



The Inscrutable Question: Review: The Will of God: For the Believer, for Human History; Evidence Testing of Christ: Background

13. The will of God has one all inclusive and final objective and that is His glory.

Romans 11:36 - All things are from the source of Him and through the agency of Him and for Him, furthermore, the glory belongs to Him forever.

Revelation 4:11 - O Lord our God, You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power because You have created all things *ex nihilo* and also because of your sovereign will they existed in eternity past and were created.

To fully understand the plan of God and the will of God requires the believer to advance to spiritual maturity. He has a plan for your life expressed by the four spiritual mechanics. He has a will or desire to be glorified by those He creates expressed in His divine decrees.

Those who possess the wisdom of spiritual maturity also are equipped with cognitive invincibility that is sustained by problem-solving device #10: occupation with Christ.

Such a believer is prepared to become a witness for the Prosecution in category 2 of evidence testing. In this category, Lucifer seeks to discredit the believer-witness under the contention that prosperity, wealth, and power will cause him to become unfaithful to God and His Word. Satan as the ruler of this world has the power and the inclination to offer the mature believer lucrative opportunities to acquire power, fame, and fortune. This is in opposition to the grace principle: if God does not promote you, you are not promoted.

An example of this second category of evidence testing is provided by Lucifer and our Lord in Matthew 4:1-11.

e. The evidence testing of Christ.

1) Background:

1. Jesus Christ moved into spiritual maturity by the age of twelve. We see his advance through the sophisticated spiritual life to possession of maximum wisdom in:

Luke 2:40 - And the Child continued to grow and become strong, full of wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

2. His ability to converse with and impress the theologians in the Temple is documented in:

Luke 2:46 - And it came about after three days Joseph and Mary found Jesus in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

v. 47 - And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

3. We see his utilization of genuine humility, grace orientation, and doctrinal orientation illustrated by his submission to His parents in:

Luke 2:51 - And He went down with His parents and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.



4. The next verse informs us that not only had He maxed out in wisdom but He was also skillful in the use of the tandem problem-solving devices:

Luke 2:52 - And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom [**cognitive invincibility**] and stature, and in favor with God [**reciprocity: personal love for God**] and men [**unconditional love for mankind**].

5. John the Baptist administered the ritual that introduced the Lord into His public ministry at the Jordan River Baptism in:

Luke 3:21 - Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened,

v. 22 - and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased."

6. This event marks the beginning of the Lord's public ministry. It occurred, according to Luke 3:1, "in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar" and although this is not as precise as it might seem the best guess is A.D. 26.
7. This event introduced our Lord to His public ministry at age 30 according to:

Luke 3:23 - And when He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age being supposedly the son of Joseph ...

8. The genealogy that follows tracks the line of Mary back to David's son, Nathan. Although Joseph is mentioned as the first ancestor in the line it is instead Mary's line. Based on Numbers 36, Judaism developed into a patrilineal society, that is, the husband was named in place of the wife in genealogies.
9. The statement that Jesus was "supposedly the Son of Joseph," recognizes the fact that Joseph was assumed by men to be His earthly father but in reality Joseph was our Lord's foster father.
10. This series of references demonstrates the spiritual growth of our Lord. He attained spiritual maturity by age 12. The 18 silent years between ages 12 and 30 were a time when our Lord was able to concentrate on the development of spiritual skills.