

THE FATAL FLAWS OF CHARISMANIA – Fatal Flaw #11: Employing the Disgraceful Scare Tactic Regarding Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit (Part Three of Three)

As used in Scripture, the word “blasphemy” can refer to a reproach or an accusation against someone. In reference to God, it can even mean speaking lightly or carelessly of God (Exodus 20:7). There is no doubt as to the Pharisees’ culpability in attributing the miracles of Jesus to Satan, when they were actually being performed by the power of the Holy Spirit. They were undeniably guilty of this sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit; and became primarily responsible for the nation’s collective rejection of Jesus as their promised Messiah.

However, the context of what takes place in Matthew 12:22-32 cannot be repeated today. Christ’s first advent has been completed. His earthly ministry during that time has been fulfilled. He is no longer on earth performing miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit, but in heaven, seated at the right hand of God, interceding on our behalf (Hebrews 7:25). This is why the significance of what Jesus says at the end of Matthew 12:32, can easily be misinterpreted and misapplied –

“Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, EITHER IN THIS AGE OR IN THE AGE TO COME.” (Emphasis Added)

So then, what age was Jesus “in” when making that assertion? Clearly, in the age of Israel as a theocratic nation under God. Christ’s earthly ministry was geared toward Israel specifically, in the offer of God’s Kingdom to the Jewish people. The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit by the Pharisees, who personally witnessed Christ’s miracles, became the key factor in the nation’s rejection of Him as their Messiah, culminating in His death on the Cross. But that rejection was mutual, made evident by our Lord’s lament in Matthew 23:37-38, over Israel’s unbelief and the resulting judgment carried out by the Roman army in AD70. At the very same time, Jesus confirms in Matthew 23:39, the future hope for the nation’s restoration, in the plan and purpose of God –

“For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, “BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!”

Jesus is referring here to His Second Coming, in order to establish His Millennial reign on earth; fulfilling all the promises made to Israel under the Mosaic Covenant. Therefore, these two “ages” mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 12:32, create an all-important prophetic timeline. The first age, in which the Pharisees blaspheme the Holy Spirit, refers to Christ’s first advent, where He performs miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit for the express purpose of offering Himself to Israel as their Messiah. The second age, THE AGE TO COME, in its context, clearly refers to His second advent, made necessary by Israel’s rejection of their Messiah. As a result, we are living in that interval of time between those two ages, commonly known as the Church Age; with the body of Christ serving as the temporary replacement of Israel, as God’s instrument for carrying out His redemptive purpose in our world. The building of Christ’s Church is the “parenthesis” between those two ages mentioned in Matthew 12:32. Therefore, since Christ is no longer physically present on earth, expressing His miraculous power for us to witness, this completely eliminates any possibility for any of us in repeating the sin of the Pharisees recorded in Matthew 12:22-32.

In the meantime, as a follower of Jesus Christ, do not allow yourself to be intimidated by the proliferation of last-days false prophets at the end of the Church Age. Rejecting them in favor of faithfully following your Savior every day, guided and directed by the sound doctrine of God’s holy Word, does NOT put you in jeopardy of being guilty for blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.