. Self-destroying error; a kingdom divided against itself, which cannot stand; material knowledge.

The higher false knowledge builds on the basis of evidence obtained from the five corporeal senses, the more confusion ensues, and the more certain is the downfall of its structure.

26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

The word for “Satan” in Greek is *satanas* and means “adversary; one who opposes another in purpose or act; the name given to the prince of evil spirits, the inveterate adversary of God and Christ” (Thayer 572).

Mis 108:6

Our Master, in his definition of Satan as a liar from the beginning, attested the absolute powerlessness — yea, nothingness — of evil: since a lie, being without foundation in fact, is merely a falsity; spiritually, literally, it is nothing.

“The argument here is irresistible: ‘no organized society can stand — whether kingdom, city, or household — when turned against itself; such intestine war is suicidal: But the works I do are destructive of Satan’s kingdom: That I should be in league with Satan, therefore, is incredible and absurd’” (Jamieson 3.73).

28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

“The Spirit of God, here, means the power of God – in Luke, *by the finger of God*” (Barnes Notes).

Luke 11:20

But if I with the finger of God cast out

The word “finger” in Greek is *daktylos* and means “by the power of God, divine efficiency by which something is made visible to men.” This is the way the commandments were written on the tablets, up on the mount.

Ex 31:18

And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

“The kingdom of God is come unto you. This is shown not by the mere fact of Jesus working miracles, but by the extraordinary character, number, and variety of His miracles, which fully fulfilled what the prophets had spoken of the wonders of the Messianic age” (Dummelow 668).