

Luke 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Analysis

And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Satan continues quoting Psalm 91:12, emphasizing the promise of angelic intervention preventing even minor injury. The Greek *arousin* (ἀροῦσιν, they shall bear up) suggests lifting or carrying, while *proskopsēs pros lithon ton poda sou* (προσκόψης πρὸς λίθον τὸν πόδα σου, you dash your foot against a stone) envisions protection from the smallest harm.

Satan's use of this promise is particularly insidious: he takes a genuine divine promise and twists it into justification for presumption. The psalm promises God's providential care for those trusting Him, not protection for those testing Him. This illustrates the devil's strategy—he doesn't typically deny God's word but misapplies it, encouraging believers to claim promises outside their proper context. The temptation to **force God to demonstrate His faithfulness** on our terms represents spiritual manipulation disguised as faith. True faith trusts God's timing and methods; presumption demands immediate, visible proof.

Historical Context

In Jewish interpretation, Psalm 91 described the Messiah's divine protection during His mission. Satan exploits this legitimate messianic promise, suggesting Jesus prove His identity through a public spectacle. The reference to 'dash thy foot against a stone' takes on literal meaning in the context of jumping from the temple pinnacle—angels would need to intervene to prevent Jesus' death on the stones

below. This temptation parallels demands Jesus faced throughout His ministry: 'Show us a sign' (Matthew 12:38, John 6:30). Jesus consistently refused to perform miracles as proof, instead offering the 'sign of Jonah' (His death and resurrection) as the ultimate vindication of His messianic claims.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How can genuine biblical promises be twisted into justifications for presumptuous or foolish behavior?
2. What distinguishes trusting God's protection from testing God by deliberately placing yourself in danger?
3. Why does God refuse to respond to demands for spectacular signs while still performing miracles for those who trust Him?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὅτι	Ἐπὶ	χειρῶν	ἀροῦσίν	σε	μήποτε
And	G3754	in	their hands	they shall bear	thee	lest at any time
G2532		G1909	G5495	G142	G4571	G3379
προσκόψης	πρὸς	λίθον	τὸν	πόδα	σου	
thou dash		against	a stone	G3588	foot	thy
G4350		G4314	G3037		G4228	G4675

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 91:12 (Parallel theme): They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

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