

Luke 4:1-13

Introduction: Will the Messiah resist these strong temptations from Satan? Will the second Son of God (3:22, 38) pass the test that the first son of God failed? Is Jesus qualified to lead the nation of Israel? Will He be faithful to God? The nation of Israel failed in the wilderness. What will happen to Jesus in the wilderness?

The setting of Jesus' general testing—4:1-2 (parallel to Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12)

- 1) ¹ *Then Jesus ... returned from the Jordan,*
 - a) *full* [πλήρης] *of the Holy Spirit*, (cf. 3:21-22; 4:14)
 - b) Remember Simeon in Luke 2:27.
 - c) Consider also: Isaiah 11:2-3; 42:1; 61:1
- 2) *and was guided* [ἄγω] *in* [ἐν] *the Spirit into the wilderness* ² *for forty days,*
 - a) *being tested* [pres. pass. ptc. πειράζω] *by* [ὑπό] *the devil* [διάβολος].
 - i) Indicating the testing lasted the full 40 days
 - b) His temptation was neither His fault nor an accident.
- 3) *And in those (40) days He ate nothing,*
- 4) *and ... afterwards he was hungry.*
 - a) *when they were completed* [aor. pass. ptc. συντελέω],
- 5) Compare with Adam and Eve in Genesis 3; Jesus had the disadvantage
 - a) Location: Garden of Eden vs. wilderness
 - b) Companion: with his wife vs. alone
 - c) Condition: well-fed vs. hungry
 - d) Length: apparently a single day vs. 40 days
 - e) Results: no trust vs. trust

The essence of Jesus' specific testing—4:3-12

- Matthew's order is **chronological**, Luke's order is **geographical**
- 1) Test number 1—God's word (cf. 3:22, 38) is absolute and His provision is certain
 - a) Satanic test—³ *And the devil said to Him, "If (1st class condition, assumed true for sake of argument) You are the **Son** (emphatic) of God, speak to this stone that it should become bread."*
 - i) Just as Satan tempted Eve to question God's Word (cf. Genesis 3:1)
 - b) Godward response—⁴ *And Jesus responded to him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by [ἐπί] bread alone, but by [ἐπί] every word [ῥῆμα] of God.'" (cf. Deuteronomy 8:3)*
 - i) Unlike Eve's response (cf. Genesis 3:2-3)
 - c) The test is to act independently of God in providing for Himself. Be self-serving.
 - 2) Test number 2—God's sovereignty is absolute and His timing is perfect
 - a) Satanic test—⁵ *Then the devil, having guided* [ἀνάγω] *Him up to a high mountain, showed* [δείκνυω] *Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time* [χρόνος] ("in a split second", not sequentially but simultaneously). ⁶ *And the devil said to Him, "To You (emphatic) I will give all this authority*

- [ἐξουσία], and their glory; for to me it has been delivered (by God), and I can give it to whomever I desire. ⁷ If (3rd class condition) **You** (emphatic), therefore, will bow in worship [προσκυνέω] before me, it will all be Yours.”
- b) Godward response—⁸ And having responded to him, Jesus said, “Get behind [ὑπάγω] Me, Satan! It is written, ‘You shall worship [προσκυνέω] the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve [λατρεύω].’” (cf. Deuteronomy 6:13)
- c) The test is to act independently of God (renounce His allegiance to the Father) in seizing authority for Himself. Be self-honoring.
- 3) Test number 3—God’s faithfulness is absolute and His protection is sure
- a) Satanic test—⁹ Then he guided [ἄγω] him to Jerusalem, and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If (1st class condition, assumed true for sake of argument) **You are the Son** (emphatic; cf. 3:22, 38) of God, throw Yourself down from here; ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning You, to guard You,’ (Satan deletes “in all your (normal) ways” of life; also uses it out of context) (cf. Psalm 91:11) ¹¹ and, ‘On their hands they will lift You up, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’” (cf. Psalm 91:12)
- i) Jesus is being told to “let go and let God”. Satan is demanding that Jesus look for miraculous protection.
- b) Godward response—¹² And having responded, Jesus said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not test the Lord your God.’” (cf. Deuteronomy 6:16)
- c) The test is to act independently of God by acting presumptuously and proving your self-importance. Be spectacular.
- 4) Jesus’ goal is not to draw attention to Himself, but to focus on God’s work and God’s truth. He is committed to doing God’s will as recorded in God’s Word.
- 5) Often for us, the testing comes after we have heard the Word of God taught. Will we obey as Jesus did?

The end of Jesus’ temptations—4:13

- 1) ¹³ So when the devil had completed [aor. act. ptc. συντελέω] every test (the 3 recorded appear to be samples), he departed from Him until an opportune time [καιρός].
- a) Luke chooses not to include the angels that came to ministry to Jesus. This is curious in light of 4:10-11. The angels DID take care of Jesus, in God’s time! (cf. Matthew 4:11; Mark 1:13)

Take-home truth: Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16