

CHAPTER 4

The Temptation of Jesus

[[Matthew 4:1]] Then was Jesus **led up** of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

The normal Christian life. Mountains and vallies. Not a testing but a temptation.

After identifying with sinners in His baptism, Jesus now identifies with them in severe temptation - a necessary part of His ministry, so He truly was *led up by the Spirit into the wilderness*.

Jesus did not need to be tempted to help Him "grow"; instead, He endured temptation both so He could identify with us,

Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin.

and to demonstrate His own holy, sinless character. The Holy Spirit cannot tempt us,

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

but we may be led by the Holy Spirit to a place where we are tempted - not to prove anything to God (who knows all things), but to prove something to us and to on looking spiritual beings.

He was tempted directly by *Satan* himself (we contend mainly with lesser demons); and since temptation is only "relieved" by giving in, and Jesus never did, He bore levels of temptation we will never know by experience.

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, [here] I [am].

Not a contradiction. God tempts you to do right, not evil. He is tempting to obedience.

'led up' - the mount of temation is Sinai? Moses and Elijah fasted there.

The period of *forty days and forty nights* is a familiar period of testing in the Bible - both in the days of Noah, and for Israel in the wilderness. Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

Luke 4:2 Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

A picture of the past and the future. Jesus, just baptised, is led into the wilderness for 40 years.

Israel was in the wilderness 40 years. (revelation 12).

Jesus is going to succeed where Israel as a nation failed.

Pharoah is a type of the devil. Israel is attacked by the devil in Revelation 12. For 3 1/2 years Jesus' ministry is going to be almost identical to Israel is going to be in the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation. Christ's ministry is a picture of the Jewish ministry during the tribulation.

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James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

[[Matthew 4:2]] And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was **afterward** an hungred.

'afterward' - He wasnt hungry during the fast. If you are hungry during the fast it isnt a fast of the Lord. It is a diet.

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[[Matthew 4:3]] And when the **tempter** came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

'tempter' - the devil

'advesary' -

1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

'accuser' -

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

'deceiver" -

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitors of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

'hinderer' -

1Thessalonians 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

'tempter' -

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

'wearer out' -

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

'theif' -

Mark 4:15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

'liar' -

John 8:55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

The devil is treated as a real person, not a principality.

He is always questioning.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

God is not the author of doubt. He always leads you to assurance.

1 John 2:16 For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

three temptations (same as presented to Eve) - each one of these temptations is a tribulation or millennial truth. Before the crucifixion the devil is tempting Jesus to do something that He will do later. In the tribulation Jesus will make bread out of stones. (the scale of leviathan).

Job 41:1 Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord [which] thou lettest down?

Job 41:2 Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn?

Job 41:3 Will he make many supplications unto thee? will he speak soft [words] unto thee?

Job 41:4 Will he make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever?

Sometimes you need more Scripture. More than a sea serpent:

Isaiah 27:1 In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that [is] in the sea.

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Interestingly enough, in the book of Revelation, the coming Satanic world leader is referred to as the Beast. In the book of Daniel, we are told that this Beast will sign a covenant or false peace pact to consolidate his power over the world:

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." (Daniel 9:27)

Psalms 74:12 For God [is] my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.

Psalms 74:13 Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters.

He does it with a rod - Israel in the wilderness -

Micah 7:14 Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily [in] the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed [in] Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

Psalms 74:14 Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, [and] gavest him [to be] meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

There are 7 heads (Revelation).

'leviathan' - the devil

Job 41:1 Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord [which] thou lettest down?

In the tribulation Israel will break the heads of leviathan when Israel goes into the wilderness.

Isaiah 27:1 In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that [is] in the sea.

Ezekiel 20:35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

Jeremiah 50:19-21 And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead.

1 Samuel 25:2 And [there was] a man in Maon, whose possessions [were] in Carmel; and the man [was] very great,

and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats:
and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

**All verses that reference that Israel will be fed with manna
in the wilderness. Jesus calls it bread in John 6.**

**Since He is going to do it in the future, the devil tempts Him to
do it now.**

**Christ is in the road to the cross now and the devil is trying
to get Him to bypass the cross and go for the crown.**

**The devil is trying to get Jesus to do things ahead of time. He
will take the kingdoms, but not at this time. He will make
bread out of stones, but during the tribulation.**

1) lust of the flesh - stones made bread

**He knows the Lord isnt going to be tempted to eat bread.
He knows he is dealing with the Son of God. Even Moses and
Elijah wouldnt eat bread.**

2) pride of life - high place of exhualtation

3) lust of the eyes - shows all the kingdoms of the world

To Eve -

1) eyes hall be opened - pride of life

2) enjoy eating from every tree -lust of the flesh

3) a tree to make one wise - lust of the eyes

Education - the pride of life

In these temptations there are three very subtle temptations.

