

# WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



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Mark 3:22–30

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**22** And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” **23** And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? **24** If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **25** And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. **26** And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. **27** But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

**28** “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, **29** but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — **30** for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

## There are Two Kingdoms

- “But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house” (v. 27)
- The Kingdom of the “Strong Man”
  - Beelzebul, Prince of Demons, Satan

- “Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths” (Genesis 3:1–7).
- Lies are the way in which Satan possesses us.
- “He is the evil *behind* so much of the evil in our souls and society” (John Mark Comer, *Live No Lies*, 12).
- House=The Present World
- His Goods=People Satan possesses
- The Kingdom of the “Stronger Man”
  - “22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, ‘He is possessed by Beelzebul,’ and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.’ 23 And he called them to him and said to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end’” (Mark 3:22–26).
  - “The Bible is univocal in its testimony that God is sovereign and reigns supreme at all times. There has never been a time that God’s power or sovereignty has been compromised” (Clinton E. Arnold, “The Kingdom, Miracles, Satan, and Demons,” 159–160).
- Take the kingdom of Satan seriously; take the kingdom of God more seriously.

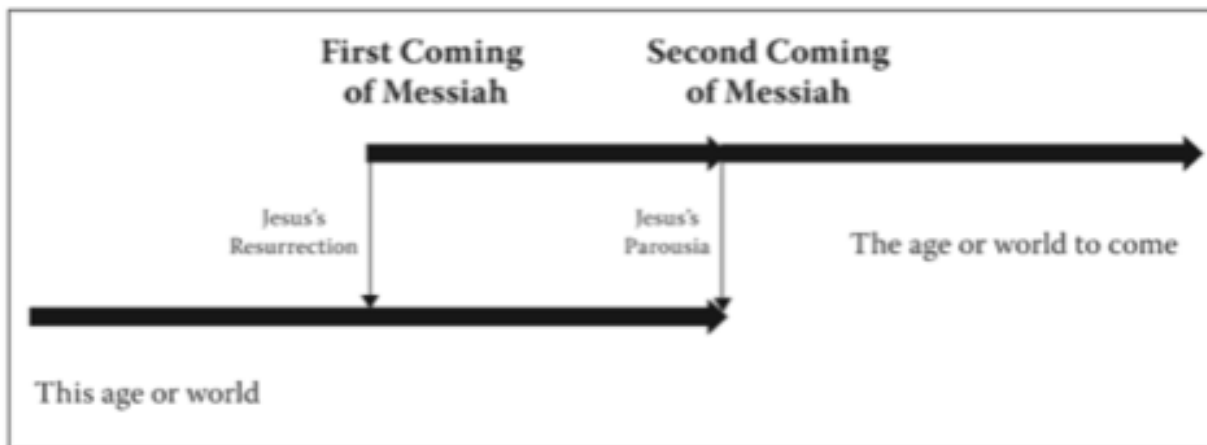
### Don’t confuse the Two Kingdoms

- “But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house” (v. 27)
- The Kingdom of Satan possesses people.
  - “Deception is tied to temptation, temptation to slavery to sin” (John Mark Comer, *Live No Lies*, 57).
- But Jesus binds Satan and frees people
  - At the very heart of our Lord’s mission is the need of reducing people from bondage to the satanic kingdom and of bringing them into the sphere of God’s kingdom” (George Eldon Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*, 50).
  - Jesus’ Ministry: Resisting Satan’s temptation in the wilderness & Exorcising Demons
  - The Cross

- “13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him” (Colossians 2:13–15).
- “When his commands to the demons were obeyed, there ought to be only one conclusion for the onlookers: Israel’s God was at last becoming king” (N. T. Wright, *Jesus and the Victory of God*, 453).
- The “Experts” had confused Good and Evil
  - “28 ‘Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin’ — 30 for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit” (vv. 28–30).
- Don’t confuse these 2 Kingdoms.

One Kingdom is victorious; the other will lose

- “But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house” (v. 27)
- How should we understand the kingdom of God?
  - Future only
  - Present Only
  - Already-Not Yet
    - Inaugurated Eschatology



- Jesus’ First Coming inaugurated the kingdom
- Jesus’ Return will consummate the kingdom
- “In general, those who believe that the kingdom is only ‘not yet’ will be extremely pessimistic and negative about change in people, the church, and society. Those people who believe the kingdom is already here will be overly optimistic and naive

about the possibility of revival, change, and transformation” (Tim Keller, *Hope In Times of Fear*, 31).

- “24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death” (1 Corinthians 15:24–26).
- Trust in God’s kingdom

Do not confuse Jesus’ victorious Kingdom for that of Satan’s losing kingdom.