

Satan

The Temptations of Satan on The Lord - Part 1

Introductory Thoughts

Any meditation on the moral perfections of the Lord must consider His perfections offensively and defensively. There had to be perfection in every area of His life, for if He failed in one iota, then He could never have offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice. Consequently, He must know the reality of temptations, not only as a single temptation but be tempted in every way.

- a) He knew what it was to be tempted by Satan (Matt. 4:1-10) and by men (Matt. 22:18), but never by God for God never tempts any individual to do evil or that which is contrary to His perfections (Jam. 1:13).

It has been said that when we are tempted all one has to do is to follow the example of the Lord, quoting the scriptures, Satan will be rebuked, and the temptation goes away! It is lovely idealism but not realism, neither is it biblically correct. Satan did not go away after the first, second or even third temptation. It was only when the Lord dismissed him, and then it was only for a while (Matt. 4:10). The honest heart knows that temptations do not stop or go away with a quotation from the scriptures. We shall discover that more is needed. Yielding to temptation is either an act of willful disobedience or being untaught in the things of God.

In the first temptation, it would appear that it was not a “once for all” temptation, but a repeated one. In the gospel by Luke Satan says, “Command this stone” (Lk. 4:3) and in Matthew, “Command that these stones” (Matt. 4:3). Satan does not give up after one attempt. He will keep pressuring us until we gain the victory or fall.

There are several incidents in the Old Testament that recount parallel situations to that which are recorded in the temptations. It is the activity done underhandedly in which the will and purpose of God would be nullified. One such incident was when David had made Solomon King, much to the dismay of Adonijah. In that which seemed a simple request, Adonijah asked his mother to ask Solomon if he could have Abishag (David’s wife) as his wife (1 Kgs. 2:17). However, Solomon was no fool and he saw deeper than a request to have a certain woman for his wife. Abishag had been the wife of David, and to have a man’s wife meant having his position. This is what Solomon saw. It was a veiled attempt to get the throne (1 Kgs. 2:22) and have Solomon, the king of God’s appointment, cast out. Satan always works underhandedly, never telling the full truth.

- a) God had appointed Christ to be King and Satan is opposed to that. Therefore, he comes to the Lord with veiled “suggestions”, which in themselves may seem rational and with possibilities, but the Lord saw deeper. He saw the wicked attempts of Satan to overthrow the purposes of God, split the fellowship of the Godhead, and have ultimate rulership of all that was God’s.

The subject of the temptations of our Lord has been the deep meditation of untold numbers of Bible students. A theme so intense is, I submit, far beyond the comprehension of any created beings whether they are celestial, earthly or infernal. This and the following meditations are only the slightest glimpses into the wonder and glory of the Lord.

Why Did Satan Tempt The Lord Knowing That It Would End In Failure?

It is interesting that in 2010 09 01, the Satanists in Oklahoma were wanting to use the Civic Centre for a parody on a Roman Catholic exorcism. At the same time, on “The View”, a television program in the United States, part of the debate is whether there is such a person as Satan. At least one said they do not believe there is such a person and they spoke of him having a pitchfork and being red with horns. Apparently, from what I understood to be said, only one per cent of young adults in the United States accept the Bible as the truth regarding God and Satan. Satan has done a stupendous job of deception. He is still alive and working very effectively on this earth which lies in wickedness (lies in the arms of the Wicked, i.e. Satan). Despite knowing he could not defeat the Lord, he was determined to do his utmost. There could be no doubt he knew the truth of the parable the Lord spoke concerning going to war and counting the cost (Lk. 14:31), but Satan will give it his best try.

The Old Testament clearly reveals the activities of Satan on persons and the nation of Israel. His persistence was to nullify the purposes of God. Humanly speaking, God did a very foolish thing in the garden by telling the

Satan

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enemy how He would be defeated. Every military strategist knows that success can depend so much on surprise. Knowing that which God revealed for his defeat, "It (the Seed) shall bruise thy head" (Gen. 3:15), Satan stopped at nothing to prevent his personal ruination by some man. This pledge of God must be stopped, therefore Satan:

- a) Created enmity between Cain and Abel and Abel was slain.
- b) Had the males killed in Egypt.
- c) Had the line of Judah cursed by God.
- d) Attempted to have the baby killed when approximately two years of age.

The difficulty for Satan was that the promised victor was a man, a man who was about to take his armament. The human being who was about to open the pathway for his ultimate devastation and exposure was in the wilderness and about to publicly start His defeating activity. As far as Satan was concerned, He must be stopped, and despite knowing he could not win, that would not stop him from trying. Satan had too much to lose so if He could nullify the workings of God through and for Christ at the beginning of His ministry, he could relax, it would all be over.

- a) He sought to nullify God's purposes for Christ, for God had said, "I will set my King upon my holy hill" (Psa. 2:6), and "all things were to be put under Him" (Christ) (Eph. 1:22; Heb. 2:8). Satan was totally opposed to that. He wanted to put his man in that place. Throughout the years he has tried, but with God not only nullifying him but progressing with His own purposes, each ended in failure. In God's time, He will let Satan have his man to rule the world. He will be in contrast to the Lord, and his duration is by God measured out (Jn. 5:23; Rev. 13:2, 5, 8). Napoleon, Hitler and many others tried, unwittingly being the tool of Satan in his rebellion against God. There is coming a day when God will not immediately prevent him, and his man will reign on this earth, the man of sin (Rev. 13).
- b) He sought to eternally put a slight on God. When Satan came to Eve there was the insinuation that God did not fully love, and indeed He was holding something back, a special something He did not want them to have. His first recorded words were, "Yea hath God said", "Ye shall not eat of every tree" (Gen. 3:1). This was not the questioning of that which God had said, it was a question of confirmation. "Yes, it is true God said that you could not eat of every tree". With Satan's apparent agreement with God, the woman's defences were down, the result being, the next words of Satan were contrary to God. Satan presented God not as a God of love who gave, but as a God who was stingy. If he could get Christ to sin, there would never be a manifestation of the fullness of God's attribute of love and man would forever have a distorted view of God.

... To be continued

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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