* **'command these stones to make bread'** - do it yourself. Dont trust anybody else.

* **'let the angels do it'** - God wont do anything for you you cant do yourself

* **'let the devil do it for you'** - He will try to get you to take care of what only God can take care of.

He will attack a 'do it yourself person'.

Phillipians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Phillipians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

You had better let God in on it.

No different than Eden.

2Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Eve was deceived, but Adam was not. First Adam tempted in Genesis 3; here, the last Adam tempted in Matthew 4.

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Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

'written' - rebuke the devil in the power of God.

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

Matthew 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

The devil works in a religious sphere. He hangs out in churches seeking worship. He wants the whole world to fall down and worship him.

2Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

He is the god that this world worships.

He is a king over all the children of pride.

Job 41:34 He beholdeth all high [things]: he [is] a king over all the children of pride.

He is a prince, and the power of the air.

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

His sphere is religious and political. He is out to set up a religious/political state where he is the supreme ruler and supreme being. Ruler and reigner of the Holy Roman empire.

2Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our gathering together unto him,

2Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

2Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2Thessalonians 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way.

2Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2Thessalonians 2:9 [Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

He will set himself up as god in the temple and be worshipped as God.

Daniel 11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

His sphere is religious, connected with politics.

He hears while in Jerusalem that John has been cast into prison. He goes north. He is working His way up to Galilee. He knows that John's ministry has been rejected. Jerusalem -> Judea -> Samaria (north) He is moving away from the Jew. John's ministry has been rejected.

[[Matthew 4:4]] But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

The first temptation: an appeal to the lust of the flesh.

Jesus uses His supernatural power in other incidents to feed the multitudes, so why not use it now? The issue is not Him providing for His needs, but rather the Father's Will.

'written' - Deuteronomy 8

we can't turn rocks into bread so we are not tempted by this incident. However, you are never tempted to do something which you are not capable of doing. You won't stumble in your weak suit; you will stumble in your strong suit.

[[Matthew 4:5]] Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, Satan is tempting Jesus to "force" the Father into a supernatural event; Satan is appealing to the desire within every man to sense approval from God and to have that approval publicly demonstrated. The pinnacle of the temple arose some 200 feet; a

leap from there and the appearance of the promised angelic protection would be quite a show!

[[Matthew 4:6]] And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in [their] hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

'written' - the devil quotes scripture.

He quotes Psalms 91:11-12 and misquotes it. Leaves out some words. He either

- **takes away from the scriptures,**
- **adds to the scriptures or**
- **takes them out of context.**

We notice that the devil quotes Scripture; he has memorized the Bible himself, and is an expert at quoting it out of its context to confuse and defeat the subjects of his temptation. Sadly, many are willing to believe anyone who quotes from the Bible today; you can say pretty much whatever you want, and if you quote a few "proof-texts," people will assume that you are really speaking from the Bible. (Eve – “neither shal you touch it”).

[[Matthew 4:7]] Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Again scripture is quoted. (Correctly)

Deuteronomy 6:16 Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted [him] in Massah.

The second temptation: an appeal to the pride of life.

[[Matthew 4:8]] Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

[[Matthew 4:9]] And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Scripture is quoted from Deuteronomy.

[[Matthew 4:10]] Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

[[Matthew 4:11]] Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

But he will be back.

'minister' - the ministering spirit

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

The third temptation: an appeal to the lust of the eyes.

Summary so far –

Essentially, this vision was an invitation to shortcut the cross.

* Jesus could lay claim to *all the kingdoms of the world and their glory*, and do so without enduring the cross - all He would have to do is give Satan what he has been longing for ever since he fell: worship and recognition from God Himself.

This is a revealing insight into Satan's heart; worship and recognition are far more precious to him than the possession of *the kingdoms of the world and their glory*; he is still the one who said

Isaiah 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isaiah 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

* Satan *has* authority over this world and its governments; the temptation could not have been real unless there is some real sense that Satan does "possess" all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

That authority was given to Satan by Adam and his descendants; God gave Adam the earth as a stewardship, and Adam willingly turned it over to Satan - and all Adam's descendants have "approved" of that decision in one manner or another! Of course, ultimately, all things belong to God; but God allows Satan to function as *the god of this age*.

2Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

for a purpose - that is the reason the world is as it is!

Jesus replies with Scripture again, and commands the devil to leave - even as we can:

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Scripture says if you resist the devil, he will flee from you. Jesus here resists him three times and the devil fled. Satan does leave, thereby showing that he is NOT omnipresent. He can be bound, he has location.

God never forsakes those who endure through temptation; even as *angels came and ministered to Jesus*, God will find a way to minister to us and meet our needs as we endure temptation.

Observations:

Jesus showed the only effective counter to deception: God's truth, not man's wisdom.

- 1) First, see temptation for what it is: a lie
- 2) Then, combat temptation with the word of God
- 3) Build yourself up in the truth - have it in your heart

[[Matthew 4:12]] Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

[[Matthew 4:13]] And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:

The point where He's been baptised is the place where He'll cross it again in the second coming. Joshua is a picture of the second coming. Where Christ was baptized in Jordan its probably the exact place where Joshua, Elijah crossed. 'Zabulon and Nephthalim' - sons of Jacob

[[Matthew 4:14]] That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

[[Matthew 4:15]] The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, [by] the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;

[[Matthew 4:16]] The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

'darkness' - Spiritual darkness. Israel has rejected the cries of John the baptist.

Quotes -

Isaiah 9:1 Nevertheless the dimness [shall] not [be] such as [was] in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did

more grievously afflict [her by] the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.

Isaiah 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Deals with the first and second coming in the same passage. The reference to darkness is a direct literal reference to the tribulation. When Christ returns there will be a great light associated with it. All the world will see that light.

The only part of Isaiah 9 fulfilled in the first coming is in the spiritual sense. Israel is in darkness spiritually. Christ came as a light spiritually. Literally during the tribulation there will be darkness, a great light that comes from Christ in the second coming, and literally there will be the shadow of death.

[[Matthew 4:17]] From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

It was at hand – the 70th week is within 10 years.

You must understand the difference between the kingdoms:

1) the gospel of The kingdom of heaven -

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven.

Is God's will being done on this earth. It hasn't occurred up to this point.

2) the gospel of the kingdom of God

used in a similar context. The kingdom of Heaven is physical, the kingdom of GOD is spiritual.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The kingdom of God is not physical. Its within you, God wants first to rule in your heart. The outward manifestation will follow.

The Christian is in the Kingdom of God. The Pauline gospel is what we follow.

[[Matthew 4:18]] And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

The doctrine of the great deeps says that in relation to God, we are underwater. God must 'fish' to draw a man out. (see psalms and prophets). The sinners in Noah's flood were under the water.

Death coming up out of the water is a picture of the ressurection. Our baptism after being saved. You will be a fish taken out of the water. There is a greater meaning than just catching men for Christ.

[[Matthew 4:19]] And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

[[Matthew 4:20]] And they straightway left [their] nets, and followed him.

The immediate response of these disciples is worthy of imitation; the disciples did then what disciples of Jesus do today: they followed Him.

[[Matthew 4:21]] And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James [the son] of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

[[Matthew 4:22]] And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

They left their worldly connection. Their love is more for the Lord. Put the Lord first and the occupation second. A picture.

[[Matthew 4:23]] And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. **Jesus ability to heal those with all different kinds of diseases demonstrates that He has authentic power over the damage done by the fall of man; His authority over demons shows He has authentic power over all creation.**

[[Matthew 4:24]] And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Luna was the god of the moon.

'lunatick' -

The miracles of healing are connected with the gospel of the kingdom. He is showing up with the mosaic signs and wonders. Moses healed himself as a sign for Israel to follow him out of the promised land. Israel now must be delivered from the bondage of Rome o the kingdom.

Exodus 4:3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

Exodus 4:4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

Exodus 4:5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

Exodus 4:6 And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand [was] leprous as snow.

Exodus 4:7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his [other] flesh.

Before Christ begins to heal in Matthew 4 there is a serpent to deal with. The first thing Moses deals with in his ministry is a serpent The next thing he did was heal his hand. Christ duplicates Moses' ministry.

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted [him] up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

[[Matthew 4:25]] And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and [from] Decapolis, and [from] Jerusalem, and [from] Judaea, and [from] beyond Jordan.

Jesus was a teacher who did miraculous works; the emphasis was always on His teaching ministry, both to the inner circle of His disciples and to the multitudes who would listen to Him.

Jesus ability to heal those with all different kinds of diseases demonstrates that He has authentic power over the damage done by the fall of man; His authority over demons shows He has authentic power over all creation.

