



Temptation of
Christ

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Today we learn of how Jesus our Christ was led directly into the Judean wilderness after His Holy Baptism to be tempted by Satan.

These finely detailed accounts of Christ's Testing can be found within the Gospels of Matthew and Dr. Luke. What we will find is the deceiver of evil- Lucifer, his testing temptations of Jesus's humanity.

The Gospel of Mark does mention these trials but only in passing.

The reason being for this is as far as the Life of Christ was concerned, Mark by a modern comparison is an action movie and as we know that action movies do not concern themselves very deeply with riveting plotlines.

Where as Matthew is a drama containing all of the emotional twists within the story of Jesus Earthly Ministry while likewise Dr. Luke gives to us an exactly detailed biography.

Remember each of these three Synoptic or common view Gospels are about the man Jesus whom is GOD. This is also exactly why the Gospel of John does skip entirely over this event. Because it is the testing of the man of the human Jesus.

John's Gospel is a Heavenly historical narrative about Christ's Deity incarnate within humanity. This testing of Jesus's human character through His supposedly weak human flesh as seen from John's perspective is indeed a sequel story of Jesus humanity as compared to His main subject matter of Christ's Deity.

Meaning for John it was best for him to leave this event unto the Synoptic writers for this subject matter is outside of John's parameters of presentation.

Indeed the actual recalling and teaching of these events had to have been taught by Christ Himself unto His Apostles, because none of them were there or even a follower of Jesus yet. Also each of the synoptic authors do agree as to the timing and content of our Lord's testing. Now as we begin Dear Lord Jesus please guide us into understanding by your name-Amen.

This word (a) in Greek can mean tempted or tested.

✠ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil.

Matthew 4:1 NIV

Obviously Jesus gives to us an example by going where GOD wanted Him to go it is highly doubtful this is where Jesus would want to go.

Within the original Greek this passage states that Jesus was led up into the Judean wilderness which means that Christ went up from the Jordan valley into the higher country desert.

Tradition maintains Jesus traveled to a barren rocky elevation known as "Quarantana" aka the "Mount of Temptation." Which is a nearly perpendicular rock face that varies from twelve to fifteen hundred feet above the plains below.

In Jesus Time remote unpopulated wilderness areas were not only the hiding places for the criminally sought, the bandits and thieves who often hid in such places because these areas were considered to be by superstition the dwelling abodes of not only evil men but also of the demonic spirits which directed such men and empowered them.

So what we miss here is this: Jesus was confronted by Satan on the demonic's home turf. This location alone was intended to intimidate & isolate the human Jesus in order to evoke fear.

So now we can deduce Jesus our Christ the actual Living Son of Almighty Jehovah, Holy separated and through Baptism with His reception of the Holy Spirit thusly being Consecrated. Because Jesus while working to qualify us; we- the lost sinners to be able to receive GOD'S "Thy Kingdom Come" which will finally be initiated at Jesus Second Coming Advent.

If all of this as a man as a human being did not preempt, negate, or exclude troublesome trials befalling Christ Jesus Himself.

Trials from the ungodly that are dreadfully designed by each the fallen demonic & by the dark souls of unrepentant men. Then my friends brothers & sisters in Christ why?

Why should we be dismayed when we are faced with our very own temptations leading to our shame or troubles that cause each of us terrible pain?

Remember save for those few whom the Lord has already taken alive (Enoch & Elijah) and those select whom will be Raptured no one gets out of this life alive or unscathed during this present Age.

Why we have trials

✠ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5 NIV

We will have trials we are not spared from trials but promised help through them

✠ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Let the Jesus's trials begin:

✠ After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:2-4 NIV

Often numbers have specific meaning within the ancient languages and likewise the Bible also has within its passages a very direct correlation associated within certain numbers. Such here is our example of the number forty.

It rained for forty days and forty nights while Noah was with his family & the animals upon the Ark. Likewise Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years with Moses after the Exodus. Moreover our post resurrection Christ appeared unto His believers for forty days once to as many as five hundred before His ascension into Heaven.

