

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**

### **The Temptation of Jesus**

Last time...John the Baptist baptized Jesus...more than meets the eye  
The Rightful King is anointed by the Rightful Priest

To put a ribbon on that:

When the King of kings reigns for 1000 years,

- only the priests from the line of Zadok will be able to serve Him
- not those who were unfaithful
- not the false priesthoods

Ezk 44:10-16

Ezk 48:10-12

This time...the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness...the Clash of Kingdoms

### **Mark 1:12-13**

v12-13 immediately...driveth...tempted of Satan:

Immediately after

- being anointed by the rightful priest by John (baptism of water)  
(who had been proclaiming 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand')
- being anointed by His Father (baptism of Holy Spirit)
- the testimony by His Father in heaven that He, the only begotten Son,  
is the Christ/Messiah/King

Jesus is driven/sent away/cast forth into the wilderness

(desert to the west of Jericho) to be tempted/tested/enticed by Satan

Jesus was driven of the Spirit of God to go...

- not meaning that he was unwilling to go
- meaning He/Jesus had no will in the matter –  
He went, submitting to the will of the Father

The Clash of the Kingdoms gets underway...immediately

The start of the kingdom of heaven is hostile conflict with the kingdom of the  
prince of this world, a conflict fought by Jesus Christ in

- utter forsakenness
- utter desolation
- utter denial of carnal needs, resulting in great weakness of Body
- unrelenting assaults by Satan

From the perspective of human reasoning, starting a kingdom this way does not make much sense

But from God's perspective, this is necessary and proper

At the very center of the clash of the kingdom is Jesus,  
Son of God and Son of Man  
Which kingdom will be victorious – God's or Satan's?  
Whose will be done – the Father's or Satan's?  
Will the Son of Man be faithful to His mission or will He abandon  
His mission?

The 1<sup>st</sup> order of business for the One sent to do the will of the Father:  
testing...so the worthiness of the Object of faith (v10-11) is  
publicly displayed

Notes: Temptation is not a sin, falling to the temptation is sin  
Jesus was tempted of Satan, not the Father (James 1:13-14)

The god of this world, the prince of this world is...Lucifer/Satan  
In the parallel passages in Matt and Luke, Satan is referred to as

- the devil
- the tempter

But the Holy Spirit in the Gospel of Mark, who records just the sum of the matter,  
calls Satan out by name

Satan first appears (in book age sequence) in Scripture by name in Job 1  
Job was a contemporary of Abraham  
The Book of Job was the first book of the Bible recorded

According to Jesus Christ, Satan is

- enemy (Matt 13:39)
- evil one (Matt 13:39)
- prince of this world (John 12:31, John 14:30)
- strongman (Matt 12:29)
- liar, the father of lies (John 8:44)
- murderer (John 8:44)

According to Jesus Christ, Satan

- has a kingdom (Matt 12:26)
- sows tares among the wheat (Matt 13:38-39)
- snatches the Word from the hearts of hearers (Matt 13:19)
- has many followers/disciples...fallen angels (Matt 25:41)
- has sons...evil men (Matt 13:28)
- is fallen from heaven (although still has access) (Luke 10:18)
- is destined for eternal fire (Matt 25:41)

So...according to Jesus Christ, Satan is very real!  
The spiritual realm is very real...the greater reality than our own!  
Therefore, these severe spiritual assaults/tests faced by Jesus were very real!

The players in this first and momentous clash of kingdoms were...spiritual

<u>Holy</u>	<u>unholy</u>
Holy Spirit	Satan
Jesus	wild beasts...demons
angels	

It must be noted the power needed to battle Satan and his wild beasts –  
the power of God, the Holy Spirit

### **Matt 4:1-11**

v1-2 led up of...fasted:

Jesus Christ...100% God and 100% Man...is led by the Holy Spirit into the  
wilderness to be tested/tempted/tried by the devil for  
40 days and 40 nights

Let's think about that for a moment...

