

BA1. Not Testing or Tempting God, the Holy Spirit, or Yeshua.

We are not to test or tempt God, the Holy Spirit, or Yeshua.

BA1a: *We are not to test or tempt God.*

BA1b: *We are not to test or tempt the Holy Spirit.*

BA1c: *We are not to test or tempt Yeshua.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 4:7

Yeshua replied to him, "But it also says, 'Do not [NKJ: tempt] put ADONAI your God to the test.'"

Acts 5:7-9

Some three hours later, his wife came in, unaware of what had happened. Kefa challenged her: "Tell me, is it true that you sold the land for such-and-such a price?" "Yes," she answered, "that is what we were paid for it." But Kefa came back at her, "Then why did you people plot to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The men who buried your husband are at the door. They will carry you out too!"

1 Corinthians 10:9

And let us not put the Messiah to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by snakes.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Luke 4:12

Acts 15:10

Related New Testament Mitzvot

BA37 Not Contradicting or Rebuking God

SA10 Testing Every Spirit

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Exodus 17:7

The place was named Massah [testing] and M'rivah [quarreling] because of the quarreling of the people of Isra'el and because they tested ADONAI by asking, "Is ADONAI with us or not?"

Deuteronomy 6:16

Do not put ADONAI your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah [testing].

Isaiah 7:12

But Achaz answered, "I won't ask, I won't test ADONAI."

Malachi 3:15

We consider the arrogant happy; also evildoers prosper; they put God to the test; nevertheless, they escape.

Comment

A question that is sometimes asked is: "What is the difference between 'testing' and tempting?" The answer is that "tempting" is intentionally luring and desiring a person to do something he would not ordinarily do (e.g committing sin), while "testing" makes available to a person the opportunity to do something in order to find out whether he will do it. The two are connected when God tests us through trials (James 1:2-4 & 12) or by allowing Satan (through our flesh) to tempt us (James 1:13-14). We also read in Genesis 3:1-6 of how Satan successfully tempted Eve, and in Matthew 4:1-11 of how he tried (unsuccessfully) to tempt Yeshua.

But Scripture (as reflected in this *Mitzvah* #BA1) commands us not to test God (including Yeshua and the Holy Spirit); why is it wrong to test God? It is wrong because God has revealed Himself and His will for us in Scripture; putting God to the test is therefore saying that we do not believe the Scriptures or that we do not believe God. Why do men sometimes test God? Mostly to determine the limits of sin they can commit without being punished. They typically do it by committing a sin they desire to commit and then wait for God to respond. If they receive no immediate response, they become emboldened, believing that they can repeat the sin with impunity.

Note: An apparent exception is Malachi 3:10 in which God invites being tested:¹

"Bring the whole tenth into the storehouse, so that there will be food in my house, and put me to the test," says ADONAI-Tzva'ot. "See if I won't open for you the floodgates of heaven and pour out for you a blessing far beyond your needs."

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

G05 Testing God's Promises and Warnings

R04 Testing the Spirits

W04 Testing Everything that is Spoken in God's Name

¹ See also, Hebrews 3:9.