

EVIDENCE TESTING

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1ST CLASS

As I started to prepare for my lessons here at Berachah, I thought about how almost every class, Bobby announces another member of the Berachah Battalion has been promoted and many after several months or years of health issues.

I also thought about those I know associated with this church who have had many challenges in the area of business. I especially think of those I witnessed under a tremendous challenge while we were at a conference last year.

I saw first-hand how these individuals kept their eyes on the prize and never lost their relaxed mental attitude. It was a real encouragement to those who were watching from the sidelines.

Then Bobby mentioned about a friend he had visited with a terminal illness and how he was perfectly relaxed because he was using the doctrine that he had studied for years and had stored in his soul for just this occasion.

A month or so ago, I had the honor of doing a memorial service for a lady associated with this church for many, many years. She had health issues for a couple of years and the medical community could not find answers, but she had the answers and they were stored within the doctrine in her soul.

She kept focused on the prize and continued to take in Bible Doctrine until the Lord called her home in amazing dying grace. Her husband was a rock based on the doctrine in his soul. Great encouragement to all who knew them.

This type of testing is where the rubber meets the road in terms of application of Bible Doctrine. These individuals not only used their doctrine, but they never let it affect their happiness nor get their eyes off the prize.

The individuals I describe above are not unlike the rest of you in the Berachah Battalion. We learn Bible Doctrine to use it and to be “Occupied with Jesus Christ” and to be a good witness for the prosecution. All the while sharing the “Happiness of God!”

I taught a lesson here a couple of years ago titled “The Tip of the Spear”. I told you, you precious few are some of the finest trained believers there are. You have been exposed to more truth, you have seen more examples, you have been through more testing than most Christians ever experience in their whole life.

These tests and challenges allow us to use the Bible Doctrine in our soul. There is a challenge you will have to face as you advance to spiritual maturity in the Christian life and that is “Evidence Testing”.

“Evidence Testing” is the most intense testing any believer can face on this earth. It is when you are called to the witness stand to give testimony. Satan is allowed to cross-examine you in terms of the angelic conflict to see if you hold up. It may come quick and it could even be unfair. If you pass it, then you will glorify God to the maximum.

I heard Big Rick teach, “Evidence Testing is not going to happen the first four or five years that you’re saved. It’s going to happen down the road most of the time. For those of us that are getting older. It happens at the age we begin to disintegrate and fall apart and our bodies begin to shut down and it’s very depressing. It’s hard to take it sometimes and it is evidence testing. Will we keep our focus on the Lord, or will we focus on our own problems?”

1. The advance to the high ground of spiritual maturity is put to the test. The overwhelming power of the Word of God is expressed to the maximum by the believer who functions in problem-solving device #10: Occupation with Jesus Christ.
2. The capacity to love someone who is invisible requires a tremendous amount of information in the kardia of the soul. The capacity to love Jesus Christ comes only from maximum doctrine deployed on the FLOT Line of the soul.
3. The acronym FLOT refers for “Forward Line of Troops.” This is a military term used to describe the Invisible War and the believer’s strategy and tactics in that conflict.
4. The mature believer knows when to use offensive action or defensive action during the scrum of the Angelic Conflict.
5. Offensive action is related to several categories of the believer’s spiritual life.
6. (1) Evangelism of the lost, (2) utilization of problem-solving devices, (3) discernment in the use of one’s invisible assets, (4) execution of the protocol plan of God, and (5) the function of Christian service in producing divine good rather than dead works (human good).
7. Defensive action is confined to one’s dealings with the world. Lucifer and his fallen angels and those he recruits from the human race coordinate to do his bidding.
8. James 4:5-7 gives the believer guidance about defensive action against the Dark Side:

James 4:5: “Do you think the scripture means nothing when it says, “The Spirit that God caused to live within us has an envious yearning?

Vs. 6: But he gives greater grace. Therefore, it (Proverbs 3:34) says, “God opposes the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.”

Vs. 7: So, submit to God. But resist the devil (stand your ground) and he will flee from you.” (NET)

9. Standing your ground is your defensive action. The FLOT Line is the deployment of the problem-solving devices that defend the kardia of the soul.
10. **Example:** The ever-advancing acceptance of humanistic thought throughout our society tempts the weak believer to acquiesce due to cowardice toward its demands.
11. Loss of divine thought means human viewpoint intervenes and controls the soul. Lucifer presents his humanistic rationales in language designed to propagandize believers who do not want to be considered “unchristian.”
12. Acquiescence indicates the person is incapable of discerning the lie and out of ignorance winds up buying the lie.
13. Submission to the Word of God is a defensive action. You deploy divine thought to the situation and then stand your ground regardless of the ramifications.

1 Peter 5:5: “You younger believers, likewise, be subordinate to the authority of you pastor; clothe yourselves with humility toward each other because “God makes war against the arrogant believer, but He gives grace to the humble believer (Proverbs 3:34).

