

GOSPEL PEARLS

Wondrous signs

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But some of them said, "By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven. Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. "When a strong man, fully

armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder. "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. "When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first." (Luke 11: 15-26)

One of the most egregious lies used to belittle Jesus is that of being a follower of Satan. Jesus often accompanied his preaching with wondrous signs to reveal his Almighty Divinity. For His adversaries, Jesus's miracles are instead a sign of His subjugation to the power of the devil. In practice, their prejudice leads them to deny Jesus as God. If they do not convert, they will be condemned to hell. Today some people say that hell does not exist. But the problem is that Jesus said the exact opposite: hell does exist and it is easy to end up there, because the path to perdition is wide and easy to travel upon.