

“The Temptation of Jesus”

Part 4

Luke 4:9-13

Nov. 21, 2021

“Jesus actually understands the weight of our temptation better than we do. A man strong enough to lift a heavy object appreciates its weight more than one who lacks the strength to hold it up. At some point, the weak man’s power runs out, and he never fully bears the load: he drops it. Christ, in enduring our temptations without failure, experienced their weight far beyond the point where we would have failed and given in.”

“It is written”

should decide every controversy,
settle every doubt,
and overcome every difficulty.

Luke 4:9-13

9 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;

10 for it is written,

‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU TO GUARD YOU;’

11 and,

**‘ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP,
SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’”**

12 And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’”

13 When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

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- Satan is gambling here. He is leading Jesus around but in actuality Satan is playing right into the hands of God and what God wants him to do – to demonstrate that Jesus could not and therefore will not sin. It will prove His decisive victory over the assault of Satan in every instance.

- Satan sets a trap.

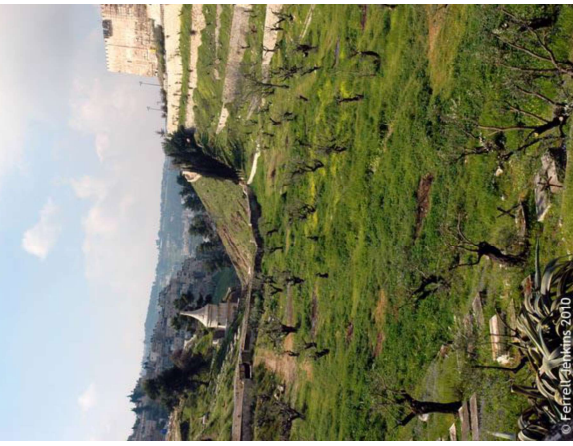
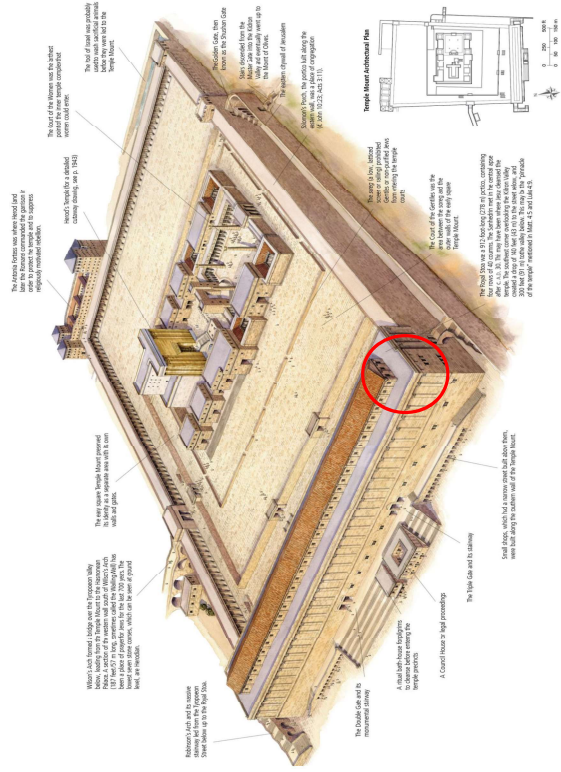
So Satan orchestrates the perfect trap for Jesus:

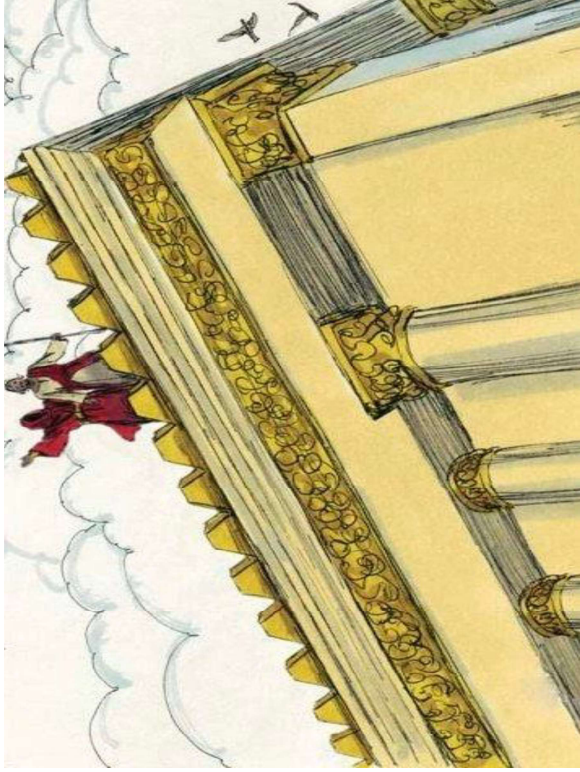
1. Lead Jesus into the trap.
2. Quote the Bible to Jesus.
3. Command Jesus to obey the Bible.
4. Hope that Jesus yields to the temptation.
5. The result will be the cross is cancelled.

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“pinnacle of the temple” – πτερύγιον – tip, extremity, end, edge. Probably the SE corner of the wall of the temple overlooking the Kidron Valley.





