



**GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE --  
THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS!**

**Introduction:**

- A. In Our Last Lesson We Studied The Baptism Of Jesus.
  
- B. At His Baptism, The Father And The Spirit Glorified Jesus And Proclaimed That He Was The Son Of God!

**I. The Temptation Of Jesus Is Recorded In Three Gospels.**

- A. **(Slide #2)** Matthew 4:1-10 “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. <sup>3</sup>Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ <sup>4</sup>But He answered and said, ‘It is written, *‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’*” **(Slide #3)** <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: *‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’* and, *‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’*” <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, ‘It is written again, *‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’*” **(Slide #4)** <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’ <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, *‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’*” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.”
  
- B. **(Slide #5)** Mark 1:12,13 “Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.”
  
- C. **(Slide #6)** Luke 4:1-13 “Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when

they had ended, He was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the devil said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.’ **(Slide #7)** <sup>4</sup>But Jesus answered him, saying, ‘It is written, *‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’* <sup>5</sup>Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. **(Slide #8)** <sup>7</sup>Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.’ <sup>8</sup>And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, *‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’* <sup>9</sup>Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. **(Slide #9)** <sup>10</sup>For it is written: *‘He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,’* <sup>11</sup>and, *‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’* <sup>12</sup>And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘It has been said, *‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’* <sup>13</sup>Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.”

## II. Observations From These Texts:

- A. As Soon As The Father And The Spirit Identified Jesus As The Son Of God, Satan Pounced!
1. “Immediately” -- this was just after Jesus was baptized! Mk. 1:12
  2. Lk. 4:1 “Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,”
  3. “Wilderness” describes the desert in the area around Jericho.
  4. Satan:
    - a. “Satan” -- enemy or adversary. 4:10; Mk. 1:13; Lk. 4:8
    - b. “Devil” -- slanderer or accuser. 4:1,5,8,11; Lk. 4:1,3,5,6,13
    - c. “Tempter” -- 4:3
- B. He Fasted For 40 Days And Nights. Mt. 4:2
1. This does not mean that one does not eat or drink anything!
  2. Jesus did not eat, Lk. 4:2 and He had little water. Moses fasted for 40 days, Ex. 34:28; Elijah did too, I Ki. 19:8.
  3. Why fast? It may be for prayer; it may be for self-discipline; it may be for greater devotion for God; Jesus likely did so to strengthen His resolve and focus His mind!

- C. At His Weakest Point, Satan Began His Onslaught Of Enticement!
1. Observe that two of these temptations are direct attacks of the recent proclamation from Heaven, “This is My beloved Son!”
  2. He was tempted for 40 days; the 3 recorded temptations occurred after He had fasted for 40 days and nights and experienced great hunger.
  3. Mk. 1:13 “And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.”
- D. Satan’s Temptation Of Jesus:
1. **(Slide #10)** The First Temptation:
    - a. The initial temptation attacks what seemed to be Jesus’ weakest vulnerability! “You are HUNGRY -- turn these stones into bread!”
    - b. **“If You are the Son of God**, command that these stones become bread.” Mt. 4:3 [Matthew -- “stones”; Luke “stone”]
      1. This was a temptation of the **“Lust of the flesh!”**
      2. “You’re hungry; God expects you to eat! Go ahead and perform a miracle and take care of yourself!”
    - c. Jesus’ resistance to that temptation: “It is written, *‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’*” Mt. 4:4
    - d. To Jesus, fulfilling the desire of the body was not worth disobeying God.
  2. **(Slide #11)** The Second Temptation:
    - a. Observe that Matthew and Luke have a different order for the last two temptations.
    - b. I am going to use Matthew’s order because I believe the first two are direct attacks upon His recent endorsement by the Spirit, Mt. 3:16 and by the Father “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”, Mt. 3:17! Too, Matthew introduces the second temptation with the word, “then” 5 and the third temptation with the word “Again.” 8
    - c. Satan takes Jesus to the pinnacle of the Temple in Jerusalem, Mt. 4:5. This pinnacle may have been some 450’ above the Kidron Valley on the southeast corner of the Temple. Josephus said it was a “dizzying height.” Satan says, “JUMP! If you are the Son of God, your Father will take care of you! He will not let you be harmed!”
    - d. **“If You are the Son of God**, throw Yourself down. For it is written: *‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’* and, *‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’*” Mt. 4:6
      1. Now Jesus is tempted by the **“Pride of Life!”**
      2. This time the devil even quotes Scripture -- Ps. 91:11,12!
      3. God has promised to take care of the faithful; go ahead and jump from this mighty hill; let God the Father prove His love and extend His Divine protection to you!

