

Luke 4:1-14 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Luke 4:1-14

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Temptation



TUESDAY JANUARY 27

the biscuit tin

read>
Ephesians 5:1-14
Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people (v.3).

A little boy's mother baked a batch of cookies and placed them in a biscuit tin, instructing her son not to touch them until after dinner. Soon she heard the lid of the tin move, and she called out, "Son, what are you doing?" A meek voice called back, "My hand is in the biscuit tin resisting temptation." It's funny to think of a person trying to resist temptation with their 'hand in the biscuit tin'. This is as much a challenge in our culture today, as it was for the Ephesians.

There were all kinds of open 'biscuit tins' in Ephesus. One was sexual immorality. Paul realised that illicit sexual activity was an enormous problem for new

more>

Jesus was seriously tempted (but never gave in)
He shows us what's going on and how to win.

Who's to Blame ?

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

James 1:13-14



A Quiet Place !

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness



(the first step on the road)

What did Jesus do during that time?

Worship, Pray, Fellowship, Seek God's plan for his mission ?
Cf. Moses and Old Covenant.

What happened during that time also ?

Battle with devil



Is the devil real? – the real test

- 1, Jesus couldn't be tempted by 'his own sinful thoughts'
- 2, He's the fallen angel 'Lucifer' in Ezekiel 28 , soon after creation since it was "very good"
Not just 1... he took others with him = demons
- 3, Genesis 3 shows him to be a master of subtlety and disguise
If he can convince people he doesn't exist, he gains control
- 4, Ephesians 6 'not just flesh and blood opposition'

The Battle Ground

– parallel and contrast with Garden of Eden –

1st Adam representing
the human family lost!



Garden of Eden

Perfect environment

Needing nothing

(no weak spots)

World “culture” on their side

2nd Adam – rematch!



Desert of Judea

a barren place

40 day fast

(food involved)

World “culture” against God

V S

Battle tactics – disbelieve God = win!

In the Garden: *Has God said? Did he really mean it?
Is he your friend?*

In the Desert: *If you are God's Son. Is it true?
Did he really mean it. I love you?*

Target

– heart of relationship :
faith, trust,
obedience to God

Objective

– to destroy and kill
(a murderer from the
beginning)



A fight of 3 rounds

Matthew gives a different order for his own reasons

Round 1

The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”



Temptation 1 - put self first

- 1, look after no.1 – use power for selfish ends (seems a legitimate need)
Why trust God if you can DIY ?
- 2, The ONLY way to prove you are God’s Son is do it! I dare you! (vs. feeding of 5000)
- 3, He always connects something ‘simple’ with terrible consequences
cf. bait and hook



A fight of 3 rounds

Round 1

Jesus answered, "It is written:
'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"



My Father is the life giver AND sustainer, and life is about my relationship with him not simply my needs being met.

Jesus wins round 1!

A fight of 3 rounds

Round 2



The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours."

A fight of 3 rounds

Round 2

Temptation 2 – power!

- 1, Take a short cut, the easy route to success (no cross)
- 2, It's a lie – Satan is handling stolen property! The earth is the Lord's (although Satan is called the 'god' of this world) Ruling the earth under Satan's headship is what Satan has always wanted. Jesus won't be a ruler with Satan in charge
- 3, Worshipping Satan would be a denial of his relationship with the Father. He would be giving what is only for God in order to achieve power by the wrong methods!



A fight of 3 rounds

Round 2

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Only God is to be worshipped. No creature should have the Creator's place in your heart.

Jesus wins round 2!

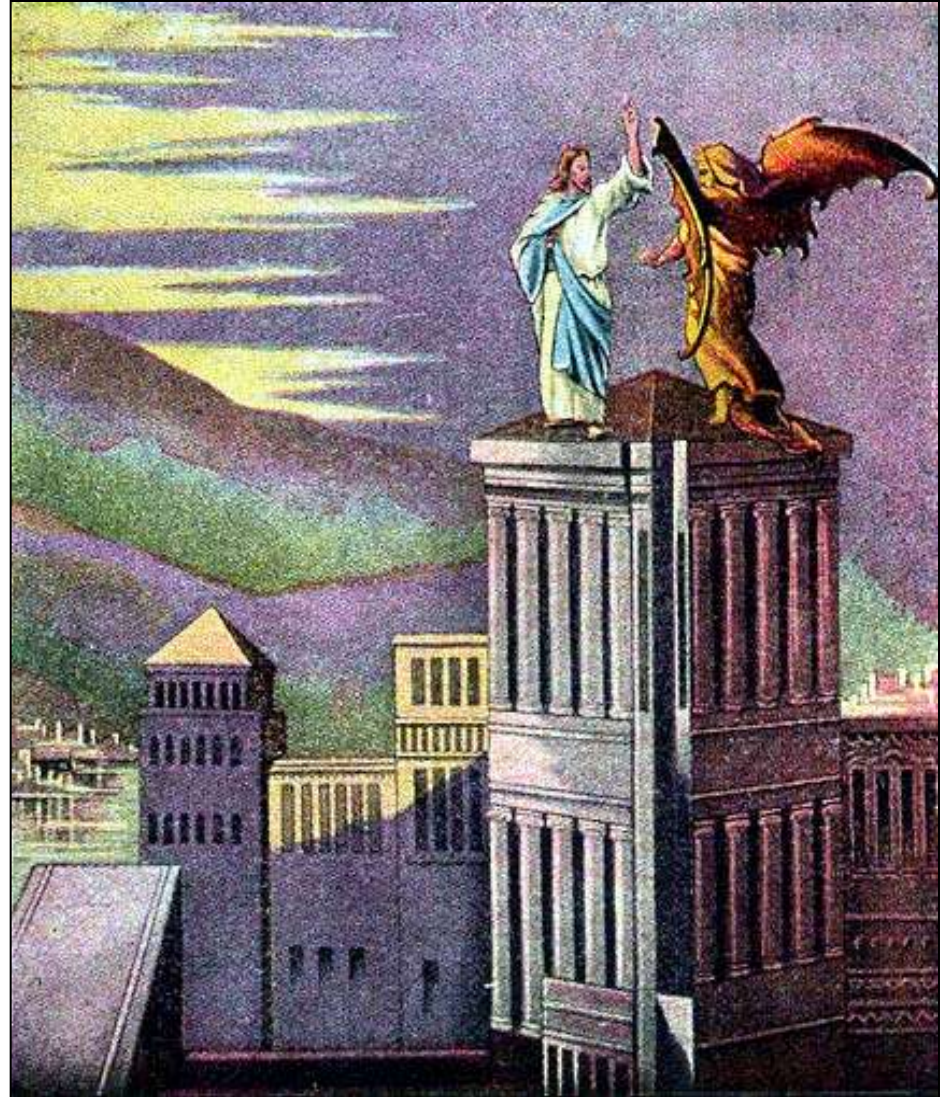
He will get all authority legitimately through his obedience to his Father. Matthew 28, Philippians 2,



