

“It is written” – Pt 2 Our defence against Satan

This is our second study on the phrase “it is written”. In our previous study we established three points– (1) God’s written words were authoritative to Israel for teaching, daily living & worship, (2) There were those in Israel that looked at the evil they were in and new it was as it was written in the law, (3) chief priest responded to authorities “it is written” yet they erred not knowing the scriptures. In this study we establish three points – (1) Satan tempted the Lord Jesus using the scriptures – “it is written”, (2) Jesus’ defence against temptation from Satan was scripture – “it is written”, and (3) Jesus reprovved Satan’s children from God’s written words.

Our three points established from the scriptures –

1. Satan tempted the Lord Jesus using the scriptures – “it is written”.

“And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone” (Matt.4: 6). See Lk.4: 10.

2. Jesus’ defence against temptation from Satan – “It is written”

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matt.4: 4). See also Lk.4: 4.

3. Jesus reprovved Satan’s children from God’s written words

“He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with [their] lips, but their heart is far from me” (Mk.7: 6).

Illustration

One of the greatest trials is to fall into temptation, and be snared by them, be overwhelmed by them to the point where they consume our life, derail our walk with the Lord and end where we fall away. One of the greatest victories we can have in our life is when we, endure temptations, and through them rise up, recognise them for what they are (lust of our flesh, and who is tempting us (Satan) and stand strong –not just reading the scriptures, but using them to defend ourselves!

Question to think about.

What is our greatest proven defence against temptation from the devil?

Answer from the scriptures

Our greatest defence against attacks from Satan is Holy scripture – “it is written” – and then quote a verse from the scriptures, because –

a) the “word of God is quick, and **powerful**, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb.4: 12).

b) the word of God is the sword of the Spirit, it is part of our armour –

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand....And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph.6: 11, 13 & 17).

Let us remember – when we are tempted, to use the words– “it is written” and then quote a verse from the Holy scriptures, the sword of the spirit, to defend ourselves– in doing so we resist the devil and he will flee from us (Jam.4: 7). “It is written” amen!