Vs. 6: Therefore, humble yourselves under the powerful hand of God, in order that He may promote you in the proper time,

Vs. 7: casting all of your anxiety (cares, worries, fears) on Him because He cares for you.

Vs. 8: Be sober and alert (from spiritual self-esteem). Your enemy, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Vs. 9: Stand your ground against him, strong in doctrine, because you know that your fellow believers throughout the world are experiencing this same category of suffering.” (EXT)

Principle: Direct offensive action against the devil means defeat for the believer; this is not mandated in Scripture.

The application of resident doctrine in the soul is the basis for defensive action. Defensive action in the soul may be illustrated by the U.S. Army's system of defensive areas:

1. **Covering Force**: The principle of security from the defensive position supported by eternal security.
2. **Forward Defense**: The main defensive force supported by doctrine circulating in the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness through the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit.
3. **Reserve Area**: This force is able to launch offensive action from a defensive position.

The spiritually advanced believer is able to take offensive action from behind the FLOT Line illustrated by:

Ephesians 6:17: “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Holy Spirit, which is the Word of God.” (NET)

The believer has no human power comparable to demonic power; he must utilize divine power, including the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

In order to handle these tests, we need to have in our arsenal of Problem-Solving devices “Occupation with Jesus Christ”. This ultimate ordinance may be defined as follows:

1. Occupation with Christ is developed capacity to have personal love for someone who is invisible:

1 Peter 1:8: “And even though you have not seen Him, you love Him (occupation with Christ); **and though you do not see Him now but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with inexpressible happiness** (Problem-Solving Device #9 in Spiritual Autonomy) **and full of glory** (Maximum doctrine in the soul of the Spiritual Mature).
2. The glory spoken of by Peter is invisible to mankind but quite visible to the angels and to the three Members of the Trinity. This is the same Shekinah Glory associated with the Tabernacle and Temple. The Shekinah Glory of Christ is resident in the soul of the mature believer.
3. What makes the believer's soul invincible is the thinking of Christ which has been developed over time to a high level of efficiency. The thinking of Christ becomes our glory:

Philippians 2:5: “Have this attitude (phroneo: thinking) **in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.”**

4. The thinking of Christ includes the entire Word of God but with emphasis on the New Testament epistles and their mystery doctrines. There is a direct mandate to the believer to acquire this knowledge and to become occupied with the Person of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 3:15: "Sanctify the Lord Christ in your steam of consciousness."
5. The word "**sanctify**" is the aorist active imperative of the verb:
hagiazo: "To set apart as something important above all else."
6. This occupation with Christ empowers the believer to **face**, **endure**, and **pass** evidence testing before the court in Satan's appeal trial.
7. Evidence testing is permitted by God under the rules of engagement for the appeal trial. In it, God allows Lucifer to cross examine the believer who has advanced to stage three of the Sophisticated Spiritual Life.
8. No believer qualifies as a witness until he has attained spiritual maturity, tantamount to the fulfillment of the protocol plan of God.
9. Under such testing, Lucifer seeks to discredit the believer whom God personally presents into evidence before the court.
10. To qualify as a witness for the Prosecution (i.e. God), the believer must execute the following:
 - a. Spiritual self-esteem plus providential preventative suffering means spiritual autonomy.
 - b. Spiritual autonomy plus momentum testing means spiritual maturity.
 - c. Spiritual maturity plus evidence testing means glorification of God to the maximum in the historical trial of Satan and all fallen angels.

Colonel Thieme, says this about "Evidence Testing" in the Thieme Bible Doctrine Dictionary, page 247:

Reaching maturity also means the believer is set apart for evidence testing, the highest honor on earth. He is, in effect, called to God's witness stand, where his life is presented as evidence against Satan. It is the strength of maturity that allows the believer to withstand the intensity of evidence testing. His tenacity in doctrine, his faithfulness under extreme conditions, serves as proof of God's grace and the efficacy of divine assets. Passing these tests means maximum glorification of God.

11. Since man's thoughts, decisions, and actions express the content of his soul and either **confirm** or **deny** divine viewpoint, then every **thought**, **decision**, and **action** of every believer in history becomes a part of the court records in the appeal trial.

12. These are used in the arguments for both the prosecution and the defense and serve as evidence, exhibits, and precedents in the various stages of the appeal trial.
13. Believers who advance to spiritual maturity become witnesses for the Prosecution against Satan. Evidence testing is Lucifer's cross-examination of such witnesses.
14. For the believer evidence testing spotlights human positive volition in the utilization of divine problem-solving devices.
15. There are two issues in evidence testing: (1) Will the mature believer continue to rely on divine assets? (2) Will those assets sustain him under extreme suffering?

We know Jesus Christ moved into spiritual maturity by the age of twelve. We see his advance through the sophisticated spiritual life to possession of maximum wisdom in:

Luke 2:40: “And the Child continued to grow and become strong, full of wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”

1. His ability to converse with and impress the theologians in the Temple is documented in:

Luke 2:46: “And it came about after three days Joseph and Mary found Jesus in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

Vs. 47: And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.”

