

The Temptations of Christ
Sunday, October 18, 2020

- * We can see many parallels between the temptations of Jesus and the “original temptation” in the Garden of Eden!
- * The first plunged Man into sin and the second exposed satan and started the process of redemption!
- * In Genesis, Adam and Eve lived in a lush garden where everything they needed or wanted was provided and in the wilderness Jesus went without for all of us!
- * In Genesis the temptation was “to be like God” by disobeying Him and in the wilderness the temptation of Jesus was to be King without obeying God!
- * In Genesis, after they sinned, the angel barred them from the Tree of Life and in the wilderness after the temptation the angels came and ministered to Jesus!
- * There are three (3) distinct elements in the Temptation of Christ that we want to see and learn from! Remember, our Lord was tempted in all ways like we are...yet without sin!

Hebrews 4:15 (NLT)

15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

(TPT)

15 He understands humanity, for as a Man, our magnificent King-Priest was tempted in every way just as we are, and conquered sin.

(The Voice)

15 For Jesus is not some high priest who has no sympathy for our weaknesses and flaws. He has already been tested in every way that we are tested; but He emerged victorious, without failing God.

Matthew 4:1-11 (NLT)

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. 3 During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’” 7 Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’” 8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.” 10 “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’” 11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

- I. The same Holy Spirit that descended on Jesus at His baptism is the same Holy Spirit that led Him into the wilderness to be tempted!
 - A. This seems to indicate that the plan of God was for Jesus to begin this redemption process and His earthly ministry by fully identifying with “Fallen Man!”
 - 1. Remember, Jesus is called “the second Adam!”

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (NLT)

45 The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. 46 What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later.

47 Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. 48 Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man.

49 Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.

2. Jesus, through the temptation, was able to do what the original Adam wasn't able to do!
 3. Stay connected to The Father through submission!
 4. This is why it is so important to become identified with Christ!
 5. Redemption is when our identification with Adam is replaced by our identification with Christ!
- B. This temptation of our Lord was the Holy Spirit's way of showing Jesus to be The Perfect Man that He was!
1. The “original design” of Man as created in God's image and perfectly united with God in everything so as to rule and reign with Him in creation!

Genesis 1:28 (NLT)

28 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

Revelation 22:5 (NLT)

5 And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 (NLT)

2 Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves? 3 Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life.

2. When we realize the place Man holds in God's creation it will begin to formulate a correct understanding of redemption!

Romans 8:17-23 (NLT)

17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. 18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

3. Much of the disfunction and violence of the world today stems from the groaning of creation!
4. The actions of many can be connected to the temptations Christ experienced and the fact that WE fail the test and bow to satan!

- C. Another lesson of the Temptation of Christ is that it is the first introduction of the devil!

Revelation 12:9 (NLT)

9 This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

1. Scripture explains in great detail the “workings of satan” if we pay close attention!
2. It’s much like winning a sporting competition by having your opponents game plan!
3. The Gospels put on full display the physical verses the spiritual world!
4. Close observation shows us how satan defeated Adam by getting him to subvert the design of God by getting Adam to “live a completely different way!”

II. A Closer look at the Temptations of Christ: If You are the Son of God, then turn these Stones to Bread!

- A. What’s the “big deal” here?
- B. What’s wrong with Jesus having a little something to eat?
- C. What is this really about?