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"if you are the Son of God . . ." – 1st class conditional "if". "if and it is true . ." or "Since it is true . ." Satan knows Jesus is the Son of God.

" . . . throw Yourself down from here." Satan is thinking that Jesus is a man and would never survive the fall 450 ft. (45 stories). This will keep Jesus from going to the cross.

- But this isn't all Satan has in mind because he now starts quoting Scripture . . .

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- Now look who is saying **"for it is written, . . ."**

- Don't be fooled, Satan knows Scripture better than either you or I or any other believer.

- He has had 4,000 years to study it!

- Satan is saying, "So You're big into the Scriptures are you, then let me quote You a verse of Scripture and see if You will obey it!"

- Someone has suggested that Satan is such a Bible expert because he has spent centuries looking for loopholes.

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Ps 91:11-12

11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you,

To guard you **in all your ways.**

12 They will bear you up in their hands,

That you do not strike your foot against a stone.

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That you do not strike your foot against a stone.

- This passage refers to anyone who trusts in God.

- Satan twists Scripture from trusting God to testing God!

- Satan is saying, "No matter what you do Jesus, God will protect you."

- That is presuming on the grace of God.

- So we have an interpretation problem here.

2 Tim 2:15

15 Study to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.



- **Gal. 3:27** – there are no gender roles.
- **1 Cor. 14:2** – speaking in tongues is for self edification.
- **1 Cor. 14:39** – speaking in tongues is a spiritual gift in existence today.
- **James 2:24** – faith + works = salvation.
- **Rev. 3:20** – Jesus is at the door of the heart of the unbeliever. One becomes a Christian by opening the door and inviting Christ into their life.
- etc., etc., etc., etc., etc.

Note: This is only a small sample of verses taken out of context. Every book in the Bible has verses taken out of context by someone and used to teach something false. Every subject, doctrine, and belief has been affected by this act of malpractice.

- Don't believe when someone quotes a verse to you that it necessarily is being interpreted and quoted correctly.
- Choose your Bible teachers carefully.

5. Read 1st century culture into 21st century setting.

1 Cor 11:4-5

4 Every man who has something on his head while praying or prophesying disgraces his head.

5 But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for she is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved.

6. Flood the Church with endless interpretations.

2 Peter 1:20

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

7. Interpret Scripture from a philosophical viewpoint, or from unbiblical tradition.

Col 2:8

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men,

7 ways Satan distorts Scripture:

1. Take verses out of context.

Such as:

- **Ex. 32:14** – God changes His mind, therefore He does not know the future exhaustively. He is not omniscient.
- **Prov. 22:6** – a child is guaranteed salvation if raised in a Christian home.
- **Is. 53:4,5; Matt 8:18,17** – because there is healing in the atonement of Christ, you can be healed today of all of your diseases.
- **1 Chron. 4:9,10; Prov. 15:6** – believers are guaranteed prosperity.
- **Rom. 9:16** – there is no need to evangelize the lost.
- **Heb. 6:4-6** – a believer can lose their salvation.
- **1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9** – God is not sovereign in salvation.
- **Matt. 18:20** – when believers gather to pray, it is then that God is with them.
- **Mark 16:18** – a believer is immune to snake bites and deadly poison.
- **Acts 2:38,39** – infants should be baptized.
- **Acts 8:14-17** – a believer receives the Holy Spirit (Baptism of the Holy Spirit) sometime after being saved.

2. Don't take it literally.

2 Tim 2:15

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

3. Add to Scripture.

Rev 22:18-19

18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

4. Subtract from Scripture.

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

2 Peter 3:16-18

16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

18 but **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

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Deut. 6:16

16 "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah.

Ex 17:1-2

1 Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink.

2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? 'Why do you test the Lord?'"

• Instead of trusting God for the water, they tested him.

• They were presuming that they could get angry with Moses and push and push and push at Moses, who spoke for God, and God would not get angry with them. They were testing God.

Presuming on God's grace causes us to do foolish things.

- "I can stand in the middle of the freeway"
- "I can stand on a ledge at the top of the IDS"
- "I can skip my medicine."
- "I can take a class in college and not study and expect to get a good grade."
- "I can sit under this "Bible" teacher and won't be affected."
- "I can put myself in unnecessary danger, but God's sovereignty will protect me."

13 When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

• Satan is not stupid. If you resist him he will flee, and wait for another time.

• And another time there will be.

• There is no freedom from temptation in this life here on earth. There was not for Jesus and there is not for us.

• As long as we are in the flesh, be ready for temptation.

2 things I want to give you in closing today:

1. Jesus knows what temptation is like.
2. Jesus remained sinless.

"God's aim in allowing these temptations was to prove the sinlessness of His Messiah. Satan's aim in these temptations was to cause Messiah to sin. He simply tried to accomplish the impossible. Messiah was impeccable; He simply was not able to sin, but that did not discourage the fallen one from attempting the impossible. Satan's subsidiary aim was to keep Yeshua from the cross by offering Him a shortcut to His Messianic goal. If Yeshua had succumbed to this temptation, it would have been a good example of the attainment of a legitimate end by illegitimate means."

- Arnold Fruchtenbaum

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,