2. We see His utilization of genuine humility, grace orientation, and doctrinal orientation illustrated by His submission to His parents in:

Luke 2:51: “And He went down with His parents and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”

3. The next verse informs us that not only had He maxed out in wisdom but He was also skillful in the use of the tandem problem-solving devices:

Luke 2:52: “And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom (Cognitive invincibility) and stature, and in favor with God (reciprocity: personal love for God) and men (unconditional love for mankind).”

4. John the Baptist administered the ritual that introduced the Lord into His public ministry at the Jordan River Baptism in:

Luke 3:21: “Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened.

Vs. 22: and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased.”

5. When God the Father refers to Jesus as “**My beloved Son**” it was divine confirmation that Jesus was the Messiah.
6. This event marks the beginning of the Lord’s public ministry. It occurred, according to Luke 3:1, “**in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar**”.
7. This event introduced our Lord to His public ministry at age 30 according to:

Luke 3:23: “And when He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age being the son of Joseph...”

8. Jesus has now been affirmed as the long-awaited fulfillment of the Old testament’s Messianic prophecies. He has now been publicly identified as the Messiah of Israel and has been invested with the power to carry out His commission.
9. Our Lord’s mission had finally begun after 30 years of preparation.
10. Our Lord Jesus Christ had pleased the Father in everything He said and did from His birth to this moment. He had not sinned. God the Father had no complaints. After 30 years of preparation, Christ was now ready.
11. He attained spiritual maturity by age 12. The 18 silent years between ages 12 and 30 were a time when our Lord was able to concentrate on the development of spiritual skills.

So, after 30 years of preparation, our Lord is now called before the courtroom of the appeal trial to testify under evidence testing.

If He is Messiah, He must demonstrate His ability to manage the ultimate tests associated with the Invisible War. Thus, the first order of business in the Lord’s public ministry is to confront, endure, and pass evidence testing.

There are two categories of evidence testing: **(1) the mature believer’s relationship to the plan of God and (2) the mature believer’s relationship to life.**

Our Lord is going to be put to the test to demonstrate His capacity to remain impeccable in the face of maximum testing. His testimony will also confirm the capacity of the prototype spiritual life as effectual in managing the temptations and testing’s of Satan’s world system.

The example of evidence testing is found in Matthew 4:1-11 where Lucifer was permitted to cross-examine the Lord Jesus Christ. On every occasion that He was tempted, the Lord passed the test by reliance upon Scripture.

It was the Holy Spirit who led the Lord to the geographic location in which the evidence testing's would occur. It is described as the “wilderness” and is thought to be a barren mountain plateau between the Jordan River and Jerusalem.

The first test is found in:

Matthew 4:1: “Then Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

1. Our Lord had to be tested in order to become the prototype for the Church-Age believer. Jesus was impeccable and therefore not able to sin, nevertheless, the temptations were real.
2. The Holy Spirit led him into the desert where His volition was challenged in order to establish the prototype for the soon-to-become Church-Age believers.
3. Jesus Christ had the filling of the Holy Spirit and was tested to follow the will of God while being tempted by the devil: (diabolos): “accuser, slanderer, adversary, tempter”; proper names: Lucifer, Satan”).

Vs. 2: And after He had fasted (nesteuo): privately for concentration on the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit) **forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.**

NOTE: The humanity of Jesus Christ was hungry every day for all 40 days and was famished when evidence testing began.

NOTE: Fasting refers to the decision to avoid eating so as to focus attention on the study and retention of divine guidance.

1. For the first forty days Lucifer does not cross examine the Lord verbally but simply allows Him to remain in a status of fasting with the attendant problems that are associated with mounting hunger.
2. In evidence test #1, Jesus was subjected to total withdrawal of nutrition. It was the directive will of God that Lucifer cross examine the Lord in order for Him to qualify as “One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).
3. Lucifer’s strategy was to delay his questioning until the Lord was in a weakened physical condition and more susceptible to his tactics.

4. During the 40 days, the Lord was tempted to commit sins motivated by His deprivation. We have no record of the Lord's management of these testing's other than the fact that He endured the entire period in status quo impeccability.
5. At the end, in a weakened, famished condition, the Lord was suddenly subjected to evidence test #2.

Next we have a challenge to Kenosis:

1. The verbal cross examination by Lucifer seeks to attack the Lord's relationship with God the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 4:3: And the tempter (devil, Lucifer, Satan) **came and said to Him, "If (and you are) you are the Son of God** (Messiah), **command** (See Psalm 33:6; 9) **that these stones become bread."**

Psalm 33:6: "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host."

Vs. 9: "For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast."