A fight of 3 rounds

Round 3

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

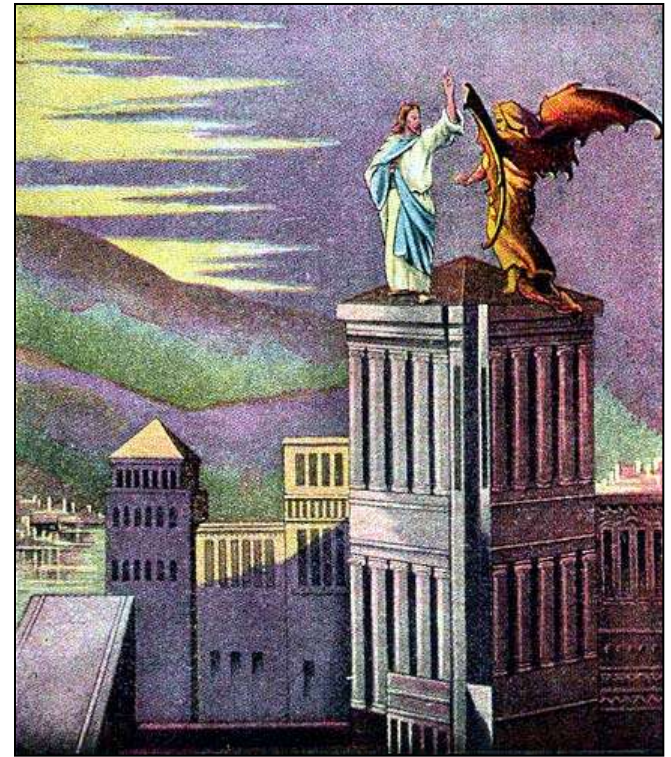


A fight of 3 rounds

Round 3

Temptation 3 - test God's "promise"

- 1, Do you doubt your Father God's protection ? Prove he's your caring Father by a little experiment.
- 2, It's a good place to jump – He says he'll catch you in an "angel net".



The devil is attempting to turn Jesus' weapon on himself..
"It is written ..."

Note The devil knows and can use the Bible too, but he's misusing the Bible to "teach" what it doesn't teach.
Not all Bible scholars have studied in the proper school!

A fight of 3 rounds

Round 3

Jesus answered, "It is said:
'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'



It's the difference between presumption and faithful trust.

Jesus answers with the true Bible teaching on the issue.

*(This requires real spiritual insight- "the Sword of the Spirit" :
not just any old verse will do!)*

And his answer is still "It is written" -

Note: 1, It reveals Jesus' view of the Bible. God has spoken!

*2, A proper understanding of what scripture says is a
powerful defence and weapon ...*

Jesus wins!

A fight of 3 rounds

Round 3

Beware!

False teaching is still around



STOP
STOP STOP STOP

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

Ephesians 4:14

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

1 Timothy 4:1

The Psalm 91 doesn't teach "jump"-

it essentially says "if you fall "

See verses 13-14 for the part the devil left out ...

The Battle goes on ..

Jesus wins but Satan not giving up just yet!

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

(eg. with a friend (Matthew 16:23)
through enemies: Matthew 27:40

**Lesson:- One victory doesn't mean
you won't need to keep on fighting**

But at the end Jesus wins !

the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me
John 14:30



In Jesus' victory we win too !

Promises for us:

The God of peace will soon
crush Satan under your feet
Romans 16:20

- . (referring to Genesis 3's
promised victory)

Put on the armour of God
Ephesians 6:10

- tried and tested by Jesus –
Use it. You'll need it.



In Jesus' victory we win too !

Promises for us:

If you get wounded by failure don't believe the devil's lie –
It's too late now.. "be hung for a sheep as for a lamb"!
No! 1 John 1:9 says "If we confess our sins



They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; Revelation 12:11

Halleluiah!