- e. Jesus' resistance to that temptation: "It is written again, *'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'*" Mt. 4:7
  - f. He would not tempt God to PROVE His love, providence, or protection.
3. **(Slide #11) The Third Temptation:**
- a. Satan took Jesus to a really high mountain where he showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory and said, "Just worship me ONE TIME and I will give you all of these kingdoms!"
    - 1. Matthew uses the word "kovsmo~" meaning "world" or "universe."
    - 2. Luke used the word "oijkoumevnh~" meaning "inhabited earth."
  - b. Luke says he showed Jesus all these kingdoms "in a moment of time." Lk. 4:5
  - c. "he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.'" Mt. 4:9
  - d. "the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. <sup>7</sup>Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.'" Lk. 4:6,7
    - 2. This is the temptation of the "**Lust of the Eye.**"
    - 3. Satan's offer: "You came to be a king; just worship me and I'll give the WHOLE WORLD to you!"
    - 4. God gave Satan authority to test believers. He could do NOTHING that God did not allow him to do. See Job 1,2 and Rev. 20.
  - e. Jesus' resistance to this temptation: "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, *'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*" Mt. 4:10
  - f. Lk. 4:8 "And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, *'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*"
  - g. He would never allow pride to cause Him to leave God and to turn to the Devil.
- E. Because He Was Unsuccessful, The Devil Left Jesus. Mt. 4:11
- 1. However, this was NOT the end of temptation for Jesus!
  - 2. Lk. 4:13 says, "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time." ["for a season" KJV.]
- F. Angels ministered unto Him! Mt. 4:11; Mk. 1:13

### III. (Slide #12) Lessons We Can Learn From Jesus As He Faced And Overcame Temptation:

#### A. (Slide #13) Temptation Is A Common Occurrence Of Man In Flesh!

1. So, don't feel sorry for yourself; don't make excuses; don't feel like you cannot win!
2. Js. 1:14 "But **each one** is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."
3. Song: "Farther Along"

"Tempted and tried we're oft made to wonder  
Why it should be thus all the day long,"

#### B. (►) Temptation Can Be Very Dangerous When There Is "An Opportune Time!" Lk. 4:13

1. It may be when you are weak spiritually.
2. It may be when you are weak physically or emotionally.
3. It may be when you are alone.
4. It may be when you are around people who love sin and try to entice you to participate in it too.

#### C. (►) But, Make This Observation And Distinction: "Being Tempted Does NOT Make You A Sinner!"

1. If so, then Jesus would have been a sinner.
2. He was certainly tempted!
  - a. Mt. 4:1 "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."
  - b. Lk. 4:13 "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time."
3. It May Beat Your Down, Leave You Scared And Scarred.
  - a. You may get scared.
  - b. You may feel very weak.
4. Do you ever find yourself feeling GUILTY because you are tempted?
5. There is no need to feel guilty; rather be gritty!

D. (►) **There Are ONLY 3 Kinds Of Temptation!**

1. (Slide #16) I Jn. 2:16 “For all that *is* in the world—the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world.”
2. Adam and Eve faced the same 3 kinds of temptation!
  - a. **“Pride of life”** -- Gen. 3:4,5 “Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’” and verse 6 “a tree desirable to make *one* wise.”
  - b. **“Lust of the flesh”** -- “the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food” Gen. 3:6
  - c. **“Lust of the eye”** -- “it *was* pleasant to the eyes” Gen. 3:6
3. How do WE face these 3 kinds of temptation?
  - a. **“Lust of the flesh”**
    1. “I am hungry; it won’t hurt to steal something at the store.”
    2. “You’re tired, stay at home and rest. God expects you to take care of yourself, doesn’t He?”
    3. “Use some of the money you planned to give to Him for yourself; have a little fun. He wants you to enjoy life!”
    4. “I’m attracted to someone, so lust won’t hurt me.” or “I’m turned on by someone so it’s OK to commit adultery!”
  - b. **“Lust of the eye”**
    1. “I want another person’s possession or position; I will lie to get it or lie about them to attain their position!”
    2. “If something looks good or if I like it, why could it possibly be wrong in God’s sight?”
  - c. **“Pride of life”**
    1. “I want to be liked, so I give in to temptation and sin just so others will accept me!”
    2. “I don’t have to obey God; I’ll control my OWN life!”
    3. “I want to be liked so I won’t stand up for Truth because I don’t want people to dislike me or to turn against me.”
4. So, there are no NEW kinds of temptations that you will have to face that have not been faced by everyone! I Cor. 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man;”

E. (Slide #17) **Temptation Cannot Defeat You Just Because Your Are Weakened!**

1. Jesus was weakened, yet He overcame!
2. Joseph was weakened, yet He overcame!

**F. You CAN Overcome Temptation! Jesus Has Shown Us That We Can!**

1. Retorts About The Temptations Of Jesus:
  - a. “Yes, but He was Divine!”
  - b. “Yes, but He could not sin!”
  - c. “He could not be tempted like I am!”
  - d. Heb. 4:15 “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.”
2. He is our High Priest -- He has walked in our shoes! He knows the power of temptation!
3. He also shed His Blood in order to be our Savior! If you have succumbed to temptation, He, by His mercy and grace, longs for you to repent and to come to Him for forgiveness.
4. What can cleanse you from your sins? “Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus!”