

The Attackers: Salvation is by Faith Not By Works, Matt 7:21–23; Veneration of Saints Is Blasphemous, the False Doctrines of Supersessionism & Replacement Theology; Dispensationalism Defined; Davidic Covenant Realized: Jesus Discusses His Chart Pedigrees with the Pharisees, Matt 22:41–45

PRINCIPLE: Those who try to imitate our Lord's acts during the Incarnation for either salvation or spirituality are involved in evil; they are reversionists at best and charlatans at worst and their works are lawless. The gift of prophecy does not exist in the post-canon period of the Church Age.

There is no such thing as exorcism. The Greek verb **ἐξορκίζω (exorkizō)**, which is never used in the New Testament, is the source of the English noun "exorcist." Exorcism is a pagan ritual that counterfeits the legitimate act of "casting out" demons — **ἐκβάλλω (ekballō)** — which only the Lord and the apostles had the power to perform.

Miracles were performed by the humanity of our Lord through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit or the omnipotence of God the Father. No miracles are performed by human power; they are all empowered by divine omnipotence. No miracles are performed following the close of the canon. Consequently, all the miracles allegedly performed by those canonized as saints by the Catholic Church are spurious. While on this subject, the following excerpt adds clarity to the claim that sainthood is a dangerous idea; its tendency is to redirect proper worship away from God to deceased humans who allegedly can transfer merit to those who pray to them:

The worship of the saints would easily develop from such a doctrine. If a saint could really give his or her merit to any person, would not that saint be likely to give special favor to that person if he burned candles and brought special offerings to the saint? Would he or she not be more likely to give greater favors to those who brought better offerings. Gradually prayers and petitions would be offered almost exclusively to the saint, and the honor and worship which belongs to God alone would be transferred almost exclusively to the alleged saint. Because of the danger of such a situation arising, one can readily understand why God forbade all prayers and worship to anyone, but to God Himself.<sup>1</sup>

**2 Corinthians 11:13** - Such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ,

**v. 14** - No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

**v. 15** - Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end is according to their deeds.

22. One current lie asserting that the covenants to the Jews, including the Davidic, have been transferred to the church, is the philosophy of Supersessionism: to cause to be set aside or dropped from use as inferior or obsolete and replaced by something else; to supersede.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> F. E. Hamilton and R. L. Harris, "Saints," in *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, gen. ed. Merrill C. Tenney (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976), 5:217.

<sup>2</sup> *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language: Unabridged*, 2d ed., s.vv.: "supersession," "supersede."

23. Supersessionism is commonly known today as Replacement Theology which teaches that the church supersedes Israel in the plan of God and therefore the unconditional covenants to Israel have been transferred to the church.
24. This “replacement” also implies that the plan of God for Israel is completed and that the Jewish people are no longer an issue in world history following the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70.
25. The theology of Grace Doctrine Church views history through a dispensational prism which distinguishes six major categories of divine administration of God’s plan: (1) Gentiles, (2) Israel, (3) the Incarnation, (4) the Church, (5) the Tribulation, and (6) the Millennium.
26. Dispensationalism may be defined as follows:

**A system of hermeneutics which recognizes God’s administration of human history through delegated authority, that authority being a divine appointment which requires certain groups of people to accept the responsibility and accountability for the stewardship, guardianship, and dissemination of Bible doctrine, each appointment functioning under a distinctive economy; each economy not being as much a segment of time as a period of the outworking of human faithfulness or faithlessness with regard to its respective appointment; God’s changing of administrative agencies when the previous one fails; the resultant judgment for that failure with each succeeding administration retaining some of the regulations of the former, rescinding others, and receiving new ones through the process of progressive revelation.**

27. Because the Church has replaced Israel as the current administrative agency does not mean that the unconditional promises given to Israel have either been abrogated by God or absorbed by the Church. God communicated through the psalmist Ethan, “One thing I have sworn by My integrity; I will not lie to David. His descendants shall endure forever and his throne as the sun before Me” (Psalm 89:35-36, NASB).

#### **VI. The Davidic Covenant Realized:**

1. PRINCIPLE: No prophecy that has been fulfilled was fulfilled in any way other than literally.
2. The religious Jews of our Lord’s day were the first-century counterparts of today’s legalistic theologians: blind to grace; fixated on works.
3. The religious authorities and their followers in the first century assumed the Messiah would deliver them from Roman occupation and establish an autonomous Jewish empire which He would rule.
4. They failed to recognize the necessity of first being delivered from their sinful status through His substitutionary sacrifice on the cross, an event in which they played a significant role.
5. Some of those to whom Jesus ministered acknowledged His place in the chart pedigree of Israel by referring to Him as the “son of David” (Matthew 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30, 31; 21:9, 15; Mark 10:47, 48; Luke 18:38, 39).

6. Jesus used the chart pedigree of Israel as a means of trapping the Pharisees in:

**Matthew 22:41** - Now when the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question:

**v. 42** - "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "Of David."

PRINCIPLE: Know the enemy! If you are going to have a constructive dialogue with someone then you have to understand his viewpoint, his worldview, his disposition, his modus operandi. The Pharisees were biblical scholars but they were extremely weak in eschatology.

They were clearly aware of the Messiah's chart pedigree in the line of David but did not acknowledge His divine chart pedigree as the Son of God, either from ignorance of or disbelief in the hypostatic union.

The Lord then asks a question based on a major passage they know and whose answer will confirm Messiah's undiminished deity:

**Matthew 22:43** - He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying,

**v. 44** - [ Psalm 110:1 ] "The Lord [ Κύριος (*Kurios*): God the Father ] said to my Lord [ Κύριος (*Kurios*): Son of God ], 'Sit at My right hand, until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet'?"

**v. 45** - "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"