

Doctrine of Tempting God

Part 1

1. There are various ways people tempt God, such as by insisting they be given a particular object of intense desire.
 - *Exodus 17:2 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?*
2. In the Old Testament and in the New Testament there is a divine prohibition against tempting God.
 - *Deuteronomy 6:16 Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.*
 - *Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*
3. A cautious person, a wise person, will not presume to tempt God.
 - *Isaiah 7:12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord.*
4. Some wicked people believe that they can tempt God and not suffer any negative consequences.
 - *Malachi 3:15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.*
5. It is not just the unbelieving and wick that dares to tempt God. Religious hypocrites do the same.
 - *Matthew 22:18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?*
 - *Mark 12:15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? Bring me a penny, that I may see it.*
 - *Luke 4:12 And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*
 - *Luke 20:23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?*

6. As God the Father and God the Son can be tempted, so can God the Holy Spirit be tempted. One way is by lying about one's spirituality.
- *Acts 5:9 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.*
 - *Acts 15:10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*
7. The divinity of Christ and His pre-existence prior to His incarnation are established in the theology of Paul.
- *1 Corinthians 10:9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.*
 - *Numbers 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. 6 And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.*
11. There is one verse that says God tempted someone, Abraham. The Hebrew word is *nacah* (naw-saw'), and means, "to test; by implication, to attempt." For the purpose of approval God tempted, or tested Abraham, and his love and faith.
- *Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.*
12. The Bible says that God cannot be tempted with evil, which simply means that there is nothing in God that would respond to evil.
- *James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*