

Mark 3:22-23 *And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?*

- Beelzebub is the NT derivative of the name of the OT Philistine god Baalzebub, worshipped at the city of Ekron and consulted by King Ahaziah in 2 Kings 1:2-3. The name is a compound form of Baal, a Philistine word for “lord.” When Israel backslid, they named their children after Baal: Jerubbaal, Eshbaal, Merib-baal. In times of revival, they repented and replaced “baal” with “bosheth” (meaning “shame”): Jerubbesheth, Ish-bosheth, Mephibosheth.
- Note that just as the true God Jehovah had compound names, so did the false god Baal:

Baal-tamar (lord of the palm tree)	Jehovah Rapha (The Lord, Our Healer)
Baal-berith (lord of the covenant)	Jehovah Elohim (The Lord, Our Creator)
Baal-gad (lord of good fortune)	Jehovah Elyon (The Lord, Our Blesser)
Baal-hamon (lord of wealth)	Jehovah Jireh (The Lord, Our Provider)
Baal-meon (lord of the dwelling)	Jehovah Raah (The Lord, Our Shepherd)
Baal-peor (lord of the opening)	Jehovah Nissi (The Lord, Our Banner - “Miracle”)
- Baalzebub meant “the god of the flies” and was believed to be the prince of the evil spirits; the name was later changed to Baalzebul meaning “the dung god.” This title designated Israel’s loathing of the prince of all moral impurities, and was later used appropriately as a name for the devil (Beelzebub) by the Pharisees and Jesus. The licentious character of Baal worship always had a subtle attraction for the austere Hebrews bound to serve a holy God under a rigorous moral code; so it is with us today!
- The Pharisees called Beelzebub “the ruler of the demons” and the Jews taught that every heathen deity or idol was a demon; this was not true, but idols were be used by demons to deceive people (Paul spoke of this in 1 Corinthians 10:19-20). Everything bad that happens to us is not directly caused by demons; however, the potential is there for bad things to be used by demons to oppress us! Beware of extremes on either side! Demons do have a certain mode of operation; the title “Beelzebub” is not accidental!

FLY: a common name for members of the zoological order “Diptera” (two-winged insects); best known are the housefly, gnat, blackfly, mosquito, fruit fly, horsefly, and deerfly; other insects called flies (ie: dragonfly) are not true flies because they have 4 wings

CHARACTERISTICS OF FLIES

1. Found throughout the world, but proliferate (ie: size & variety) in moist, warm climates; reproduce by laying many eggs in decaying animal flesh, dung or pond water, to assure their offspring adequate food
2. Compound eyes with up to 4000 facets; they do not see images, but pick up light changes and sudden movements
3. Many have sharp mouthparts to pierce skin, drain fluid, and conduct saliva into the wound to keep blood from coagulating
4. Achieve maturity not by direct growth, but by metamorphosis through several definite and distinct stages; they live as parasites
5. Carry deadly diseases and have the potential to destroy animals and crops
6. Pesky and persistent creatures!
7. Have a very short life span (ie: as little as 72 hours for some varieties)

CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMONS

1. Demons operate best in a climate of sin, negativism, doubt, etc. Sin actually multiplies when you give it the right environment; it feeds on spiritual decay (**2 Corinthians 2:10-11**)
2. Demons cannot read your mind, but they can observe your reaction to temptation (**Proverbs 18:21, Psalm 101:3**)
3. Demons prevent the blood from working in your life when you are “pierced & drained” through a “wound” (**Proverbs 18:14**)
4. Permitted sin never grows as slowly as you think; one “little” sin leads to much worse (**Psalm 19:12-14, James 1:14-16**)
5. Demons cause division and take our focus from the harvest (**1 Corinthians 3:1-3**)
6. Demons are fierce fighters! (**1 Peter 5:8**)
7. Demons cannot outlast effectual fervent prayer! (**James 5:16, James 4:7-10**)