

## **“The Temptation of Jesus”**

### **Part 1**

#### **Luke 4:1,2**

Oct. 31, 2021

#### **Luke 4:1-4**

**1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness**

2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry.

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- Luke has established in the first 3 chapters that Jesus is the Son of God (deity) and He is the Son of Man (humanity.)
- Where Israel failed in the wilderness for 40 years, Jesus was victorious in the wilderness for 40 days.

“full” – πληρης – to be full, to be controlled (as is the case with the Holy Spirit.) Not a portion of the Spirit, but His control of a person.

“led – ἠγῶ – to be led, to bring to drive.

#### **Rom 8:14**

14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- Jesus goes from a high point in His life to a low point.

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**Note:** It was the Spirit that led Jesus. This is not of His own doing. He was not in a place that He should not be. This is deliberate, purposeful.

- The Spirit is leading Jesus for the purpose of testing Him.
- Testing is never designed to prove someone can fail, but to prove that they can succeed. It is to show their worth, to show their quality.

#### **James 1:2-4**

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- God tests, but does not tempt, people (Exodus 16:4; Exodus 20:20; Deuteronomy 8:2; Deuteronomy 13:1-3; Judges 2:22; Judges 3:4; 2 Chronicles 32:31).

**1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness**

- The Spirit’s purpose then was to prove that Jesus not only would not sin, but could not sin.
- Temptation is the enticement to sin. It is for the purpose to get someone to fail, to sin.
- God does not tempt anyone to sin.

#### **James 1:13**

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and **He Himself does not tempt anyone.** Therefore at the same time, on any one given occasion, Jesus is both tested and tempted.

- Jesus needs to prove that He will not and cannot fall to the god of this world, Satan.
- If he fails, he will be in the same class as the old Adam.
- If He fails here, all is lost. The cross is meaningless. Destroy the universe.
- Is Jesus just another Adam who can’t defeat the enemy? We need to know that right up front.
- This will make the cross powerful.

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“wilderness” – about the last place someone would want to spend 6 weeks . . . alone. If Jesus needs help, then we’ve got a big problem.

**Deut 8:15**

15 “He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water;