His deity could not be tested/tempted, but His humanity, which He took on  
voluntarily (Phil 2:5-11), could be

Like our human nature, Jesus' human nature was weak and capable of sinning  
But Jesus' human nature, unlike our human nature, was not corrupted by sin –  
He was pure and sinless  
He had the power to say "No!" to temptation and sin

Jesus' human nature was "perfected" by obedience...perfect/absolute submission  
to the will of the Father (Heb 5:5-9)

We have failed in "perfection" by choosing sin and our will over the will of the  
Father

Thus, our desperate need for the help only Jesus can give us:  
to be pleasing to the Father

These verses conclude with: "He was afterward hungry"  
After Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights, He was famished  
After He was famished...v3-11

What follows is "afterward"...at the end of the 40 days and 40 nights...  
BUT the temptation of Jesus by Satan was for...40 days and 40 nights

Again, there is more than meets the eye in the fasting for 40 days and 40 nights

- Moses fasted for 40 days and 40 nights while on Mount Sinai (Ex 34:27-28, Deut 10:10)
- Elijah fasted for 40 days and 40 nights while he fled to Mount Sinai (1 King 19:8)

However,

- Moses fasted for 40 days and 40 nights while God gave him the Law, Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights to test/prove/fulfill the Law
- neither Moses nor Elijah were assaulted by Satan... only Jesus could face Satan, 1:1
- neither Moses nor Elijah “succeeded” (fast followed by anger, despair) only Jesus overcame (John 1:17)

So we see in Scripture, the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah)

- were shadows of the Substance to come, Jesus the Living Word (Matt 22:36-40, Rom 13:10, 1 John 4:8)
- testified of Jesus Christ, the Word of God
  - at the glimpse of Jesus’ glory at the Transfiguration while speaking of His exodus from Jerusalem
  - outside the empty tomb of His Ultimate Victory over Satan
  - in Jerusalem (Rev 11) before His return to Jerusalem

After an unimaginable struggle for 40 days and 40 nights,

Jesus is at His weakest...and now comes the devil’s final assaults

v3 stones be made bread:

Satan attacks Jesus’ humanity...His physical needs and weaknesses...and His will

Provoking and mocking the Son of Man, Satan tempts Jesus take matters into His own hands and to make what He needs to satisfy His “noisy” body

Forget this crazy torment by this pathetic human body.

(btw...this is no way for a Father to treat a Son, is it?)

If You are the Son of God (God), just do what You are able to do in order to please/satisfy/quiet Your human body.

Use Your power and authority to feed Your flesh;  
let Your Spirit serve Your flesh.

Not questioned: Jesus’ identity or His power

Could He have done it?

Was it in Jesus’ power to turn stones into bread?

Absolutely!

But would He do it, would He yield to the screaming lust of His flesh?

v4 It is written:

Rather than giving into His temporary need, Jesus remains steadfastly focused on His Father's mission and His "food" to be about His Father's business  
John 4:31-34

He "feeds back" to Satan...the Bread of Life, eternal satisfaction  
Deut 8:3

As did Job (a shadow of the Substance) to his "friends" during his intense trial  
Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary *food*

Is not the Book of Job an metaphor of the temptation of Christ?

Jesus conquers!  
Strike 1 for Satan (of the final attacks)

v5-6 into the holy city...cast thyself down:

Next, Satan challenges the Word of God from which Jesus has just fed him  
(Satan spit it out)

Remember, we are witnessing a battle in the spiritual realm  
In that spiritual realm, Satan takes Jesus to the city

- God has chosen
- Satan was trampled since the Holy Spirit departed from the Temple

Satan takes Jesus to the SE corner of the Temple, looking over the Kidron Valley  
Satan, who has great knowledge of Scripture and twists it for his own advantage, selects a Messianic passage and throws Ps 91:11-12 in Jesus' face

He is tempting Jesus to make a prideful demonstration of His Deity and Messiahship

If you are the Son of God and if the Word of God is true,  
throw Yourself down into the valley...if you really trust God.  
Take a leap of faith...show God and me how much you trust God!

