

May 29th, 2022

Satan Fails to Tempt Jesus

Luke 4:1-13

Read Luke 4:1-2... After His baptism, Jesus was led [*compelled*] by the Spirit into the wilderness, where He was tempted by the devil [*diabolos* = accuser, slanderer], i.e., by Satan [*adversary*], who was originally called *Lucifer* [*meaning bearer of light, morning star, cf. Isaiah 14:12*].

Ezekiel 28: 12, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering." **15**, "You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you."

There are other names in Scripture for Satan, or the devil: (**John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11**) *the ruler of this world*; (**Ephesians 2:2**) *the prince of the power of the air*; (**2Corinthians 4:4**) *the god of this world*; (**Revelation 9:11**) *angel of the abyss*; (**Revelation 12:9**) *the great dragon, the serpent of old, the devil and Satan*.

Satan's plan is to try to destroy the work and plan of God, that being, to provide forgiveness for sins and eternal life. Satan attempts to thwart the mission and ministry of Christ by trying to deceive Him into performing for the devil, as if the devil could dissuade the Son of God from God's purpose and plan.

Read Luke 4:3-4... The word translated "If," here in **verse 3**, is better translated "since," i.e., "Since You are the Son of God," and you are very hungry after 40 days without food, the Father wouldn't want you to remain hungry; so go ahead, turn the stones into bread, after all, Your Father would want you to eat.

The thing is, Jesus had willfully set aside His own majesty to put on the flesh of a man (**Philippians 2:5-7**), "Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, being made in the likeness of men."

Jesus was in full submission to the Father, and He knew very well that the Holy Spirit would care for Him and provide what He needs. Notice Jesus' response to the devil (**Luke 4:4**; pp **Deuteronomy 8:3**), "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

The rest of that verse (from **Deuteronomy 8:3**) tells us clearly that it is not physical food that sustains spiritual or eternal life, "but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord." Christ's most important work was to do what pleased the Father, to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth (**Matthew 6:31-33**), "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles [Pagans, unbelievers] eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But

May 29th, 2022

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seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

At a later time, Jesus reiterates this truth to His disciples (**John 4:34**), telling them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

Having our physical comforts [felt needs] met, according to our own desire and timing, should not be our priority; instead, we ought to be seeking God’s pleasure, demonstrating our trust in His provision and timing.

In other words, seek God’s Kingdom, by knowing what God’s Word says and what it means by what it says, trying to do what pleases God, and praying always, like in the Lord’s Prayer (**Matthew 6:10**), for “God’s will to be done on earth, as it already is being done in heaven.” Only then will we know true happiness and fulfillment in this life.

Read Luke 4:5-8... Satan now leads Jesus up onto a high mountain and points out the kingdoms of the world, saying he will give all these to Jesus if Jesus will worship him, because all of this “has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.” Really?

Concerning the Messiah God says (**Psalms 2:7-8**), “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.”

Daniel 7:14, “His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”

Everything belongs to God, the Creator, Sustainer, and Judge over All. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is God the Son (**Colossians 1:16**), “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him,” (**Colossians 2:9**), “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”

Jesus forcefully rejects Satan’s blasphemous suggestion by quoting **Deuteronomy 6:13**, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’”

Scripture refers to Satan as the spirit of those who disobey God, and as the god/ruler of this world, meaning the evil world system that rejects God’s Son and God’s Word, in order to serve the desires of the flesh.

May 29th, 2022

Satan Fails to Tempt Jesus

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In **Ephesians 2:2-3**, Satan is referred to as, "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we also formerly lived... ..indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."

God declares judgement on Satan and all who follow him; also declaring enmity between all those who reject Christ (following Satan) and all those who follow Christ (**Genesis 3:15**), "And I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman [Eve], and between your seed [offspring] and her seed [offspring]. He [Christ] shall crush your [Satan's] head [authority or power], and you [Satan] shall bruise him [Jesus] on the heel."

Jesus Christ is the "seed" [offspring] through whom all the blessings of Abraham will be realized (**Galatians 3:16**), "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, Christ."

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem to offer Himself up as full and final payment for our sins, He said to His disciples (**John 12:23-24**), "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit," (**31-32**), "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself," (**John 3:14-15**), "The Son of Man must be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

Satan's work is to deceive the living, so they won't receive Salvation from God (**2Corinthians 4:4**), "The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

Satan was thrown out of heaven along with the rest of the angels who rebelled against God's authority (**Isaiah 14:13-14**), "You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly...' 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"

Satan was kicked out of heaven and so he came to earth, in the form of a beautiful serpent, where he beguiled and deceived Eve into distrusting and disobeying God; thus bringing sin's curse upon all mankind.

May 29th, 2022

Satan Fails to Tempt Jesus

Luke 4:1-13

Read Genesis 3:1-6... Notice in **verse 6**, good for food, delight to the eyes, desirable to make one wise. Satan's deception worked.

In **Genesis 3:7-19**, God's curse comes upon all the living, starting with the serpent [Satan incarnate], then upon Eve, then upon Adam, and then upon all life; there would be no hope for mankind except that which would come through the seed [offspring] of Eve [the mother of all the living].

Eve's future offspring, a descendant through the womb of Mary, would be God's Son, Jesus Christ, the One through Whom all God's blessings are realized, but only to those who believe in Him.

Read Luke 4:9-13... Satan has twice attempted to deceive, even to entice Jesus to not trust in God's provisions. Now Satan moves to his final attempt, taking Jesus to the highest point of the temple, he says, "If [since] You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here." [They are probably standing on the pinnacle, at the southeast corner of the temple, overlooking the Kidron Valley, which is several hundred feet below them.]

Notice that Satan now quotes the Bible, saying, "It is written," just as Jesus had done in His two previous responses to the devil's attempts to trick Him. Satan quotes from **Psalms 91:11-12**, which says, "He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, that you do not strike your foot against a stone."

This is clearly from God's Word, but the devil has twisted its meaning, taking it out of context; for we know God's Word never contradicts itself. Jesus brings clarification by countering Satan's quote, with a quote from **Deuteronomy 6:16**, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."

Luke tells us (**Luke 4:13**), "When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time." Satan would, at a later time, in fact, at the Last Supper, make his final attack. Jesus warns His disciples (**John 13:21**), "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me," (**John 13:25-27**), John asks, "'Lord, who is it?' to which Jesus answered, 'It is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him.' So when He had dipped the morsel, He gave it to Judas, after [which], Satan entered into him [Judas]. to whom Jesus then said, 'What you do, do quickly,'" (**John 13:31**), "Therefore when he [Judas] had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him,'" "

May 29th, 2022

Satan Fails to Tempt Jesus

Luke 4:1-13

2Corinthians 5:21, "He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

1Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."

Jesus is our example of how to handle temptation (**Hebrews 4:15**), "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. (**Hebrews 12:2**), Therefore let us fix "our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Pastor Mike
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