

Christians Must Avoid the Israelites' Mistakes

Introduction:

1. In 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Christians are given some very important instructions that are based on God's dealings with the Israelites.
2. Some general matters are discussed in vs.1-6.
 - a. According to vs.1-4, God blessed the Israelites by delivering them from Egypt, by providing food and water for them, and by providing direction and protection for them.
 - b. We learn from vs.5, however, that God was not pleased with many of the Israelites, and He prevented them from entering the Promised Land.
 - c. In vs.6 Christians are admonished to avoid the mistakes of the Israelites.
3. More specifically, we are shown:
 - a. in vs.7 that Christians must not be "*idolaters*"
 - b. in vs.8 that Christians must not "*commit fornication*"
 - c. in vs.9 that Christians must not "*tempt Christ.*"
4. When the Bible speaks of man being tempted, it may refer to:
 - a. an enticement to commit sin (James 1:14)
 - b. a trial of one's faith (James 1:2-3).
5. When the Bible speaks of God or Christ being tempted, it refers to a proof or test of their power, character, and patience (Exodus 17:1-2, 7; Psalm 78:18-19, 40-42, 56-57).
6. Since these instructions are based on events that involved the Israelites, let us first examine . . .

Discussion:

- I. HOW CHRIST WAS TEMPTED BY MEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
 - A. To understand how the Israelites tempted Christ, we must remember that:
 1. God promised to send His Angel to direct and protect His people (Exodus 23:20-25)
 2. this Angel was Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4).
 - B. One occasion when the Israelites tempted Christ is recorded in Numbers 21:4-9.
 1. Discouragement led the Israelites to tempt the Lord (vs.4-5).
 2. The Lord sent "*fiery serpents*" that bit the Israelites, and many of them died (vs.6).
 3. The Lord provided healing for His people (vs.7-9).
 - C. When the law was repeated, the Israelites were clearly instructed to avoid tempting the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:16).
 - D. On the basis of this information, let us next examine . . .
- II. HOW CHRIST WAS TEMPTED BY MEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
 - A. (Matthew 16:1-4) The Pharisees and Sadducees tempted Christ when they wanted Him to show them a sign.
 - B. (Matthew 19:3-9) The Pharisees tempted Christ when they asked Him about divorce.
 - C. (Matthew 22:15-21) The disciples of the Pharisees and the Herodians tempted Christ when they asked Him about paying tribute to Caesar.
 - D. (Matthew 22:35-40) A lawyer tempted Christ when he asked the Lord to identify the greatest commandment in the law.
 - E. (John 8:3-11) The scribes and Pharisees tempted Christ when they asked Him about stoning the woman caught in adultery.

Conclusion:

1. The Bible shows that men have tempted Christ on many occasions.
2. Christians must avoid this mistake.
3. An important admonition for Christians is found in Hebrews 3:7-12.