2. The Lord is now under cross examination before the Court in the appeal trial. The Father publicly proclaimed Jesus to be His Son just before the fasting period began.
3. Now, some forty days later, Lucifer is going to seize upon this fact as an enticement to lure Jesus into solving His physical weakness by violating the conditions of the hypostatic union.
4. The condition under which Christ agreed to function in the Incarnation prohibited Him independent access to His divine attributes and restricted him to the utilization of human attributes empowered only by the **filling of the Holy Spirit** and the **power of the Word of God**.

PRINCIPLE: **These are the two power options that develop the spiritual skills necessary to utilize the ten problem-solving devices.**

5. Lucifer issued a first-class condition to command Jesus to speak to the stones. The structure of the sentence indicates that Lucifer knew Jesus is the Son of God.
6. And since He is the Son of God, then Lucifer commands Him to "speak to these stones by commanding them to become bread."
7. In this scene, Lucifer is cross-examining Jesus in His true humanity to disqualify Him as a witness before the court.

8. If Jesus does what Lucifer commands, He will have discredited Himself as a witness by using His deity to perform the task.
9. It is the humanity of Christ that is under cross-examination, not His deity. Jesus' task is to perform the duty of inculcating doctrine into His human soul in order to use Scripture to do battle in the angelic conflict.

Vs. 4: But He (Jesus) answered and said, “It was written in the past with results that stand forever, (Deuteronomy 8:3) ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that keeps on coming out of the mouth of God which is to our advantage.’” (EXT)

Jesus did not use the power of His deity in His response but did use the power of the Word of God to do so:

Deuteronomy 8:3b: “... man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.”

PRINCIPLE: Although in His humanity our Lord was starving He did not panic and look for a human solution or use His deity. He knew He was being sustained and supported by all-sufficient logistical grace. These are the same assets available to us in the Church Age.

END NIGHT ONE

Berachah Church
January 16, 2026
Night 2

1. The title “**Son of God**” refers to the Lord’s true humanity in hypostatic union. In the Incarnation, he was not allowed to resolve problems typical of the human condition, such as hunger, by reliance upon His divine attributes.
2. Lucifer is tempting the Lord to abandon kenosis and utilize His divine attribute of omnipotence to create bread out of stones to satisfy His hunger.
3. The Lord’s response is to opt for Problem-Solving Device #7. He is motivated by reciprocal love for God to place His complete reliance on God’s logistical grace and His immutable Word.
4. This subject is expanded upon in J. Dwight Pentecost’s book, **The Words and Works of Jesus Christ: A Study of the Life of Christ** (Academie Books, 1981, 101-102), where he quotes A. M. Fairbairn’s **Studies in the Life of Christ**, page 93-94:

Jesus had to live His personal life (1) within the limits necessary to man, and (2) in perfect dependence of God. Man cannot create; he lives by obeying nature. Now, had Christ by a direct miracle fed Himself, He had lifted Himself out of the circle and system of humanity, had annulled the very terms of the nature which made him one with man. The moment he had stooped to save self He had become disqualified to save men. The ideal human life must be perfect in its dependence on God, absolute in it obedience. And so, His choice was not to be His own Providence, but to leave Himself to the Divine.

5. Dr. Pentecost summarizes the first temptation as follows:

Christ responded to this temptation by quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3, “Man does not live by bread alone.” Christ showed Himself to be in obedience to the will of God, and for Him that will was revealed in the Word of God. Submission to the Word of God is essential to obedience to the will of God. He recognized that the highest good is not to satisfy or gratify but to obey. In this temptation He showed absolute obedience to the will of God and absolute dependence on God to support Him in His obedience.

PRINCIPLE: Victory in the angelic conflict is not accomplished solely by utilization of worldly provisions such as food, but by the study, retention, facilitation, and application of the Word of God.

PRINCIPLE: Our relationship with God is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Just having the general necessities of life is not really living. Having a relationship with God must come first and that is through the study of the Word of God.

1. What actually sustains the believer is the divine guarantee of the details of life, not the details themselves.
2. God's grace always emphasizes the giver more than the gift, the source more than survival.
3. In His victory over Satan, our Lord emphasized doctrine over experience, doctrine over emotion, and doctrine over circumstances.

The second test from Lucifer is recorded in:

Matthew 4:5: “Then the devil took Jesus into the holy city and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,

Vs. 6: and said to Him, “If you are the Son of God (and you are) throw Yourself down; for it is written, (Psalm 91:11-12) ‘He will give His angels charge concerning You’; and ‘On their hands they will bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.’”

Vs. 7: Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

1. The location of this test is said to be the “pinnacle of the temple.” There is controversy among the scholars about the location of this site. The generally accepted solution correlates Malachi 3:1 with Lucifer’s selection of a high point in the temple complex. The deduction is that it was the parapet on the temple’s roof, its highest point being the southeastern corner, estimated to have been seventy cubits high. Note Lucifer’s knowledge and use of Scripture in his challenge of the Lord.

Malachi 3:1: “Behold, I (God the Father) am going to send My messenger (John the Baptist), and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek (Messiah), will suddenly come to His temple; even the messenger of the covenant (offer of Plan A at the First Advent), in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of the armies.”