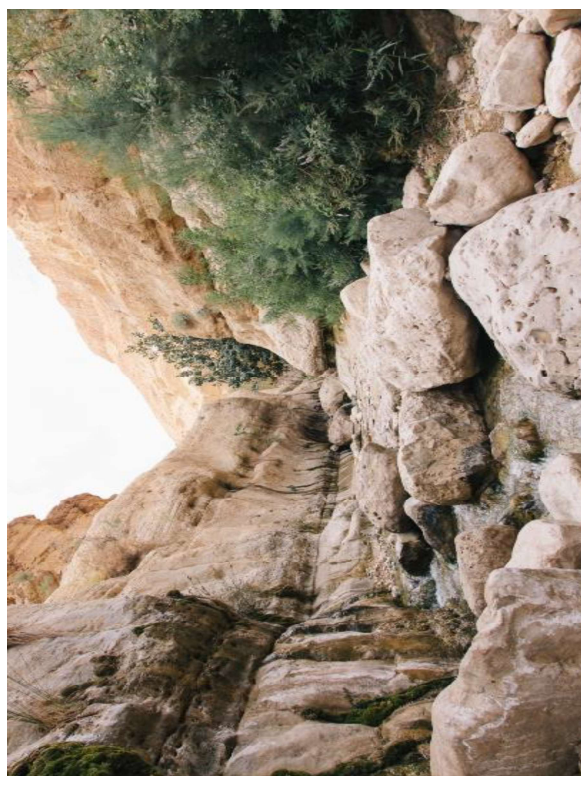
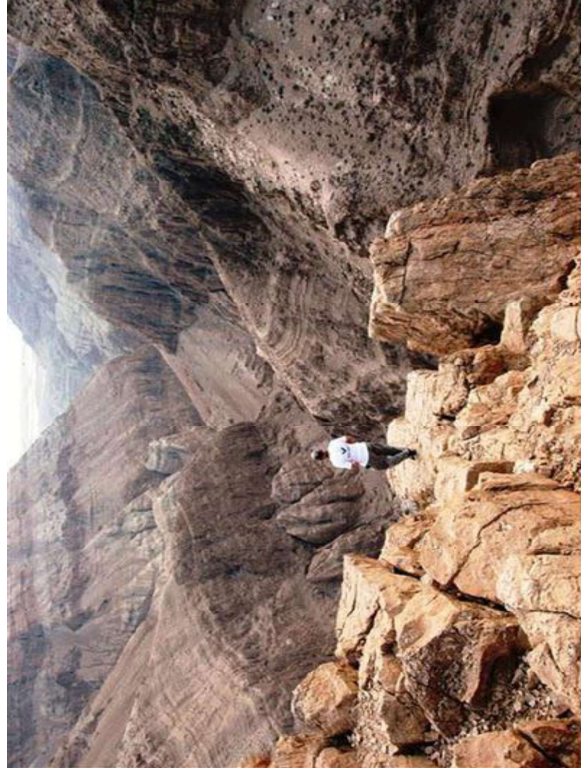
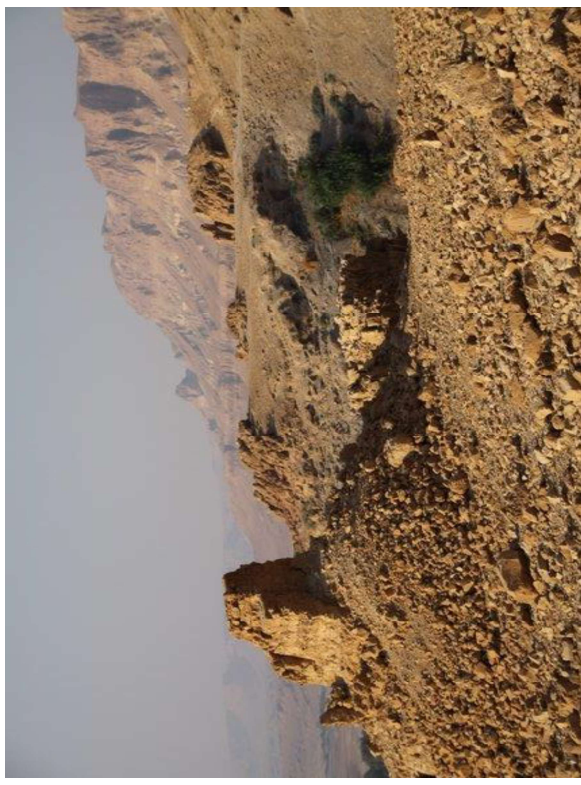
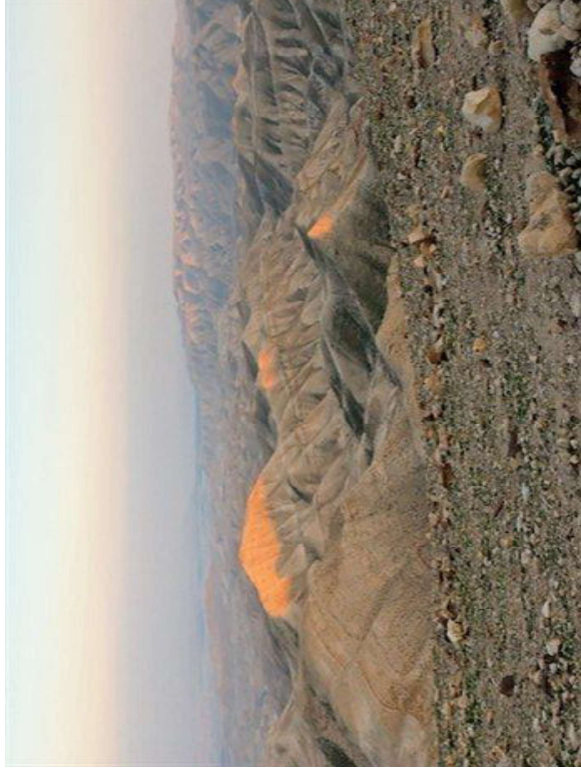
**Mark 1:12-13**