Therefor Biblically the number of 40 is representative of ones testing troublesome trials. Moving on Lucifer the deceiver can be very clever while tempting human beings because he had by the time of Christ over four thousand years of practice using the Biblical timeline.

satan not only tempts Jesus to abuse as in to use His Deity in order to satisfy His own physical human needs, Jesus is supposed to be fasting as led by the Holy Spirit.

So after forty days & nights the Biblical number of testing satan is allowed to tempt Christ to break His fast.

That ole slick slithering serpent also slyly mockingly pry's to see if Jesus has any human pride to use against the Savior in His weakened state when he questions Christ; " If you are the son of GOD " making this a challenge for the Lord to prove Himself before satan.

You know; today in modern English we would say go ahead & prove it if you can – I dare you.

Of course Jesus ignores the devil's challenge so crafty in intent and tone by realizing that as the Son of GOD, He not only would be breaking His Father's Will by turning stones into edible bread when He should be fasting, but also this simple act would have shown a lack of trust in Jehovah, Jesus' Heavenly Father at providing for His needs.

Furthermore such a display by Jesus would have been a disqualifying sin as our Savior. Actually a defensive negative emotional reaction to the goading of the ancient fallen demon.

Now what you may not know is that Jesus response was that man(kind) was not to live on bread alone but on every Word that comes from the mouth of GOD:

There are two distinct meanings here & the first we get; Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy 8:2-3 While the second has a much deeper Theological meaning that is most often overlooked.

Think about it- Lucifer questioned Jesus Deity as a human being. (if you are the Son of GOD?) Remember Jesus is Deity within a man and as we have seen Jesus is known as the Living Word of the Triune Trinity. Jesus is the Creative element of GOD for John chapter one explains this for us.

What I'm getting at is this; GOD the Father and GOD the Holy Spirit are non-corporeal. GOD exists within the Spiritual realm of existence while we are placed within His Created physical.

Heavenly Father within the Bible is described as being composed of light while the Old Testament time and again describes the Holy Spirit His identity of GOD as a gas or vapor.

Only the human Jesus the Living Word of GOD has a body with a physical mouth. Get it? Jesus not only rebuked satan by GOD'S Word- He also just informed satan that He; Christ as a man, a human being that He alone has a physical mouth and is indeed the Living Word portion of GOD. Jesus just answered satans dare "if you are the Son of GOD" by saying I AM GOD". I AM the Living Word of GOD & now I have a physical body to SPEAK by mouth unto man(kind)

✠ Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ^{Jesus kept His fast} 3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:2-3 NIV

Not only did this scripture rebuke satan because Jesus the Living Word of GOD who really IS this passage now as GOD in man, He Christ Jesus literally fulfills physically this passage. That we man(kind) live physically on bread but we are also Spiritually reborn by Jesus our Christ the Living Word of Deity now through His human mouth.

Having failed satan next:

✠ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Matthew 4:5-7 NIV

Obviously here there are several attack vectors that satan employed to tempt Jesus with. Again Lucifer just mockingly implies “ If you are the Son of GOD “ which we have already seen these words were intended to provoke an emotional prideful outburst followed up this time by a more direct attack upon Jesus’ human pride.

What the devil was saying by using modern vernacular was this:

Now I double dare you, quickly cast yourself down- prove that you are the Christ!

This implies it would each silence satan as well as to additionally impress those whom would see this for themselves; Jesus and or the Angels stopping His fall with a dazzling display.

& that is not all, did you notice? Within satan’s quick verbal volley the devil offered what he knew now was Jesus defense; GOD’S Living Word. Lucifer quoted unto Jesus THE Living Word Psalm 91:11-12 to be exact. Satan skillfully manipulated the passage to serve his needs as he implied go ahead jump! Because i say if you are the Christ you will be protected supernaturally.

What we learn here is that satan or those evil and selfish are not above twisting scriptures and GOD’S Law to serve their own purposes. Remember Jesus calls satan the paramount liar & deceiver.

