

Matthew 4:1-11 **Temptations of Jesus**

God requires all His sons to be tested and proved

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

Appeal to the physical body, its needs, and cravings

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 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.' "

Appeal to the Spectacular

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 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.' "

7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' "

Appeal to the easy way

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." 10 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.' "

Departure of Satan – Angels minister

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

God requires all His sons to be tested and proved

- ✚ After the Baptism of Jesus, when God in all His Godhead had just acknowledged His good pleasure in Jesus, it is now time to test the metal of the inner person. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. [Matthew 4:1]
- ✧ God had tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice the son of promise. [Genesis 22:1-19]
- ✧ God allowed Satan to test Job. [Job 1:6-22, 2:1-7]
- ✧ There are advantages for standing up to temptation. [James 1:2-4, 12, 1 Peter 1:5-7]
- ✚ When Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, and he was hungry, Satan came to Him and began his testing process.
- ✧ Satan always makes his attack when he thinks we are at our weakest point.

Temptation touching the physical body, its needs, and cravings [Matthew 4:3-4, Luke 4:3-4]

- ✚ Satan said to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."
- ✚ Jesus answered with a Scriptural reason for saying "NO." "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" [Deuteronomy 8:3]

- ✧ A perfect example to us to demonstrate what is meant, and how to go about, resisting the devil.

Temptation to draw the attention of the masses by doing some spectacular demonstration to fulfill His Calling of reaching the people with the Gospel message [Matthew 4:5-7, Luke 4:9-12]

- ✧ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 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.'

- ✧ As with the temptation of Eve in the Garden of Eden, Satan does not quote the Words of God accurately. But he does demonstrate that he knows what God has said.

- ✧ The actual text he is making reference to is as follows:

[Psalm 91:9-13]

9 Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place,

10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

NKJV

- ✧ Jesus answered him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" [Matthew 4:7]

- ✧ Again Jesus uses a gentle "NO" in the form of another appropriate Scriptural quote. [Deuteronomy 6:16]

Temptation to accomplish His purpose of reaching the world the easy way [Matthew 4:8-10, Luke 4:5-8]

- ✧ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." [Matthew 4:8-9]

- ✧ The way would be easy, the price too high.

- ✧ 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.'" [Matthew 4:10, Exodus 20:2-5, 34:14, Deuteronomy 4:35-39, 5:6-9, 28:14, etc.]

The Devil is waiting for an opportune time.

- ✧ Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time. [Luke 4:13]

- ✧ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. [Matthew 4:11, Mark 1:13, Luke 4:13]

- ✧ Angels are ministering spirits sent to minister for those who will inherit salvation. [Hebrews 1:14]

- ✧ Jesus was tempted in every point as we are, yet without sin. [Hebrews 4:14-15]

- ✧ Scripture says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you [James 4:7]

- ✧ Still in this story we discover that the devil does not always flee away at the first resistance, but he doggedly strives to find a way to cause us to yield.

- ✧ After Jesus continued to say no to all the temptations, and demanded that Satan go away, then the devil left Him, and angels came and ministered to Him.
- ✧ Even then we learn that the devil only left Him for a time waiting for a more opportune moment to come. [\[Luke 4:13\]](#)
- ✧ Satan can not force us to yield to temptation, he can only entice us to want to do so. [\[James 1:14, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Peter 1:2\]](#)
- ✧ The choice to yield to temptation or resist, lies with our own will, and we will be held accountable for the choices we make.
- ✧ Jesus set the right example, and God gave us the necessary information for discernment.
- ✧ The choice is yours. Choose wisely.