2. The Lord quoted Deuteronomy 8:3, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God,” in His response to the first temptation. Therefore, Lucifer decides to counter with a Bible verse in his second challenge. He presents the temptation with a false interpretation of Malachi 3:1. So now Satan attacks Scripture by quoting Scripture.

3. In this verse, God prophesied that at the First Advent His Messiah would arrive suddenly before the people at the temple. Lucifer proposes that Jesus fulfill this prophecy by making a dramatic entrance before the people: to jump from the pinnacle and land unharmed right in front of them as they gather for worship.
4. Lucifer in essence proposes, “Let’s go up to the highest point of the temple complex where You can just swoop down in front of everybody and proclaim Yourself Messiah.”
5. In order to oblige the Lord to rely upon every word from the mouth of God, He then quotes a passage from Psalm 91:11-12. Lucifer’s interpretation asserts that if the Lord truly desired to fulfill every word then He could jump from the temple roof to the ground below and the angels would see to it that He landed safely.
6. There are a number of problems associated with this temptation that the Lord discerned immediately. Angelic surveillance and protection of human beings is not allowed to violate the rules of engagement which require man to function within the environment of divine creation and to make volitional decisions based on that environment.
7. For man to do otherwise would be presumptuous and tantamount to testing God, therefore, the angels would not be able to intervene.
8. Jesus Christ in His true humanity is being asked to test God. Lucifer’s temptation asserts that if Jesus is the Son of God then He may claim Malachi 3:1, jump off the temple, and God will be forced to order His angels to preserve His human life.
9. Satan’s distortion and misapplication of doctrine attempted to lure Christ into an impulsive state of mind. The devil wanted Jesus to believe for a moment that He was authorized to do what normally He would have considered sinful.
10. That this is testing God is clear from:

Pentecost, J. Dwight. The Words and Works of Jesus Christ. (Grand Rapids: Academie Books, 1981), 103:

Satan’s implication was that Jesus, as a Son, had a right to put His Father to a test. The one who puts another to a test is putting himself in a superior position. For Christ to put God to a test would be for Him to abandon His dependence on God. You test another because you do not have confidence in him. If you have full confidence, no test is necessary.

11. Knowing, from Scripture, that jumping from the temple roof would be testing God, the Lord again rejects the temptation by quoting this passage:

Deuteronomy 6:16: “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”

12. Satan had quoted Scripture that did not apply and had therefore distorted Scripture. Jesus quoted Scripture that did apply, and He made correct and accurate application.
13. The Lord did not need to identify Himself to the people of Israel by some dramatic entrance that defied the laws of physics. Other members of the human race could not do such a thing and thus for Him to do so would have been inappropriate.
14. Further, He also caught the fact that Lucifer misquoted the Psalm 91 passage by leaving out a key phrase. The verse Satan quoted actually reads this way:

Psalm 91:11: **“For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.**

Vs. 12: **They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”**

15. The phrase “guard you in all your ways” was omitted by Lucifer. The Person being guarded is the true humanity of Messiah. All His ways are in perfect compliance with the Father’s plan for the Incarnation. Satan sought to tempt the Lord to violate that plan.
16. Merrill F. Unger’s Commentary on the Old Testament. Vol. 1. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1981), 881:

All Christ’s ways as man were God’s ways of implicit reverent faith and obedience and dependence, and so God’s angels guarded His sinless humanity. Satan attempted to make Christ act presumptuously, out of God’s will, and thus tempt God by needlessly testing His power and faithfulness.

The third temptation offered by Lucifer is found in:

Matthew 4:8: **“Again, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory;**

Vs. 9: **and he said to Him, “All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.”**

Vs. 10: **Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! For it is written, (Deuteronomy 6:13) ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and (Deuteronomy 10:20) serve Him only.”**

Vs. 11: **Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.”**

1. Satan changed his tactics for the third temptation. He no longer mentioned the deity of Christ, and he no longer would attempt to use scripture.
2. There is a principle found in this passage that affirms the fact that Lucifer is the “ruler of this world”: you cannot give what you do not possess.
3. Lucifer’s rulership of cosmos diabolicus is also confirmed by several other passages of Scripture: John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; and Revelation 13:2.