So do not be dismayed when evil abounds by distorting the truth for this is the devils and those dishonest their only recourse that is to lie and shamelessly scheme.

Another thing we miss here is that it is Rabbinical Pharisaic non-Biblical tradition that when the Messiah arrives he will make his presence known by revealing himself atop the Temple for all to see. It is quite possible after the 3rd Temple is rebuilt in Jerusalem in our future, that the yet to be revealed antichrist, he could pridefully display himself atop the Temple in such a way.

Remember at this place and time Jesus was still fully GOD but while He was within His humanity our Lord limited His power for our Redeeming Grace. This means Jesus had to live by his human strengths and weaknesses alone in order to qualify by GOD’S Law as our Kingsman Redeemer.

This was so He would be able to pay our sin debt unto His & our Heavenly Father. (Sin = death before GOD)

Romans 6:23

Satan understood this & he knew Jesus could not use his Deity to stop his fall or that would be an automatic disqualification as a mere man making our restitution unto the Great I AM.

Jesus knew He should not make a spectacle of Himself and then expect GOD to intervene at the last moment. So this is a lesson for all of us; do not by our own choice handle snakes- actual or human, and then not expect to be bit by Divine Providence. Don’t be a fool playing by satan’s rules.

The high point of the Temple or Pinnacle as said within the King James was most likely one of the porch roofs overlooking the Kidron (most likely) or Hinnom valleys below.

The Jewish Historian Josephus within his Antiquities XV.11.5. states “ If anyone looked down from the top of the rooftop of the Royal Porch he would be giddy (fear) and his sight could not reach to such an immense depth. (Estimated to be about 300’)

Jesus of course correctly quoted Deuteronomy 6:16 back unto satan not to test the Lord thy GOD.
& Ancient historical documents from each Clement of Alexandria and Hegesippus each confirm that James, the half brother of Christ, after Jesus resurrection that James became the first Christian Church leader in Jerusalem.

Then later- some time after James composed his Epistle that is preserved for us within the pages of the New Testament, the scribes and Pharisees petitioned and had James arrested.

It is of no doubt that by knowledge of these Gospel accounts of Jesus temptations; one of Jesus's known half brothers was taken atop the Temple to publicly renounce Christ or to be cast down. As James broken body laid below once threw down yet still alive he was stoned and finally put to the sword. These historical accounts hold James was buried right there on the spot near the Temple. Which means by custom James was buried atop the ground covered with stones as an accursed. There would have been no marker but it would have been known this is James the cut off brother of Jesus.

Having failed a second time satan tries to get Jesus to sin one last time.

✠ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. Matthew 4:8-11

satan now tempts Jesus' desires by knowing Christ's purpose of ushering in His Heavenly Fathers "Thy Kingdom Come" by offering the Lord a shortcut for instant gratification without the strife of suffering. So in total Lucifer tested Jesus our Messiah's physical limitations His pride & and then His desires.

Here Lucifer offered Jesus an easy way unto ruling all civilization without going to the cross to pay for our Sin. This be by His very blood which is our purchasing price as in the cost of our redemption unto Holy Jehovah for He is the GOD of purity and justice as well as love and grace.

Not only would this shortcut have nipped our Salvation in the bud, but it also would have doomed mankind to extinction with all of our souls forever lost to the eternal death of damnation.

Also found here is the answer as to why satan enticed the human race to fall in Sin in the first place.

By Lucifers pride- the pride of " I " for he desires to be like GOD- to be adored and worshipped. Remember even with all of his gifts the Devil can not create life because he too is a limited created being.

Here is Lucifers demise by his selfish pride.

✠ How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

¹³ You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; (The Lord made and named the stars after His Angels, so stars = Angels)

I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. (Satan knows his throne must be upon the Earth- Babylon!
traditional place of false Baal worship in Canaan on the Syrian/Turkey border today)

¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." ¹⁵ But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. (Like the most high even satan knows he can never dethrone GOD.) Isaiah 14:12-15 NIV