

Matthew 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Analysis

Satan correctly quotes Psalm 91:11-12 but distorts its application, demonstrating that Scripture can be misused when taken out of context or applied presumptuously. The psalm promises God's protection for those walking in His will, not for those testing Him through reckless acts. This shows that mere biblical knowledge or ability to quote Scripture doesn't guarantee sound doctrine—interpretation and application matter critically.

Historical Context

Psalm 91 is a confidence psalm celebrating God's protection of the faithful. Satan's misuse of it shows that even the devil can quote Scripture, but he does so deceptively, twisting God's promises to encourage sin rather than faith.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Satan's misuse of Scripture warn against proof-texting and taking verses out of context?
2. What is the difference between trusting God's promises and presumptuously testing God through reckless actions?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	λέγει	αὐτοῦ	Εἰ	νιὸς	εἰ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ,	βάλε
And	saith	unto him	If	the Son	thou be	G3588	of God	cast
G2532	G3004	G846	G1487	G5207	G1488		G2316	G906
σεαυτὸν	κάτω·	γέγραπται	γὰρ	Ὅτι	τοῖς	ἀγγέλοις	αὐτοῦ	
thyself	down	it is written	for	G3754	G3588	angels	unto him	
G4572	G2736	G1125	G1063			G32	G846	
ἐντελεῖται	περὶ	σου	καὶ	ἐπὶ	χειρῶν	ἀροῦσίν	σε	
He shall give	concerning	thee	And	in	their hands	they shall bear	thee	
G1781	G4012	G4675	G2532	G1909	G5495	G142	G4571	
μήποτε	προσκόψῃς	πρὸς	λίθον	τὸν	πόδα	σου		
lest at any time	thou dash	against	a stone	G3588	foot	thee		
G3379	G4350	G4314	G3037		G4228	G4675		

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 1:14 (Parallel theme): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Psalms 34:7 (Parallel theme): The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

2 Corinthians 11:14 (Parallel theme): And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Psalms 34:20 (Parallel theme): He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

Matthew 4:4 (References God): But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Job 1:10 (Parallel theme): Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 5:23 (Parallel theme): For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.