

Seven Spirits

- I. Scripture speaks of *seven Spirits of God*. **REV 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6.**
 - A. There is literally only one Spirit of God.
 1. He is the Holy Ghost, the Third Person of the Godhead. **1JO 5:7.**
 2. He is also known as the Holy Spirit, Comforter and Spirit of truth. **JOH 14:15-17, 26.**
 - B. The “seven Spirits of God” in Revelation refers to the sevenfold ministry of the Spirit mentioned in the messianic prophecy of **ISA 11:1-5**. Jesus Christ “...hath the seven Spirits of God...” (**REV 3:1**).
 1. Seven is the biblical number of fullness, completion, perfection as in:
 - a. the seven days of the week.
 - b. the seven-day march for Jericho’s utter destruction. **HEB 11:30.**
 - c. the seven abominable sins. **PRO 6:16-19.**
 - d. the seven times needed to reform Nebuchadnezzar. **DAN 4:32.**
 - e. the seven seals and seven thunders which denote the fullness of the program and judgments of God in the earth. **REV 5:1, 5; 8:1; 10:4.**
 2. Jesus Christ uniquely was given the seven Spirits of **ISA 11:1-2**.
 - a. The fullness of the Spirit was upon Him for His ministry in the earth, beginning with “...the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him...” **ISA 11:2 c/w MAT 3:16-17; LUK 4:1, 18.**
 - b. God the Father gave not the Spirit unto Him by measure but in full. **JOH 3:34.**
 3. How desperate must Mary Magdalene’s condition have been and how great a salvation did she receive! **MAR 16:9.**
- II. Jesus spoke of another seven spirits in **LUK 11:24-26**.
 - A. The unclean spirit here is not cast out by a miracle of God’s power (**MAT 8:16**) but leaves and comes back, bringing with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself.
 - B. Christ likened this to the fate of the generation of His day. **MAT 12:45.**
- III. The scribes and Pharisees were the particular targets of Christ’s words here. **MAT 12:24, 38**.
 - A. The Pharisees were “...the most straitest sect...” of the Jews’ religion. **ACT 26:5.**
 - B. They were rigid advocates of the law for justification but were selective and inventive in how it was to be applied. **MAT 23:23; LUK 11:42.**
 - C. They believed the profits, not the prophets. **MAT 23:14, 16-19 c/w 1PE 1:18.**
 - D. They revelled in outward piety to impress men, not God. **MAT 23:5, 25-28.**
 - E. Such a spirit of religion (wealth, pomp, outward shows of piety, sensual, hypocritical) is a magnet for unclean spirits that are repulsed by a religion defined by spirit and truth, per **JOH 4:23-24**.
 1. Accordingly, the Scarlet Harlot is depicted as having everything that appeals to the senses: beauty, wealth, power, commerce, instrumental music, etc. (**REV 17:4-5; REV 18:12-22**), yet full of sorceries and innocent blood. **REV 18:23-24.**
 2. That system is described as having “...become the **habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit...**” (**REV 18:2**), very infected.
 3. God is to be worshipped in the “...beauty of holiness” (**PSA 29:2**), not the *holiness of beauty*.
 4. Per **LUK 11:24**, the unclean spirit doesn’t find rest in dry places. Neither does he find rest in churches defined by unadorned spiritual worship and truth rather than

sensuality and entertainment.

- a. Such places represent simplicity, humility, repentance, faith: Boring!
 - b. Sensuality and raw emotionalism are devilish substitutes for the spiritual joy that is experienced by believers and followers of the truth.
PSA 119:162; ROM 15:13; 1CO 13:6; PHIL 3:1-3; 1PE 1:7-8.
 - c. The best way for churches to ward off unclean spirits is by adherence to or repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. **2TI 2:24-26.**
- F. As an adjunct to **LUK 11:24-26**, Jesus also said that Pharisaism made converts twice the children of hell than themselves. **MAT 23:15.**
- G. Of historical interest, "...with the destruction of the Temple the Sadducees disappeared altogether, leaving the regulation of all Jewish affairs in the hands of the Pharisees... Henceforth Jewish life was regulated by the teachings of the Pharisees; the whole history of Judaism reconstructed from the Pharisaic point of view... Pharisaism shaped the character of Judaism and the life and thought of the Jew for all the future."
(The Unedited Full Text of the 1906 Jewish Encyclopedia, art. *Pharisees*)
1. Judaism is modern-day Pharisaism.
 2. It is highly secular but even in its most orthodox religious form, it is antichrist.
1JO 2:22-23.
 3. This is not slander or antisemitism: it is both the testimony of God and the admission of its adherents. If Judaism were Christian, it would not be Judaism.
 4. The synagogue system which has continued to perpetuate Pharisaism in opposition to Jesus Christ is rightly called "...the synagogue of Satan..." (**REV 2:9; 3:9**).