1 John 5:19: “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

4. However here in Matthew 4:8-9 we see the first New Testament verification of this doctrine. And the things with which Lucifer tempts our Lord are “the kingdoms of the world and their glory.”
5. But the glories of the earthly kingdoms that Satan rules are not to be compared to the glory you will enjoy under the rulership of our Lord during His millennial reign.
6. This has to be a last-ditch effort by Satan. Jesus Christ is going to conquer the world at the Second Advent and restore the environment to its pristine perfection prior to the Fall of Adam.
7. However, Lucifer offers Jesus the world as it is without having to endure the requirements of the cross. The condition attached is that Jesus in His true humanity would worship Lucifer.
8. In order for Jesus to accept this proposal He would have to be motivated by a lust to rule the world immediately rather than wait for the perfect timing of the plan of God at the Second Advent.
9. In order to do this, He would have to abandon His mission in the Incarnation which was to become a substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of the human race.
10. Lucifer’s scheme is logical for if it had been successful it would have decided the appeal trial in his favor.
11. As was the case with the first two temptations, the Lord rebukes Satan and dismisses him with yet another appeal to Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:13, **“You shall worship the Lord your God,”** and Deuteronomy 10:20, **“and serve Him only.”**

Colonel Thieme, Jr., says this on page 184-185 in “Christian Suffering”:
Satan, the most powerful of angels, could do nothing but obey the command of Christ and depart. The accurate interpretation and application of Bible Doctrine not only sustains the one who uses it but is insurmountable defense against his enemies.

Christ relied upon the Word of God rather than on the independent use of His own deity, thereby making Satan's temptation a legitimate evidence test addressed to His humanity. Furthermore, our Lord provided the exact means by which the mature Church Age believer passes evidence testing. Supplied with the prototype divine dynaspHERE by the omnipotence of the Father and sustained in the prototype divine dynaspHERE by the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit, the humanity of Christ withstood Satan's cross-examination by thinking and applying the Bible doctrine in his human soul. In doing so, He set the precedent for the royal family, whose royal privileges far exceed the assets of even the greatest Old Testament believer.

It is interesting to note the correlation between Lucifer's temptations of Jesus and Ishah. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck provide an instructive diagram on page 27 of their Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament (Victor Books, 1983):

Temptations of Eve and of Jesus

Unlike his original success in Eden, Lucifer was consistently rebuffed by the Lord in the wilderness, at the temple, and on the mountain. Jesus successfully passed evidence testing with reference to the plan of God by relying on the enabling power of the Holy Spirit and the application of the Word of God.

Summary of the Three Temptations of Christ:

First Temptation: Asserts that the self-gratification of fleshly appetites is the highest good. It implies that man is biological life only. The suggestion is that the only reason for man's loyalty to God is that God meets every demand of his need as it arises. Here self-gratification is presented as greater than the will of God. But submission to the Word of God is equal to submission to the will of God.

Second Temptation: This is a temptation of arrogance. If you have confidence in God then no test is necessary. For Jesus to remove Himself from the will of God removes Him from His protection.

Third Temptation: This temptation seeks to elicit a lust for stuff. Christ's worship of Lucifer would fulfill his ambition stated in Isaiah 14:14, "**I will be like the Most High.**"

But 1 John 2:15 and 16 says: **1 John 2:15: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.**

Vs. 16: For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world."

It is important to note that during our Lord's evidence testing that instead of performing miracles under His own power, our Lord used the greatest power ever known in the history of the human race. He used Bible Doctrine in all three parts of His evidence testing.

Jesus successfully passed all the tests that Lucifer threw at Him which prepared Him to endure the cross while being judged for the sins of the entire world. The major biblical illustration for evidence testing regarding life and circumstances is found in the first two chapters of Job.

1. Job is a sterling example of evidence testing and serves as a resource for determining the restrictions imposed by God regarding Lucifer's cross examination.
2. It is clear Job was a mature believer and qualified for Evidence Testing.

Job 1:1: "There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil." (NASB)

3. We also see Job was one of three Old Testament believers, listed by Ezekiel, who show the impact of mature believers on history.

Ezekiel 14:12-14: "Then the word of the Lord came to me saying,

Vs. 13: "Son of man (a title for the prophet Ezekiel), if a country sins against Me by committing unfaithfulness (to the Word of God), and I stretch out My hand against it, destroy its supply of bread, send famine against it and cut off from it both man and beast,

Vs. 14: even though these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, by their own righteousness they could only deliver themselves," (by their status of spiritual maturity) declares the Lord God.

4. Job was tested, not in relation to the plan of God as Jesus would be, but in relation to the details and circumstances of life.
5. The temporary losses of prosperity, health, and friends suffered by Job during the course of evidence testing establish a precedent: Believers who pass evidence testing related to the details of life can anticipate a multiplication of escrow blessings after the test is complete (Job 42:10-17).
6. This category of evidence testing relates to the witness's "relationship to life" illustrated by Job.
7. Job was blessed by God in several phenomenal ways indicated by the categories of blessings he enjoyed: **(1) prosperity, Job 1, (2) health, social life, and attractiveness, Job 2:1-10, and (3) friends, Job 2:11.**

8. The Relationship to Life Test removed all three of these categories of blessings. To pass them, Job must evaluate each category as being a blessing from God to be enjoyed but not essential to his spiritual life.
9. Job passed the first two challenges, but the third one caused him to fail, after which he reoriented to grace and then passed it.
10. The development of this testing is introduced in Job 1:6 where Lucifer and his fallen angels sought audience with God the Father in the Third Heaven:

Job 1:6: “**T**here was a day when the sons of God (demons, fallen angels, evil spirits) came to present themselves before God the Father, and Satan (Adversary: Lucifer, devil) came also among them.” (EXT)

11. The proper noun, Satan, is descriptive of the leader of the fallen angels, **Satan** in the Hebrew and **Satanás** in the Greek, meaning “adversary.”
12. Adversary clearly describes Satan’s involvement as lead council for the defense before the Divine Court of Appeals.

