

§19: THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Matt. 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13; Luke 4:1–13

Jesus is Led Into the Wilderness and Fasts

Matt. 4:1–2	Luke 4:1–2	Mark 1:12–13a
<p>1 Then Jesus was led up into the wilderness by the Spirit</p> <p>to be tempted by the devil.</p> <p>2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterwards He hungered.</p>	<p>1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was being led by the Spirit in the wilderness</p> <p>2 forty days, being tempted by the devil.</p> <p>And He was eating nothing in those days; and when they had come to an end, He hungered.</p>	<p>12 And immediately the Spirit drives Him out into the wilderness.</p> <p>13a And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild animals,</p>

Temptation of Bread

Matt. 4:3–4	Luke 3:3–4
<p>3 And the tempter came and said to Him: If You are the Son of God, speak that these stones become <i>loaves of bread</i>.</p> <p>4 But He answered and said: It is written— Not on bread alone shall man live, but on every word coming out through the mouth of God.</p>	<p>3 And the devil said to Him: If You are the Son of God, speak to this stone that it become <i>a loaf of bread</i>.</p> <p>4 And Jesus answered him: It is written— Not on bread alone shall man live.</p>

Temptation of the Pinnacle

Matt. 4:5–7	Luke 4:9–12* (see note 4 below)
<p>5 Then the devil takes Him along into the holy city and stood Him on the pinnacle of the temple.</p> <p>6 And he says to Him: If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down;</p> <p>for it is written— He will command His angels concerning You;</p> <p>and— On hands they will lift You up, that You not ever strike Your foot against a stone.</p> <p>7 Jesus said to him: Again it is written— You shall not tempt the Lord your God.</p>	<p>9 And He led Him into Jerusalem and stood Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and he said to Him: If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from there;</p> <p>10 for it is written— He will command His angels concerning You to guard You;</p> <p>11 and— On hands they will lift You up, that You not ever strike Your foot against a stone.</p> <p>12 And Jesus answered and said to him: It is said— You shall not tempt the Lord your God.</p>

Temptation of the Kingdoms

Matt. 4:8-10

Luke 4:5-8* (see note 4 below)

<p>8 Again the devil takes Him along to a very high mountain and shows Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.</p> <p>9 And he said to Him: All these things I will give to You,</p> <p>if You fall down and worship me.</p> <p>10 Then Jesus says to him: Go away, Satan! For it is written— The Lord your God you shall worship, and Him only you shall serve.</p>	<p>5 And leading Him up, he showed Him all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in a moment of time.</p> <p>6 And the devil said to Him: To You I will give all this domain and their glory, for it has been handed over to me, and to whomever I wish, I give it.</p> <p>7 You therefore, if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.</p> <p>8 And Jesus answered and said to him: It is written— the Lord your God you shall worship, and Him only you shall serve.</p>
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Satan Departs and Angels Minister to Jesus

Matt. 4:11

Luke 4:13

Mark 1:13b

<p>11 Then the devil leaves Him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to Him.</p>	<p>13 And when the devil had brought every temptation to an end, he departed from Him for a time.</p>	<p>13b and the angels were ministering to Him.</p>
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Notes on the Text

1. **Luke 4:4:** Some manuscripts include the phrase found in Matthew “but on every word of God” at the end of the verse (see KJV). (Comment in Metzger, *Textual Commentary*, 2nd edition, 1994, pg. 113).
2. **Luke 4:5:** Some manuscripts include the phrase similar to Matthew “into a high mountain” (see KJV).
3. **Luke 4:8:** Some manuscripts include the phrase, “Get behind me Satan!” (see KJV).

