

Preparation for a Time of Testing

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13 and James 1:2-3

Luke 4:1-13

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

² 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.

³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’^[b]”

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.

⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

James 1:2-3

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

I. What is God doing?

A. God is sanctifying His church

B. God is testing His church

C. God’s church will be going into the wilderness

II. Background on Luke 4:1-13

A. Luke 3:1-4:13 = Presentation of the Son of Man

1. John’s ministry (Luke 3:1-6)

2. John’s preaching (Luke 3:7-14)

3. John’s announcement of the coming of Christ (Luke 3:15-17)

4. John’s baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:21-22)

5. Recognition of the Genealogy of the Son of Man (Luke 3:23-38)

6. The Son of Man’s victory over the tempter (Luke 4:1-13)

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III. Luke 4:1-2 – The Nature of the Wilderness

- A. The filling of the Holy Spirit (v. 1)
- B. The leading of the Holy Spirit (v. 1-2)
 - 1. From water to dryness (Jordan to wilderness)
 - 2. Wilderness Characteristics
 - a. Physical
 - b. Spiritual
 - 3. Duration of dryness (40 = number of testing)
 - 4. Opposition
 - 5. Physical duress (God sustains Jesus for 40 days)

IV. Luke 4: 3-12 – The Temptations

- A. Temptation 1: Physical Duress (vv. 3-5)
 - 1. Stone
 - a. Ebenezer (stone of help) – 1 Samuel 7:12 “Then Samuel took **a stone** and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and he named is Ebenezer, saying “Thus far the Lord has helped us”
 - b. Stone as warfare – 1 Samuel 17:40 “And David took his staff in his hand, selected **five smooth stones** from the brook, and put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag. And with his sling in hand, he approached the Philistine.”
 - c. Stone as the Kingdom of God – Daniel 2:34-35 “ While you were watching, **a rock was cut out**, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But **the rock that struck** the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.”
 - d. Stone as the church – Matthew 16:18 “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on **this rock** I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
 - e. Stone as symbol of barrier – Matthew 28:2 “And a great earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and came and **rolled away the stone** and sat on it.”
 - f. Stone as Jesus – Psalm 118:22 “The **stone** that the builders rejected has become **the cornerstone.**”
 - g. Stone as God’s plan – Isaiah 28:16 “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, **a stone**, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”
 - 2. Bread
 - a. Physical provision – Exodus 16:4 “Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down **bread from heaven** for you. The people are to go out each day

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- and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.”
- b. Sacrifice – Leviticus 7:13 “With the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving he shall bring his offering with **loaves of leavened bread.**”
 - c. The heart of men – Luke 12:1 “Be on your guard against the **yeast of the Pharisees**, which is hypocrisy.”
 - d. Jesus as bread of life – John 6:35 “Then Jesus declared, “**I am the bread of life.** Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”
3. Scripture Jesus uses – Deuteronomy 8:3 “He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”
- B. Temptation 2: Praise and Worship (vv. 6-8)
1. Led
 - a. Just as the Holy Spirit led Jesus, so did Satan
 - b. Satan can lead you in the Spirit
 2. The World
 - a. Satan has what belongs to God (not his possession)
 - b. Satan gives only what has been given to him (sin and the world)
 - c. *Because it has been given to me* – indicates that he has no power
 3. Worship
 - a. Satan is a fallen angel and a musician (Ezekiel 28:13 – NKJV “The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes”)
 - b. The goal: worshipping Satan
 4. Scripture Jesus uses – Deuteronomy 6:13 “You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him” and 10:20 “You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him”
- C. Temptation 3: Blaspheming God (vv. 9-12)
1. Location
 - a. Jerusalem – God’s holy city (his territory)
 - b. Temple – God’s place of prayer, worship, intimacy, and His dwelling place)
 - c. Pinnacle of the temple – represents the highest place (the mind – Spirit center)
 - 1) The enemy will go to high places to tempt you
 2. The enemy uses scripture
 - a. Psalm 91:11, 12 “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”
 - b. Luke 4: 10-11 “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”
 - c. Misuses interpretation

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3. Scripture Jesus uses – Deuteronomy 6:16 “Do not put the LORD your God to the test”

V. **Luke 4: 13 – The Victory**

- A. The tempter fails
- B. We do not have recorded all the temptations
- C. The tempter will find new ways to throw Jesus off

VI. **Implications**

- A. The tempter will cause physical duress, make you worship him, and blaspheme God
- B. Whenever the tempter comes, use scripture
- C. Be in prayer at all times (Eph. 6:18 “pray in the Spirit at all times”)
- D. James 1:2-3 “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”