

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Recovering What Was Lost

Luke 4: 1-13

Introduction: This is the last study of the wilderness temptations but by no means an exhaustive analysis; these verses are filled with a wealth of spiritual depth and meaning. In the first study we focused on the humanity of Jesus and the reality of the temptations. In the second study we considered the nature of the temptations themselves in relation to our own. In this study we will investigate the devil's claim to have the authority over the world's kingdoms, and the beginning of Jesus' restoration of what was lost in the fall of humanity.

I. Who Has Authority Over the Earth?

In the second temptation recorded by Luke the devil claims to have been given the domain of the earth and all of its kingdoms and to have the authority to give it (them) to whomever he wishes. Is this true?

- A. Genesis 1:28-31: God gives to Adam and Eve authority over the earth to subdue it and have dominion over it.
- B. Unbeknownst to them, in their rebellion and sin they gave this authority and dominion to the devil:
 1. 2 Corinthians 4:4 translated *the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving* (Greek: god of this age)
 2. Ephesians 2:1-2 the devil is *the prince of the power of the air*
 3. 1 John 5:19 *the whole world lies in the power of the evil one*
 4. John 12:31 *the ruler of this world shall be cast out*
 5. John 14:30-31 *the ruler of this world is coming and he has nothing in Me*
 6. Galatians 4:3 *we . . . were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world*
 7. James 4:4 *friendship with the world is hostility toward God, a friend of the world [is] the enemy of God*
- C. Presently in this world every power, every government, every ruler, every authority, every business, economy, and politic, every educational institution, every human organization regardless of intent or purpose, is under the direct rule and influence of the devil (and his principalities and powers) who has legal authority **EXCEPT FOR THOSE HUMAN LEADERS WHO WILLINGLY CHOOSE TO COME UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST AND TO FOLLOW HIM AS LORD AND SAVIOR, SEEKING HIS WILL.**

II. The Second Man / Last Adam & the Significance of the Wilderness Temptations

I Corinthians 15:45-48: *The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. Compare with Luke 3:38*

- A. Jesus' mission was *to seek and to save what was lost (or ruined)* (Mat.18:11; Luke19:10): this pertains not only to individuals, but to humanity and the glory of the original creation. As the Second Man, in the exact image of the first Adam, He must take back what was destroyed through the fall.
- B. The first phase of His salvific mission is to conquer sin in the flesh, to do what Adam failed to do: to remain always in submission to the Father without ever disobeying.
 1. Adam lived in a sinless world in a perfect paradise when he chose to rebel
 2. Jesus lived in a world broken by sin and faced the same kinds of temptations in a wilderness
- C. As Jesus faced off with the devil and remained obedient to the Father He began the process of recovering the authority and dominion on this earth that Adam gave away and He did so **ASA "TRULY NORMAL" SPIRIT-FILLED MAN IN HUMAN FLESH!**
- D. The climax of the mission occurred on the cross where He defeated the devil and the powers of darkness and put them to open shame and in the resurrection where He triumphed over the power of sin and death and recovered all authority in both heaven **AND EARTH AS A MAN: the Last Adam!** (Col 2:13-15, Mat 28:18-20)

Conclusion & Implications for Christ Followers Today

- A. We need to be wary of the world and its systems [business, politics, education] with an informed awareness of what drives these institutions.
- B. We need to recognize the authority and power we have in Christ and through His Spirit to defeat sin and the principalities and powers opposing our own life.
- C. We need to understand the true purpose of intercessory prayer (John 15:1-16): why God will not do whatever we want, why He can only do what we ask, and why prayer, therefore, is the primary purpose of the people of God. The Church only advances on her knees!

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'" And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU TO GUARD YOU,' and, 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" And Jesus answered and said to him, "It is said, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

Luke 4:1-13 (NASB)

Memory Verse

And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'"

(Luke 4:4 NASB)

