

"JESUS CHRIST - A MAN APPROVED OF GOD (Acts 2:22)"

Miracle #12 - "Man with devil, blind and dumb"

Matt 12:22-25,26-29,30-32

In this case, Christ's miracle of healing the dumb and blind man with a devil, causes the scribes and the Pharisees to **accuse Jesus Christ of blasphemy**. Little did they know that the blind and dumb man before them represented themselves ...

blind because they see and see not (<u>Matthew 13:13-14</u>) ... and **dumb** because they speak not the truth (<u>Isaiah 59:4</u>).

DEFINITIONS

To **blaspheme** in the Bible is to insult, show contempt or lack of reverence in any way shape or form, **toward Almighty God**.

To **curse** in the Bible is to insult, place great harm, evil, or misfortune so as to bring evil or severe affliction or torment.

Man may blaspheme God but **not** the other way around. God does **not** blaspheme men but simply curses them (<u>Deuteronomy 30:19</u>) ... or blesses them.

In this case, the Pharisees and scribes accuse Christ of blasphemy ... of having a devil, that is, they are calling the Holy Ghost by the name of Beelzebub the prince of the devils. To which Christ aptly replies with profound reasoning about a kingdom divided cannot stand and so on (Matthew 12:25-28,29).

BLASPHEMING THE HOLY GHOST NO LONGER APPLIES

Now Dear Reader, at the outset, we clear up the dreadful error going around in churches today ... that is ... we can **blaspheme the Holy Ghost, and this can never be forgiven**. And this is true, but only applied to when Christ was on earth, but **not** now ... as Christ is in heaven ... and no-one can accuse Christ in heaven as having a devil in him.

To blaspheme the Holy Ghost was to say that Christ on earth had a devil working with him and not the Holy Ghost. It was to call the Holy Ghost a devil.

In the dispensation of Christ on earth, before the cross, with his preaching the kingdom of heaven, this was the case, however, in the kingdom of God dispensation we are currently in, this is a previous dispensational sin that has been paid for and forgiven with the **redemption** found in Christ's blood (<u>Colossian 1:14</u>).

ISRAEL HAS A HISTORY ABOUT BLASPHEMING

In the Old Testament, Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, is attacking Judah, and through his spokesman, Rabshakeh, is taunting King Hezekiah of Judah, that Judah's God could **not deliver** Judah from Assyria. This was a blasphemy against God Almighty ... and told as follows ...

"So the **servants of king Hezekiah** (Judah) came to **Isaiah** (God's prophet). And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master (Hezekieh), **Thus saith the LORD**, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants (Rabshakeh in particular) of **the king of Assyria** (Sennacherib) **have blasphemed me**. Behold, I will send a blast

upon him, and he (Sennacherib) shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land (Assyria); and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land." (2 Kings 19:5-7)

In addition, Sennacherib, in speaking through Rabshakeh, said that God did **not have enough strength** to deliver the children of Judah from Assyria's destruction ... something akin to a **baby being aborted at birth, due to lack of strength by the mother to push it out, and therefore dying in the womb ... as follows ...**

"And they (Hezekiah's servants) said unto him (Isaiah), Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and **blasphemy** (spoken by Sennacherib against God): for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth." (2 Kings 19:3)

Sennacherib, in essence, was blaspheming God, by stating that Judah would be like a child that dies in the womb, because **God did not have enough strength to deliver them** (from Assyria).

WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED

As the serpent was the first thing to be cursed in the Bible (<u>Genesis 3:14</u>) for blaspheming against God by calling into question what God had said (<u>Genesis 3:1</u>), we should not be surprised that his servants (<u>Romans 6:20</u>), the Pharisees and scribes, can do nothing but curse and blaspheme against the Lord as well, in calling the Holy Ghost Beelzebub.

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

Blasphemers end up destroying their own households as Sennacherib's 185,000 army was destroyed, and furthermore, his own sons killed him as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god (<u>Isaiah 37:36-38</u>).

The end result of those that falsely accuse of blasphemy is the **destruction of themselves**.

And as prophesied the scriptures state ...

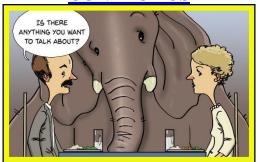
Behold, I will send a blast upon him (Sennacherib), and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword (by his own sons) in his own land." (2 Kings 19:7)

As stated, little did the scribes and the Pharisees know that the blind and dumb man before them represented themselves ... blind because they see and see not (Matthew 13:13-14) ... and dumb because they speak not the truth (Isaiah 59:4).

However should they have humbled themselves and repented, Christ could have spiritually healed them. Christ, in healing the blind, dumb and bedevilled man, was practically demonstrating that they could be freed of their devils and be healed of their blindness and dumbness.

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