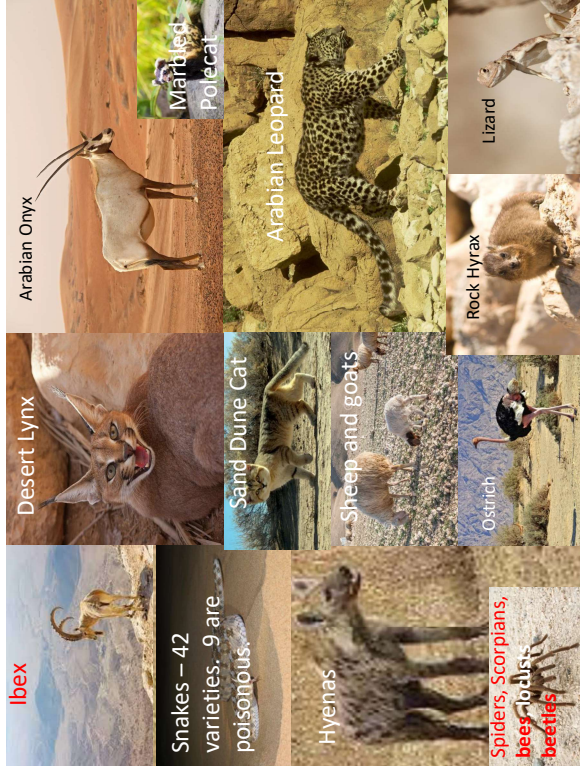
12 Immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness.

13 And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.

\* It is barren, dry, rocky, desolate, with wild animals like snakes, scorpions, boars, jackals, wolves, foxes, leopards, hyenas.

- Unlike the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam in a garden with tame animals.





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“being tempted” – present passive participle.

- Jesus was tempted for 30 years as He grew up, + the full 40 days. 1,000's and 1,000's of temptations.
- Now it culminates with the last big three. All of the stops are pulled out.
- The battle is so intense that Jesus eats nothing.
- How intense? He doesn't even realize He is hungry until after the 40 days.

**Note:** Jesus is a physically strong individual as evidenced by His ability to not eat for 40 days. He is not some effeminate weakling as some paintings depict Him to be.

- Lucifer, the fallen angels, and Adam and Eve, all of whom did not have an OSN, had the ability to internalize temptation, and mixed with their inclinations ended up yielding to it, and therefore sinned.
- 3. He is an **immoveable object**.
  - His temptations go to their maximum every time.
  - Jesus feels the temptation and he feels it to its fullest.
  - One does not have to experience something in order to understand it.
  - Jesus is omniscient and knows all about temptation and sin, and has experienced it first hand in the wilderness.

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## Could Jesus sin?

• This is called the impeccability or peccability of Christ.

- **Impeccability** – unable to sin.
- **Peccability** – able to sin.

3 reasons Christ could not sin (*impeccability*):

1. He is God.
  - Infinite in holiness.
  - Infinite in omnipotence.
  - Infinite in immutability.
  - Infinite in omniscience.
- Jesus had infinite power to resist temptation.
- It was impossible for the divine nature to sin. The human nature could not act apart from the divine nature.
2. He has no sin nature.
  - Nothing to respond to temptation.
  - Therefore He only senses the temptation externally. We experience it internally.
  - He never had a struggle with sin internally.

## John 14:30

30 "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;

## Heb 7:26

26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

## 1 Peter 2:21-22

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH

Those who hold to peccability believe that, if Jesus could not have sinned, He could not have truly experienced temptation, and therefore could not truly sympathize with our struggles and temptations against sin.

#### **Heb 4:15**

15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

“It is objected to the doctrine of Christ’s impeccability that it is inconsistent with His temptability. A person who cannot sin, it is said, cannot be tempted to sin. This is not correct; any more than it would be correct to say that because an army cannot be conquered, it cannot be attacked.”

- Charles Shedd

“Sympathy with the sinner in his trial does not depend on the experience of sin, but on the experience of the strength of the temptation to sin which only the sinless can know in its full intensity. “

“Only the sinless One knows how intense the temptation can be, every temptation, because he never gives in and finally the temptation having exhausted itself, departs.”

**If Jesus could have sinned, there are massive ramifications –**

1. He is not God because He is not infinite.
2. He has a sin nature or corrupt inclination which internally would respond to temptation. Therefore He is not God.
3. If He could have sinned, He would still be able to sin today because He retains the same essence internally He did while living on earth. Though He does not have a human body today, it matters little, as His body had little to no bearing on His ability to sin. Remember, Satan still frequents heaven (Job 1,2). If Jesus can sin, it is inevitable that He will sin.