

A brief note on ascribing the (authoring) work of the Holy Spirit to Satan

I wrote an early ThinkTank piece on how I thought it was very doubtful that the “Unpardonable Sin” could be committed in modern times:

Good Question—isn't Jesus admitting that the Unpardonable sin *could* be committed today?
at <https://cttx.org/monopardon.html>

Jesus makes a passing reference to that event in Matthew 10:24-25:

“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.”

In the above quote, Jesus seems to be suggesting that the opponents were calling HIM 'Beelzebul', but this was probably a shorthand version of the 'unpardonable sin' controversies.

In those controversy passages, it was stated by this opponents that he was casting demons out BY THE POWER OF Beelzebul, the 'prince of demons'—which Jesus knew to be **SATAN**:

- “But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons **by the prince of demons.**” (Matthew 9.34)
- “Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by **Beelzebul, the prince of demons,** that this man casts out demons.” Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. And if **Satan casts out Satan**, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by **Beelzebul**, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.. ... [Matthew 12.22ff; 31ff]
- “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.” And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can **Satan cast out Satan?** ... **for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”**” (Mark 3.22ff, 28ff)

- "Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. But some of them said, "**He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,**" while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if **Satan** also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons **by Beelzebul**. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.. [Luke 11.14-20,

The actual agent was the **Holy Spirit**, which Jesus also designated as the "**Finger of God**" from the OT:

- "Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by **Beelzebul, the prince of demons,** that this man casts out demons." ... But if it is **by the Spirit of God** that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ... [Matthew 12.22ff; 31ff]
- "Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. But some of them said, "**He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,**" ... But if it is **by the finger of God** that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. [Luke 11.14-20,

Jesus' reference to the "Finger of God" identifies the Holy Spirit (of the exorcisms) with this OT agent.

This 'Finger of God' was explicitly the giver of the Mosaic Law:

- "And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, **written with the finger of God.**" [Exodus 31.18)
- "When I went up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant that the LORD made with you, I remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. And the LORD gave me the two **tablets of stone written with the finger of God**, and on them were **all the words** that the LORD had spoken with you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. [Deut 9:8ff]

And was thought by the Egyptian magicians to be the source/agent of the Plague of Gnats:

- "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.'" And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is **the finger of God.**" (Exodus 8:16-19)

So, since Jesus identifies this FINGER OF GOD with THE HOLY SPIRIT, and the FINGER OF GOD was the giver (scribe?) of the Mosaic Law given by YHWH, **then the consequences of denigrating, repudiating, denying, or speaking against/blasphemy this agent are very severe:**

- "But if it is **by the Spirit of God** that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ... Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the **blasphemy against the Spirit** will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but **whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit** will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.. [Matthew 12.22ff; 31ff]
- ""Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but **whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** never has forgiveness, **but is guilty of an eternal sin**"— **for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."** (Mark 3.22ff, 28ff)
- "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** will not be forgiven. (Luke 12.8)

I have thought about this often as the Other Voice ascribed the AUTHORSHIP work of the Spirit (in the OT) to SATAN.

Although the ministry of exorcism as facilitated by the Finger of God in/through Jesus is NOT IDENTICAL to the ministry of revelation (giving the OT scriptures in their entirety, *a la* Jesus and the New Testament writers), to believe that one is 'allowed' to blaspheme the Spirit in one of its ministries, but STRONGLY NOT SO in another is A SCARY POSITION TO TAKE—IMO.

For a regular believer to fall sway to teachers asserting that the spirit that gave the Law in the OT (the FINGER OF GOD) was actually SATAN, would be damaging and hurtful to say the least. But since any professions of that blasphemy by such students (a) would likely NOT BE long-term (e.g. the Spirit would lead them out of such a dangerous place) and; (b) would likely NOT BE a dishonest stance (like any teachers that espoused the view, but MIGHT KNOW BETTER), their mistakes wouldn't come close to being classified as 'unpardonable'.

However, the same cannot be said for those teachers—and they should be careful to examine their teachings, in light of Jesus' super-strong statements about calling the Holy Spirit by the name 'SATAN'.

For the regular believer, who might have been victimized by such teachers/teachings, it would be important to escape from such, since even semi-innocent actions can still hurt their relationship and enjoyment of the Living God.

I am not accusing anybody of anything, but this was close enough of a parallel to at least MENTION the issue.

.....

(A related issue, btw, comes up in reference to the Cross. Jesus is said to have offered Himself as a sacrifice 'through the eternal Spirit' [Hebrews 9.14]. To those who disparage this 'bloody sacrifice' as something evil and even satanic, a similar question arises: are they calling the Holy Spirit of Jesus' offering something 'unclean' in the process?)