

June 28th 2009 Temptations 2: To Jump Or Not To Jump

In Ezekiel 28 there is found.....interesting passage.....about the origin....Devil
28: 12-17

*"This is what the Sovereign LORD says:
'You were the model of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
You were in Eden,
the garden of God;
every precious stone adorned you:
ruby, topaz and emerald,
chrysolite, onyx and jasper,
sapphire, turquoise and beryl.
Your settings and mountings were made of gold;
on the day you were created they were prepared.
You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for so I ordained you.
You were on the holy mount of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.
You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.
Through your widespread trade
you were filled with violence,
and you sinned.
So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,
and I expelled you, O guardian cherub,
from among the fiery stones.
Your heart became proud
on account of your beauty,
and you corrupted your wisdom
because of your splendor.
So I threw you to the earth."*

Such a passage confirms.....it was pride that led to his Fall from heaven
That led to him becoming the leader....of a rebellion of angels.....

And back in the traditions of the early Christian fathers.....there's a legend told.....
that pin-points the reason for the birth of such pride...in such heavenly beings

IT SEEMS:-

that the temptation to which the evil spirits succumbed, was their being told millennia in advance, that God would make a human race far below the angels by their natural gifts of mind and will, and that God would become a man. And the angels were foretold that they would have to worship this God man and adore Him as their master and Lord. And many of the angels, led by Lucifer, refused.

Although this is just legend.....and not Biblical truth.....**it** does have a certain ring of **And it explains** so well the heated anger and wrath.....that the Evil one spews out against Jesus.....and those through the ages.....who choose to follow Him

It also accounts for so much that we see....in these temptations...that he threw—Jesus **Temptations** aimed at making Jesus fall short....**even as the devil himself had of the perfect** standard of trust....obedience.....that God had decreed for Him

- **Look in particular** at this second temptation.....as found in Matt 4:5-6

*Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:
" 'He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"*

Jesus had answered the first.....with the words.....It is written
Now the Devil shows...he too can use Scripture

- **He takes Jesus**to the very highest point of the Temple
A place built on the very edge of the city wall....that looked down into the valley....450

You wouldn't change the stones.....because you reckon you **are trusting**
But since you are the Son.....God has promised you in His Word→ in Ps 91
(show Ps 91:11-12 on screen)

That if you throw yourself down....**He will** command His angels....to catch you
SO GO AHEAD—JUMP !

- **Straight away its obvious.....**Satan actually misuses Scripture
He makes it suggest something that it doesn't.....by disregarding context

- **The promise here is for** the one who out of love....is obedient to the Lord God
Who acknowledges that God is in control.....**and who** waits upon the Lord for direction

This is something that Satan himself had not done.....
Instead he had elevated himself....to a position.....**Then** he was thrust out of heaven

NOW....Many a parent has said to their child.....don't get too close to the edge
And many a child has still moved closer.....**Because the child knows.....**

And the parent has indeed moved to grab.....
But are they pleased that the child had such trust.....**Or are they cross...**
Child did not stay within the boundaries

Jesus had no intention of stepping outside the boundaries.....
Throwing himself....would have definitely attracted a lot of attention
It no doubt would have caused people to follow Him...**to crown** Him as their King

- **But it was not the plan of the Father for Him**
A plan that included.....a most humiliating....and painful death....

To jump.....was to deliberately go outside of God's way...**for personal glory**
And to expect God.....to save Him.....**simply** because He was His Son

Now there was just no way....that Jesus...about to give into....& the reason He gives
Is contained in the Scripture He quoted.....**Deut 6:16**

Matthew 4:7

"Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Behind that Scripture is a story...from...time in the wilderness.....when the people
Had become quite rebellious against God and Moses
They had grumbled...complained.....quarreled....**then** demanded water...
as a proof His presence with them

Exodus 17:7 says

*And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and
because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"*

The Lord gave them the water.....not because they deserved it.....**but** because
.being God He chose to overlook....rebellion.....and give it....out of Grace

But even though He gave....He still let them know.....that they
had tested the Lord's mercy....They tested His patience.....They tested His goodness
And they were wrong in doing so.

And Jesus said.....there is no way that I ...make that mistake.

And of course Jesus never did....**But the devil** still uses this same temptation against
And too often we can get sucked in

The temptation to do ministry in a way that impresses man....rather than pleases God
To rush into something in our own strength.....Something that is risky..spectacular
To claim that God led us.....And then expect Him to bless

- **The phrase**.....But this is what God told me to do.....**Can be very** dangerous

(We let our son die.....a book that tells of an extreme case of this happening)

- **But perhaps the** more usual way we are tempted....relates to the Israelites in..

Like them we too often get out of tune with God
We disobey His commands.....We become **slack** as Christians in all manner of areas
Our devotion to His Word...worship...prayer...fellowship....fades away

- **Thankfulness** gives way to complaining....to groaning
Yet we expect God to keep all His promises to us.....**To** protect....To safeguard....

Have you been testing the Lord in that way recently??

Groaning but not giving.....**Expecting** but not obeying....**Taking** but not testifying

Psalm 91 ends with a wonderful promise.....but it calls for our response first
V14 says

***"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.***

When you love...When you acknowledge...
Then you can be so sure.....the following blessing

***He will call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.
With long life will I satisfy him
and show him my salvation."***