For Jesus to do as Satan tempted would not have been trust but presumption...  
just as the Israelites did and got spanked in Num 14:39-45  
Satan is tempting Jesus to do something His Father did not send Him to do  
The angels in fact may have come to Jesus' rescue, but it would have been Jesus' will being done, not the Father's

What is the difference between tempting the Lord and putting out a fleece?  
A matter of Whose will be done and how, and Who “does”

Don't take Scripture out of context in order to accomplish your will.  
Don't use Scripture to justify your will or doing God's work your way.

v7 not tempt the Lord:

Jesus' response to the devil's temptation of presumption is short and sweet  
He again responds to the temptation of Satan with the written Word of God,  
this time quoting Deut 6:16

Jesus conquers again!  
Strike 2 for the devil

v8-9 exceeding high mountain...worship me:

In a vision...a lying vision/sign/wonder...Satan shows his kingdom and all its  
glory to Jesus

The god of this world (2 Cor 4:3-4) then offers to give Jesus everything He sees...  
enticing Jesus with the lust of His eyes in exchange for worship,  
for which Lucifer/Satan has always lusted (Is 14:12-17)

Let's think about the offer for a minute...

Who created the universe and sustains it?

To Whom belongs the earth and the fullness thereof?

How glorious is the glory of the world compared to the glory

- in heaven?
- Jesus Personally set aside to come as the Servant of God?
- of the coming Kingdom of God on earth?

From my estimation, looking thru the lens of the written Word, Satan is offering  
Jesus the “sleeves out of his vest”

And Jesus is immeasurably smarter than me...so what is Satan really saying?

1. Let's make a deal...

- be my Christ, not God's.
- let my kingdom come, not God's.

2. Compromise...

- don't go to the Cross and all its humiliation, take all this glory instead.
- You don't have to redeem the world by going to the Cross –  
I'll just give it to You if You will but worship me.

Satan is offering a counterfeit Gospel to de-rail Jesus from His mission

v10 Get thee hence:

For Jesus, this is the last straw, for this temptation was the most wicked  
“Enough!  
Depart from Me!”

And, as He did previously, Jesus feeds Satan from the absolute and unchanging  
Truth – the Word of God (Deut 6:13)

All creatures are to worship and serve ONLY God their Creator...  
never another creature/creation  
All creatures are to worship their Creator His way,  
not a way of their own devising

Jesus conquers again!  
Strike 3 on the devil

Commanded by Jesus to hit the road, Satan...

v11 devil leaveth...angels came:

...hit the road  
Satan and his followers must do as Jesus commands!  
Who has the power?  
1 John 4:4

Then, the Father Who is well-pleased with His Son sends ministering spirits to  
attend to Jesus

Jesus' test results: He passed where no man has passed before!  
Jesus faced the devil in His lair and conquered!

### **Luke 4:1-13**

v1-2 being full of...led by:

In this account, Jesus is

- full of (“by the side of”...not a forced march by) the Holy Ghost
- led by the Spirit

Jesus goes to face the devil, being Spirit-filled and Spirit-led...  
which is how we are to go march against the gates of hell (Matt 16:18)  
lest we get spanked!

v3-4 every word of God:

The Word of God

- The Word of Life (1 John 1:5)
- words of eternal life (John 6:68)
- alive, sharp and cutting (Heb 4:12)
- profitable (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- to be studied to show ourselves approved to God (2 Tim 2:15, Ps 119)
- EVERY word (1 Kings 8:56)

v5-7 all the kingdoms...in a moment in time...All this power:

In the “twinkling of the eye” the devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and offered Him all the power/jurisdiction of those kingdoms – the power to

- lord over lowly men
- impose His will on them
- force men to obey Him

at a “small” price

Satan could offer all the kingdoms of the world...

and not be challenged by Jesus...

because Adam forfeited the world to him in Gen 3

Let's think on this some more again...

Jesus, the Word of God, created the world, perfect and sinless...

He gave jurisdiction of it to Adam, who ruined it with sin

(failing the temptation of the devil)...

Adam surrendered the corrupt world to Satan and all creation groans...

Satan is now offering the corrupt world to Jesus...