Job 1:7: “**G**od said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.” (NASB)

1. Satan’s response indicates that the Divine Court of Appeals is presently in session. This exchange occurs at some point following the fall of Adam.
2. The Lord has prospered Job in association with his advance to spiritual maturity which has resulted in tremendous blessings coming to him.
3. To demonstrate the primacy of Bible doctrine in his soul in comparison with the blessings accrued from that advance, God offers Job as a winner believer for Satan to challenge:

Job 1:8: “**A**nd the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth. He is mature with great integrity who has total respect for Me and turns away from evil.” (EXT)

1. The word translated “respect” is the verb **yare’**. The King James translates this word with “fear,” but the mature believer transforms his attitude toward God from an emotional fear based on legalism over to respect based on reverence from spiritual self-esteem.
2. Job was a mature believer before evidence testing began. He was “blameless” in that he did not invite temptation or testing.

3. Although he was not sinless, the doctrine in his soul gave him the wisdom to avoid temptation, or to "turn away from evil."
4. Job's suffering was undeserved. The timing of his evidence testing was entirely a matter of the sovereignty of God.
5. His number one priority was his relationship with God.
6. Satan's response has an entirely different analysis:

Job 1:9: "Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job respect God for nothing?"

7. Satan's attitude is that Job "fears" God and therefore kowtows to Him so he can get the blessings. In other words, Job is brown-nosing the Lord for the stuff rather than willingly submitting to the Lord's divine guidance.
8. Divine blessings in every dispensation are always the result of willing response to divine guidance from Scripture.
9. Satan's assertions continue over the course of the next verse and then makes a proposal to test his theory in the verse following:

Job 1:10: "Have You not made a hedge (a reference to the wall of fire) about him, and about his house, and about all that he has in every direction (divine protection from Satan and his fallen angels)? You have blessed his production, and he has prospered financially, and his substance has increased in the land.

Vs. 11: "But extend Your hand and destroy all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face." (EXT)

10. Satan accuses Job of being dishonest toward the Lord. He proposes that if the Lord took away all his blessings, Job would turn on him with a curse.
11. Knowing the personal integrity that Job possesses in his soul, the Lord allows Satan to take on the task of destroying every blessing that Job possesses;

Job 1:12: "Then God said to Satan, "Everything that he has is now in your power. Although, you may not stretch out your hand against him personally." So, Satan departed from the Lord's presence." (EXT)

What follows is a sequence of events that occurs over the next 7 verses resulting in Job passing evidence testing.

Satan begins his Operation Devastation with a four-fold attack on Job's estate including his livestock, servants, and family.

The following verses document these events of accumulated pressure on Job that result in evidence testing:

Event #1: Raiders Rustled Livestock and Killed the Herdsman:

Job 1:13: “Now the day came when Job’s sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,

Vs. 14: and a messenger came to Job, saying, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing beside them,

Vs. 15: and the Sabéans (a wealthy distant people from the ancient kingdom of Sheba (modern Yemen) known as powerful traders of gold, spices, and incense, and also as fierce raiders) swooped down and carried them all away, and they killed the servants with the sword! And I—only I alone—escaped to tell you!”

Event # 2: A Lightning Strike Caused a Wildfire Killing the Flock of Sheep and the Shepherds:

Job 1:16: “While this one was still speaking, another messenger arrived and said, “The fire of God has fallen from heaven and has burned up the sheep and the servants – it has consumed them! And I – only I alone – escaped to tell you!”

Event #3: Aramaean Horsemen Rustled A Train of Camels and Killed the Workers:

Job 1:17: “While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Event #4: All Job’s Sons and Daughters Were Killed When a Strong Wind Blew Down their Oldest Brother’s House.

Job 1:18: “While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house,

Vs. 19: and behold, a great wind (stormy wind) came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

1. Job had the doctrinal capacity to orient and adjust to circumstances knowing that God is sovereign, His decree certifies these events will occur in time, and his duty was to orient and adjust and praise God for His grace.
2. Job’s response to these events began with two acts recognized as a means of showing grief common in the ancient world:

Job 1:20: “Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshipped.”

