



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Testing of Christ

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. From credible witnesses including: Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon, Anna, John the Baptist and the Ultimate Witness, God the Father. God the Father declaring from Heaven, *"You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."* (3:22). Luke, in chapter four, describes a hostile witness, tempter and adversary, the devil. After Jesus had spent forty days and nights in the wilderness and not having food during that time and under unsuccessful continual temptations by the devil, Luke records three specific temptations of Jesus that He conquered. (Luke 4: 3-13 NASB)

"And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'" (4: 3, 4)

Jesus is the Son of God. The word 'if' in context could be translated 'since'. Luke has already established the fact in the first three chapters that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God and the devil understand this fact as well. Yet the devil is testing Jesus' will to remain connected to the Father's will. The devil is suggesting that since the Father has not provided what Jesus needed, He should do it on His own. The devil knew that Jesus had that kind of power to make bread, yet he wanted to break the relationship between Jesus and the Father.

The devil suggests to Jesus that if God the Father loved Jesus He would not have let Him suffer this way and that Jesus should do His will and not be obedient to the Father will. The devil had broken that relationship with the Father and wanted Jesus to do the same. Jesus provides a clear example of how to respond to the devil's temptation. Jesus responds (Dt 8:3) with the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, scripture (Eph 6:17). The devil failed in this temptation and Jesus was obedient to the Father's purpose and will for Him. The devil places before Jesus an additional testing for power and glory.

"And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" (4:5-8)

Jesus served the Father. The devil believed that he could offer to Jesus a short cut to glory and power if Jesus would worship him. Jesus would not and could not take 'the easy path' but took 'the perfect path' that the Father had ordained. Jesus responds with scripture (Dt 6:13). The devil failed in this temptation and Jesus served the Father. The devil suggests a temptation to Jesus that might test the Father.

"And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU TO GUARD YOU,' and, 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" And Jesus answered and said to him, "It is said, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time." (4:9-13)

Jesus, since He is the Son of God, obeyed and trusted the Father. The devil continues in his attempt to drive a wedge between the Son and the Father by urging Jesus to test the Father. The devil attempts to twist and misuse scripture (Ps 91:11, 12) and the devil wants Jesus to act independently from God the Father. Jesus responds with scripture (Dt 6:16), that we shall not put God to the test. Having failed in every attempt and type of testing to separate the Son from the Father, the devil left Jesus *"until an opportune time"*.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you seek and follow God will for your life?
- Do you serve only God or do you serve other gods?
- Do you obey and trust God to provide and avoid putting God to random tests that He has not ordained?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44