IV. Christ's words in **LUK 11:24-26** and **MAT 12:43-45** particularly applied to **that** generation.

- A. If the seven Spirits of God which are the Spirit of Christ animated His adherents in one direction, what might be expected of those animated by seven counter-spirits which are the spirit of antichrist?
- B. All the good that is represented by God's seven Spirits could conceivably be Satanically reversed in these seven unclean spirits, turning the unbelieving portion of Israel into a diabolical madhouse rushing hell-bent to its own destruction.
- C. John Gill noted: "This parable fitly suited them, the Scribes and Pharisees, and the men of that generation, from whom in some measure the unclean spirit might be said to depart through the doctrine, and miracles of Christ, to go into the Gentile world; but being followed there with the preaching of the Gospel by the apostles, returns to the Jews, and fills them with more malice, blasphemy, and blindness, than ever, which issued in their utter ruin and destruction; of which this parable may be justly thought to be prophetic."
- D. The parable of the pounds accords with Gill's analysis. **LUK 19:12-14.**
 1. Christ came unto His own nation but they rejected Him. **JOH 1:11.**
 2. He went to heaven to secure a kingdom for Himself. **REV 12:5-10.**
 3. He left His servants/ministers with gifts and orders. **EPH 4:8-12.**
 4. His own nation continued their vitriol against Him by their rejection and persecution of His ministers of His gospel. **1TH 2:15.**
 - a. Per **LUK 19:14**, gospel rejection sends a message.
 - b. The reply to the message was destructive wrath. **MAT 22:6-7; 1TH 2:16.**
- E. With the crucifixion of Christ, God's glory began departing from the nation, leaving it in a state of Ichabod. **MAT 21:42-43 c/w 1SAM 4:21.**
 1. What was once God's house became *their* house: Christ gave them title to what God abandoned at the crucifixion. **MAT 23:38 c/w MAT 27:50-51.**
 2. As King Saul finally provoked God to withdraw His spirit from him to alight upon

- David (**1SAM 16:13-14**), so the Spirit abandoned unbelieving Israel to fill the gospel church of faith. **ACT 2:1-4**.
3. Do not trivialize the implications of grieving/quenching the Spirit. **EPH 4:30; 1TH 5:19**.
 4. God's spirit transferring to David provoked envy and wrath in Saul. **1SAM 18:8-11 c/w ACT 17:1-5**.
 5. Saul plodded on without the Spirit for years until he died an ignominious death from foreign oppression (**1SAM 31:1-6**), as did Israel in 70 A.D.
 6. Saul had numerous sons but only Mephibosheth was saved. **2SAM 21:6-7 c/w MAT 24:22**.
- F. King Saul also looked to the occult for guidance. **1SAM 28:6-7**.
1. The involvement of occult powers in Israel in the First Century should not be overlooked. **MAL 3:1-5 c/w MAR 3:1-2; MAT 24:24**.
 2. **ISA 28:9-16** has gospel times in mind.
 - a. **ISA 28:11-12** applies to the gift of tongues. **1CO 14:21**.
 - b. **ISA 28:16** is a prophecy of Christ. **1PE 2:6**.
 - c. In the midst of this prophecy is a censure of Israel's rulers which were in league with death and hell.
 - (1) In Christ's day, these would have been the scribes and Pharisees whom Christ was rebuking in **MAT 12** and **LUK 11**.
 - (2) They were the children of the Devil who evidently had made a covenant with death and hell as an insulation against destruction. **JOH 8:3, 44 c/w ISA 28:15**.
 - (3) Their covenant got disannulled. **ISA 28:18**.
 3. The Pharisees and their ilk were involved in counterfeit miracles and sorcery. **MAT 12:27 c/w ACT 19:13-16; 13:6-8**.
 4. Occultism was consistent with their rebellion against God. Witchcraft and rebellion are both grasps for power in opposition to God, as Samuel rebuked King Saul. **1SAM 15:23**.
 5. It was the corruption of Pharisaism that infected the Jerusalem church. **ACT 15:5**.
 - a. Their methodology was a *bewitching*. **GAL 3:1**.
 - b. The only way for Pharisaism to have any accord with Christianity is by adhering only to those aspects of Pharisaism which were Biblical truth (like the resurrection of the dead) and renouncing the rest. **MAT 23:1-3; ACT 23:6; 2CO 4:2; PHIL 3:5-7**.
 - c. NOTE: The problem is not so much the Pharisee. It is the Talmud which to this day still regulates Judaism. Believers must beware of their *doctrine*. **MAT 16:12**.
- V. There was an overarching spirit in Israel which animated it against Christ, the apostles, and the church: the spirit of unbelief which accorded with death in sins. **JOH 8:24**.
- A. This stood in contrast to the "...spirit of faith..." (**2CO 4:13**).
 - B. Unbelief forbade them from recognizing Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah and Son of God in spite of obvious fulfillment of Scripture and approving miracles. **JOH 5:39-47; 15:24-25; ACT 2:22; 13:27**.
 - C. Unbelief forbade them from seeing the futility of works-righteousness. **ROM 10:3-4**.
 - D. Unbelief forbade them from seeing the kingdom of God as spiritual. **LUK 17:20-21**.
 - E. Unbelief provoked them to envy, anger, contradiction, blasphemy, conspiracy, murder, etc., especially when Gentiles were being converted.

ACT 13:38-50; 22:19-22; 23:12-15; ROM 10:19-21.

- F. Unbelief motivated them to infiltrate churches to deconvert believers. **GAL 2:4.**
 - 1. They were covetous, spinning lies for gain. **TIT 1:10-14; 2PE 2:1-3.**
 - 2. They promoted licentiousness as liberty. **JUDE 1:4.**
 - 3. Peter alludes to Christ's words in **LUK 11:26** when he warns about these infiltrators and their "converts." **2PE 2:14-22.**
- G. Unbelieving Israel was as its type, Hagar, who could not see the refreshment. **GEN 21:19 c/w ISA 28:12.**

VI. Do not underestimate the power of the spirit of unbelief.

- A. It will animate the unbeliever to justify himself and his sin, opening the door to further sin and judgment. **ROM 1:18-32.**
- B. It can cost the believer his place in the kingdom of Christ and turn him over to very powerful delusions and God's alternative teaching method. **1TI 1:19-20.**
- C. By contrast, faith gives victory without confounding. **1JO 5:4; 1PE 2:6.**