

Matthew 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Analysis

Jesus responds to the second temptation (presuming on God's protection by jumping from the temple) with 'It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God' (Deuteronomy 6:16). This shows that Scripture must interpret Scripture—Satan misapplied Psalm 91:11-12 by divorcing it from context. Tempting God means forcing His hand through presumptuous actions that require Him to act contrary to His revealed will.

Historical Context

Deuteronomy 6:16 refers to Israel's testing God at Massah by demanding proof of His presence (Exodus 17:7). The temple pinnacle was about 450 feet above the Kidron Valley. Demanding a miraculous rescue would force God to validate presumption rather than faith.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can you distinguish between faith and presumption in your life?
2. What safeguards do you use to prevent misapplying Scripture?

Interlinear Text

Ἐφη αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν γέγραπται οὐκ
said unto him Jesus again It is written not
G5346 G846 G2424 G3825 G1125 G3756

ἐκπειράσεις Κύριον τὸν Θεόν σου
Thou shalt the Lord God thy
G1598 G2962 G2316 G4675

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 6:16 (References God): Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

1 Corinthians 10:9 (Parallel theme): Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

Psalms 78:18 (References God): And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.

Psalms 78:41 (References God): Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Hebrews 3:9 (Parallel theme): When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

Exodus 17:2 (References Lord): Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?

Exodus 17:7 (References Lord): And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

Acts 5:9 (References Lord): Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Psalms 95:9 (Parallel theme): When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.

Malachi 3:15 (References God): And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

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