3. Job's first response was to arise, **he physically stood up**. While continuing to stand, Job tore his robe, he ripped a part of his clothing.
4. The garment he tore was his “robe.” “The robe stands for a variety of garments used only by men of rank or of the priestly order.”
5. “Job tore,” ‘indicates the intentionality and the rapidity of the actions to follow. It signals the beginning of his response to the terrible news.
6. Therefore, the sentence could be translated, “**Then Job immediately began to rip apart his robe.”**
7. Job immediately followed the action of ripping apart his robe by shaving his head. Both of these are common gestures of violent grief in the biblical world.
8. These two acts are followed by a rhetorical, poetic, or lyrical stanza called a **quatrain: “a verse of four lines, rhymed or unrhymed. It is the most commonly used stanza in English.**
9. Job's quatrain is recorded in **Job 1:21**:

**“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
And naked I shall return there.
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.”**

Job 1:22: “Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.”

Principle: In the face of this four-fold sequence of tragic loss, Job did not sin but instead maintained grace orientation.

1. His work animals were stolen and his workers slaughtered by Sabeans; lightning strikes ignited a fire consuming his flock of sheep and their herders were consumed in the blaze; a Chaldean raiding party stole his camels and their handlers were slain; finally, a Sirocco wind blew down his eldest son’s home killing his entire family.
2. Even though Job was in grief and I’m sure in shock of the sudden loss of family, friends, and possessions, he did not forget God, **the source of his prosperity**.
3. His grace orientation combined with his doctrinal inventory to endure the challenges that reduced him and his holdings to absolutely nothing, **yet he oriented and adjusted**.

4. Satan's first cross-examination had failed. God then gave a formal commendation of Job.

Job 2:3b: “And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.”

5. The suffering “without cause” becomes a demonstration of the glory of God.
6. This Evidence Testing forces the mature believer to depend totally on the grace provisions of God.
7. His orientation to Bible Doctrine was made possible by his steadfast focus on the integrity of God.
8. Job next broke out in a type of skin cancer. His looks became repulsive.
9. He had lesions and became disfigured. He had non-stop itching which tormented him. He was unable to rest or find relief for the pain and itching.
10. During this time of testing, it was his wife who was the first to call him out as foolish to stand fast in the face of disaster.

Job 2:9: “Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!”

Maintaining steadfastly his integrity, Job responded in:

Job 2:10: “But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”

PRINCIPLE: It was obvious that Job enjoyed the gifts but he never forgot the giver!

1. Even with all the testing and challenges Job was facing he kept his divine perspective and refused to join his wife in negative reaction against God.
2. Job utilized impersonal love and applied doctrine and did not get bitter or angry towards his wife. He did not react with anger or self-pity and it was his impersonal love that allowed him to pass this second test.

The third major testing for Job was the long exchange he had with three of his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar.

1. These four debated about Job's adversities and his attitude toward them from Job 3 through chapter 31. This happened over a seven-day period of time.

2. Job's friends begin to judge him and instead of being there for him and supporting him they arrogantly assumed the role of helping God make Job see the error of his ways.
3. In Evidence Testing involves suffering "**without any reason**". His three friends had no facts on which to base their judging on. They had even less information than Job but they were quick to judge their friend.
4. The period of silence, wrath of his wife and judging from his friends starting to wear on Job. The ostracism and isolation caused him to feel sorry for himself and become subjective and feel sorry for himself.
5. When a believer becomes controlled with his emotions he cannot think clearly and use the doctrine in his soul as he did with the earlier tests. He succumbed to self-pity and was incapable of thinking clearly.
6. In this state Job lashed out in Job 3:1: "**Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.**"

PRINCIPLE: **No matter how far we advance in our spiritual life we can all fail!**

PRINCIPLE: **Only divine resources related to Bible Doctrine can meet the problems of severe, prolonged pain and of the miserable circumstances of life.**

7. Job temporarily lost his ability to concentrate on God's word, but God remained faithful.
8. We know God will never allow us to be tested beyond what we can handle and we know God allowed the Evidence Testing to continue.
9. So, we must assume Job had not reached the limit of his endurance.
10. Even though Job was a mature believer even the greatest of believers can fail under pressure. The power and solution was the doctrine in his soul.
11. Only the continuous intake, metabolism, and application of the Word of God build up our inner resources, and we remain strong only as long as we think from the divine viewpoint and utilize divine problem-solving devices.
12. Job has to go it alone in recovering his spiritual poise and passing Evidence Testing.
13. Job started his recovery when he appealed directly to God rather than attempting to justify himself to men.

Job 13:13-15: "**Be silent before me so that I may speak; Then let come on me what may.**

Vs. 14: “Why should I take my flesh in my teeth And put my life in my hands?

Vs. 15: “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless, I will argue my ways before Him.”

14. Even though Job was on the road to recovery he sometimes fell back into self-pity and arrogance.

Job 19:7: “Though I cry, ‘I’ve been wronged!’ I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice.”

15. But as Job recovered he also showed signs of knowing divine viewpoint.

Job 19:25-26: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth.

Vs. 26: And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. “

Note David’s similar prayer:

Psalm 13: “How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?

Vs. 2: How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart all the day? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

Vs. 3: Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

Vs. 4: And my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” And my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.

Vs. 5: But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Vs. 6: I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

END NIGHT TWO

