

The Devil Said, “It Is Written”

Matthew 4:5-7 (ESV) ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” (*Psa 91:11-12*) ⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (*Deut 6:16*)

Trusting God Brings... Refuge (1-2) Deliverance (3-8) Protection (9-13) Salvation (14-16)

Psalms 91:1-16 (ESV) ¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. ⁵You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ⁶nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. ⁷A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

⁹ Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place — the Most High, who is my refuge—
¹⁰no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. ¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. ¹²On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. ¹³You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

¹⁴ “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. ¹⁵When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. ¹⁶With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

- **Ignored the Immediate Context (1-2 – “my God in whom I trust”)**

- **Ignored Passages that Contradicted His Interpretation (Dt 6:16; Ex 17:7)**

Deuteronomy 6:16 (ESV) ¹⁶“You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.

Exodus 17:7 (ESV) ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah[£] and Meribah,[£] because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

- **Made the Conditional... Unconditional (9-11, 14)**

- **Made the Figurative...Literal (4, 11-12)**

- **The Devil Twisted the Scriptures**

2 Peter 3:15-18 (ESV) ¹⁵And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

I. Ignored the Immediate Context

- A. "Paul says baptism isn't part of the gospel." (1 Cor 1:17 – "Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel")

"Again it is written..."

1:10 – "that there be no divisions among you"

1:12 – "each one of you says, 'I follow Paul'"

1:13 – "Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?"

1 Corinthians 1:10-17 (ESV) ¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, ¹¹by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹²For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹³What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹⁴Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁵I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁶so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

- B. "Infants should be baptized" (*households of Cornelius, Lydia, Jailer, Stephanus*)

"Again it is written..."

Cornelius' family – heard, spoke in tongues, magnified God

Lydia's family – comforted by words of Paul

Jailer's family – heard, believed, rejoiced

Stephanus' family – ministered to saints

II. Ignored Related Passages that Contradicted His Interpretation

- A. Justified by faith "only"? (Rom 5:1; Eph 2:8-9)

Romans 5:1 (ESV) ¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV) ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

"Again it is written..."

Jas 2:24 – "justified by works and NOT by faith only"

Acts 2:38 – "repent and be baptized"

1 Pet 3:21 – "baptism now saves us"

2 Ths 1:8-9 – must "obey the gospel"

III. Made the Conditional...Unconditional

- A. "Once saved, always saved"

John 10:28-29 (ESV) ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Romans 8:29-30 (ESV) ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified **he also glorified**.

Romans 8:35 (ESV) ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ...

“Again it is written...”

Colossians 1:22-23 (ESV) ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³**if indeed you continue in the faith**, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard...

Hebrews 3:12-14 (ESV) ¹²Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to **fall away from the living God**. ¹³But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we share in Christ, **if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (ESV) ⁴For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶**if they then fall away**, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

Hebrews 10:26-27 (ESV) ²⁶For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there **no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, ²⁷but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Galatians 5:4 (ESV) ⁴You are **severed from Christ**, you who would be justified^f by the law; you have **fallen away from grace**.

B. “God’s land promise to Israel continues” – a doctrine of premillennialism

Genesis 13:14-15 (ESV) ¹⁴The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵for all the land that you see **I will give to you and to your offspring forever**. (Heb. *olam*)

Genesis 17:8 (ESV) ⁸And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, **for an everlasting possession** (Heb. *olam*), and I will be their God.”

“Again it is written...”

Joshua 11:23 (ESV) ²³So **Joshua took the whole land**, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.

Joshua 23:15 (ESV) ¹⁵But just as all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has **destroyed you from off this good land** that the Lord your God has given you,

Deuteronomy 28:63 (ESV) ⁶³And as the Lord took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the Lord will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And **you shall be plucked off the land** that you are entering to take possession of it.

If “forever” in the OT means “for all time,” then we should still be observing:

- Circumcision – *Gen 17:10-13*
- The Passover – *Ex 12:14*
- Feast of Unleavened Bread – *Ex 12:17*
- The priesthood of Aaron – *Ex 29:9*
- The Sabbath – *Ex 31:16-17*
- The sacrifices, with their portions for the priests – *Lev 6:18; 7:34-36; 10:15*
- Fasting and animal sacrifices on the Day of Atonement – *Lev 16:29-34*
- The Feast of Tabernacles - *Lev 23:39-42*

IV. Made the Figurative... Literal (4, 11-12)

A. “Future 1000 year reign of Christ on earth, two or more resurrections” (Rev 20:4-6)

Revelation 20:4-6 (ESV) ⁴Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

“Again it is written...”

Revelation 1:1-2 (NKJV) ¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and **signified it by His angel** to His servant John, ²who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to **all things that he saw**.

Revelation 1:10-11 (NKJV) ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹saying, ^f“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “**What you see, write in a book** and send *it* to the seven churches ^fwhich are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

Jn 18:36 – kingdom not of this world

1 Cor 15:50 – flesh and blood can’t inherit kingdom

Jn 5:28-29 – one resurrection of good & evil in the same hour

Conclusion... The Devil Twisted the Scriptures

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