

## Overcoming the Boastful Pride of Life

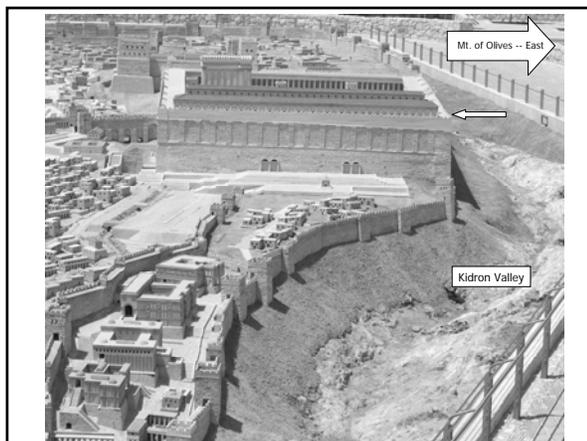
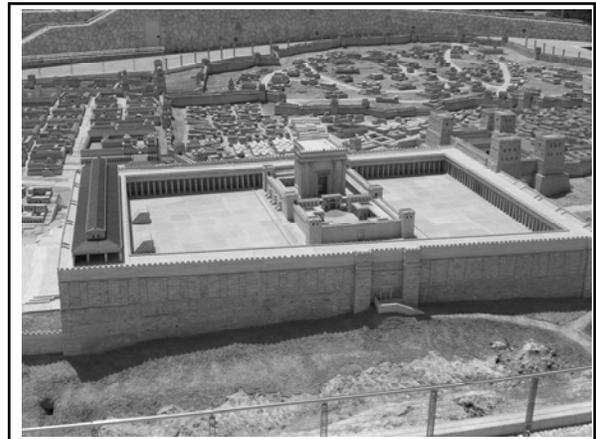
*Matthew 4:5-7*

## The Progression of Temptation

- 1) All sins spring from temptation.
- 2) All temptations spring from sinful lusts (cravings).
  - Jam. 1:14 - But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.
- 3) All sinful cravings ultimately spring from three root, sinful cravings.
  - The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.
- 4) The three root temptations spring from three normal, God-given human desires.
  - This is the level at which Jesus was tempted.**

## I. The Preparation (5)

- "Then the devil took Him into the holy city."
  - Holy city = Jerusalem
    - 1) that is the name given to Jerusalem in other places (Neh. 11:1; Matt. 27:53)
    - 2) it's the only city where the temple stood.
- "and had Him stand [lit., he set him] on the pinnacle of the temple."
  - English = *pinnacle* → Latin = *pinnaculum* = "little wing" = Greek

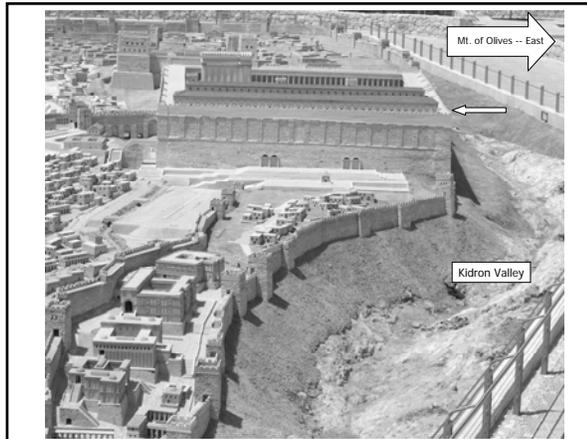


## Matthew Henry

- "How subtle the Devil was, in the choice of the place for his temptations. Intending to solicit Christ to an ostentation of his own power, and a vain-glorious presumption upon God's providence, he fixes him on a public place in Jerusalem, a populous city, and *the joy of the whole earth*; in the temple, one of the wonders of the world, continually gazed upon with admiration by some one or other. There he might make himself remarkable, and be taken notice of by every body, and prove himself the Son of God; not, as he was urged in the former temptation, in the obscurities of a wilderness, but before multitudes, upon the most eminent stage of action."

## II. The Temptation (6)

- "And said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"
- Quotation: Ps. 91:11-12



## Seeking a Sign

- The kind of sign many were hoping for and expecting from the Messiah.
- The kind of sign that many false messiahs were trying to perform.
- Jesus declared that "an evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign" (Matt. 12:39; cf. 16:4).
- Matt. 24:24 warns: "false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect."
- Several examples from the 1<sup>st</sup> century:
  - A man named Theudas led a group of people from the Temple to the Jordan River, promising to split the waters.
  - An Egyptian promised that he would flatten the walls of Jerusalem
  - Tradition says that Simon the magician (Acts 8:9) actually attempted the very thing which Satan tempted Jesus to do.

## The Nature of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temptation

- An appeal to the God-given desire to bring glory to God.
- The temptation was to do so in a way that God had not chosen.
- So, in reality, an appeal to self-promotion masquerading as a desire to bring glory to God.

## How Does this Relate to Us?

- There is within each of us a God-given desire to bring glory to God.
- But our fallen hearts naturally pervert that God-given desire and warp it into a desire, not for God's glory, but for personal glory.
- 1 John 2:16: "the boastful pride of life."
- So for us the root sinful desire is: the craving for personal glory.

### III. The Biblical Response (7)

- "Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"
- All three responses from Deut. 6-8
- From the Greek translation of the OT, the LXX
- Quote: Deut. 6:16

### Archbishop Trench

- "There lies in [Christ's words] the secret of our safety and defense against all distorted use of isolated passages in holy Scripture. Only as we enter into the unity of scripture, as it balances, completes, and explains itself, are we warned against error and delusion, excess or defect on this side or the other. Thus the retort, it is written again, must be of continual application; for indeed what very often are heresies but one-sided, exaggerated truths, truths rent away indeed from the body and complex of the truth, without the balance of counter-truth, which should have kept them in their due place, coordinated with other truths or subordinated to them; and so, because all such checks are wanting, not truth any more, but error."

### Applying Jesus' Victory

- 1) I am made to promote God's glory not my own.
  - Jesus lived to promote the Father's glory, and He would not promote His own.
  - Is. 49:3; John 5:41; 8:49-50, 54; 12:28; 17:4
- 2) If it brings God glory to promote or exalt me, He will do it in His way and at His time.
  - Luke 14:7-11; Phil. 2:5ff