Notes on the Quotations from the Old Testament

1. **Deut. 8:3 = Matt. 4:4/Luke 4:4:** Luke shortens the quotation, but both Matthew and Luke follow LXX exactly, which itself is a literal rendering of the Hebrew text. The phrase “that proceeds out of” is a single word (noun) in Hebrew from a root meaning “to go out.” Deut. 8:3 (both Hebrew and LXX) includes an additional “shall man live” at the end of the verse, not quoted in Matthew or Luke.
2. **Psalm 91:11-12 (90:11-12 LXX) = Matt. 4:6/Luke 4:10-11:** The Hebrew text and LXX agree exactly. Matthew shortens the quotation the most, leaving out “to guard you in all your ways.” Luke includes “to guard you” but leaves out “in all your ways.”
3. **Deut. 6:16 = Matt. 4:7/Luke 4:12:** The full quote in Deut. 6:16 is: “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested *Him* at Massah.” Jesus quotes the first half making a general principle out of the specific instance.
4. **Deut. 6:13/10:20 = Matt. 4:10/Luke 4:8:** The Hebrew and LXX both have “you shall *fear* the Lord your God” whereas Matthew and Luke have “you shall *worship* the Lord your God.” Both Matthew and Luke include the word “only” in the phrase “and serve Him *only*,” which is not found in either the Hebrew or LXX.

Notes on the Parallels—Same Story, Different words

1. Matthew and Luke say Jesus “was led” by the Spirit, but Mark uses a strong term—the Spirit “drives” Jesus into the wilderness. The word normally means “drive out, expel” but can also be used in the sense “send out” without the idea of force (BAGD 237).
2. Mark’s short version includes a fact not mentioned by Matthew and Mark—that wild beasts were present.
3. Matthew has “stones...loaves (lit. breads)”, Luke has “stone...a loaf (lit. bread).”
4. Luke adds an interesting time element in the temptation of the kingdoms—“in a moment of time.”
5. The order of temptations differs between Matthew and Luke:
Matthew: (1) Bread, (2) Pinnacle, (3) Kingdoms
Luke: (1) Bread, (2) Kingdoms, (3) Pinnacle

Background Study Notes

1. **Tempted.** The Greek word is used in other contexts where it means “test, put to the test.” God tempts no man (James 1:13–15), but provides a way out of temptation (1 Cor. 10:13). Yet God does test man (Heb. 11:17 cp. Gen. 22:1, same word in the Septuagint). Satan does it to get man to sin; God does it to prove a man’s spiritual integrity.
2. **Wilderness.** The Greek word means primarily an uninhabited place.
3. **Fasted.** Below are lists of passages where fasting is mentioned in the Bible. Use the space after each reference for your own notes on the passage. Then organize the notes and construct your own article on “Fasting in the Bible.” *After you do this exercise*, look up articles on Fasting in standard Bible reference works and compare.

a. Fasting in the O.T.

There are two expressions for fasting in the Hebrew O.T.

- 1) A standard root which means “fast” (צָוַם, used in both noun and verb forms):

Judg. 20:26

1 Sam. 7:6

1 Sam. 31:13

2 Sam. 1:12

2 Sam. 12:16,21,22,23

1 Ki. 21:9,12,27

1 Chron. 10:12

2 Chron. 20:3

Ezra 8:21,23

Neh. 1:4

Neh. 9:1

Esther 4:3,16

Esther 9:31

Ps. 35:13

Ps. 69:10

Ps. 109:24

Isaiah 58:3,4,5,6

Jer. 14:12

Jer. 36:6,9

Dan. 9:3

Joel 1:14

Joel 2:12,15

Jonah 3:5

Zech. 7:5

Zech. 8:19

- 2) A phrase which means “to humble/afflict one’s soul”:

Lev. 16:29,31

Lev. 23:27,32

Num. 29:7

Num. 30:13?

Ps. 35:13

Isaiah 58:3,5

b. Fasting in the N.T. (nhsteuw, nhsteia)

Matt. 4:2

Matt. 6:16,17,18

Matt. 9:14,15

[Matt. 17:21, some mss.]

Mark 2:18,19,20

[Mark 9:29, some mss.]

Luke 2:37

Luke 5:33,34,35

Luke 18:12

[Acts 10:30, some mss.]

Acts 13:2,3

Acts 14:23

Acts 27:9

[1 Cor. 7:5, some mss.]

2 Cor. 6:5

2 Cor. 11:2