- Why would Jesus be at all interested in a filthy, cursed-by-God, groaning hand-me-down when He could simply stop sustaining the world and start over with a clean slate and a few spoken words?
- What glory of man and the world can possibly compare to the glory of God?
- What power in the world approaches the power of God?

The world would not tempt Jesus because it was already all His (Ps 24:1).

But that which started in Gen 3 had to be confronted and defeated.

Besides, Jesus was sent by the Father not to force men to obey but to

- change men's hearts
- make reconciliation of a voluntary, loving relationship possible

Jesus came to get to the heart of the matter, not merely the façade



v8 Get thee behind Me, Satan:

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke record the “stones into bread” 1<sup>st</sup>

- We love our bodies, we don’t like our bodies to do without
- We don’t like to be hungry/famished, we do rash things when we are starving and our bodies are “screaming” at us
- Jew and Gentile could easily relate to the power of Satan’s attack with food

The Gospel of Matthew records this temptation as the 3<sup>rd</sup>,

The Gospel of Luke as the 2<sup>nd</sup>,

Jesus is most offended by this temptation

So the order in Matt and Luke may be due to the “view of Jesus” –

Matt: Son of David, King of Israel

Luke: Son of Man

v9-13 Jerusalem...pinnacle of the Temple...departed from him for a season:

The pinnacle of the Temple was the SE corner of the Temple,

looking over the Kidron Valley, several hundred feet below

Here the attending priest would look out for the dawning of the new day...

and would announce it with the first rays of the rising sun

And here...a “sword” (Heb 4:12) fight between Jesus and Satan

How arrogant must one be to get into a “sword fight” with Jesus?!

Again, Strike 1, Strike 2, Strike 3....you’re outta here!

Is Satan defeated and Jesus victorious?

Yes

Is Satan done, has he surrendered?

Oh no!

The tempter left for a season, he never goes away and stays away.

He will be back, with even greater intensity, to try to get Jesus to abandon His mission...

- Caesarea Philippi (thru Peter)
- Garden of Gethsemane

But this victory by Jesus...at the very onset of His ministry...decided all others

Jesus’ submission to the Father will be perfect

Jesus’ obedience to the Father will be perfect

The Kingdom of God won the clash of the kingdoms!

Thus far in Jesus' ministry:

- humbled Himself before God and man
- Spirit-filled and Spirit-led to face the intense temptations of Satan
- triumphant in the clash of Kingdoms

The temptation of Christ is very important to us

- He knows and understands where we are – to be our High Priest He must understand our weaknesses, to suffer our suffering so that He is able to mediate for us

Heb 2:13-18

Heb 4:14-16

- He was perfect in resistance, able to bridge the chasm between God and man  
1 Tim 2:5

The “bridgework” must be initiated by God because no religious work could ever bridge the gap

- Satan's temptations are the antithesis of Matt 16:24
  1. Indulge your flesh
  2. Deny the Cross
  3. Follow me

Jesus faced the greatest intensity of the counterfeit and overcame these things... and gives us the power (Spirit-filled and Spirit-led) to

- say “No” to temptation, sin, devil, world

1 John 2:15-17

James 4:7

- follow Him

so “we” can do and overcome the temptations of the devil, the destroyer of souls!

John 16:33

1 Cor 10:13

1 John 5:4-5

So, when we are tempted,

1. Do not trust Self
2. Pray immediately
3. Own the decision, do not blame anyone
4. Rely on the Holy Spirit

And, we must be diligent to not be deceived...by end times Christianity

False Gospel preachers have failed the temptation of Satan and compromised with Satan

Carnal Christianity has failed the temptation of Satan and compromised with Satan

Cross-less Christianity has failed the temptation of Satan and compromised with Satan

Let's keep our eyes on Jesus to not be enticed or distracted by the prince of this world  
and his worthless temptations

Let's be ministered to/strengthened by the Holy Spirit

So ministered to, we can march to fight social conformity by preaching and teaching

"Jesus conformity" with

- No compromise
- No deals
- No doubts

Are you being sorely tempted by the flesh, pride, the world?

Are you falling to the severe temptation?

You need the indwelling, the filling, and the leading of the Holy Spirit!

Come, we will lay hands on you

1:40