

THE TEMPTATIONS OF THE MESSIAH

I. WHO TEMPTED HIM?

A. **Mark 1:13**

Simply enough, the Devil did so.

B. **James 1:13**

It wasn't God. It will never be God. He is the one who provides "the way of escape" from temptation (**1st Corinthians 10:13**), not the temptation itself.

C. **1st Peter 5:8**

The devil stalks us as his prey. He is the original sinner and wants others to emulate him (**John 8:44**).

D. **Genesis 3:1-6; Job 1:6-12**

Satan is a personal tempter. Although in the form of a serpent, he appeared directly to Eve. He may have made no personal appearance to Job, but he directly pursued him before God.

II. WHEN WAS HE TEMPTED?

A. **Mark 1:9-12**

He was tempted right after being baptized. A momentous occasion in spiritual life does not provide immunity from temptation. The Devil will use even our spiritual accomplishments against us; "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (**1st Corinthians 10:12**).

B. **Matthew 4:2-3**

He was tempted when He was hungry. Satan uses physical vulnerability as an opportunity. Remember "Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright" (**Hebrews 12:16**).

III. WHERE WAS HE TEMPTED?

A. **Matthew 4:1**

Jesus was tempted in the wilderness.

1. He was in “God’s country,” so to speak. Even in the creation of God, uncluttered by urbanization, Satan will seek out souls.
2. He was in solitude. The Greek word for “wilderness” can be translated “solitary place.” There is nothing wrong with occasional alone time, but we must not be lulled into a sense of safety. Even in the quiet of our own homes, we must maintain integrity: “*I will walk within my house with a perfect heart*” (Psalm 101:2).

B. Matthew 4:5

Jesus was tempted atop the pinnacle of the Temple, so let’s not think we won’t be tempted in church! Keep your guard up.

C. Matthew 4:8

Jesus was tempted with a full view of the world’s splendor and that should come as no surprise. Worldliness is a constant frustration to spiritual progress.

IV. HOW WAS HE TEMPTED?

A. Luke 4:3, 6-7, 9-11

He was tempted by the lust of the flesh when the Devil suggested He abuse His miraculous power to satisfy hunger. He was tempted by the lust of the eyes when Satan showed him the kingdoms and offered Him their glory. He was tempted by the pride of life when the Wicked One suggested He “show off” with a stupid stunt just to force angels to catch Him.

1. Genesis 3:6

These were the same categories of sin by which the Serpent appealed to Eve.

2. 1st John 2:15-17

These categories fulfill “*all that is in the world.*”

B. Matthew 4:6

In at least one third of the temptations, the Ruler of the Demons couched His appeal in Biblical verse.

1. **2nd Peter 3:16**

There stands an ever-present danger of abusing the inspired text. We must not be so complacent as to merely accept any application of Scripture.

2. **2nd Timothy 2:15**

To receive God's approval, we must handle His word correctly.

V. **WHY WAS HE TEMPTED?**

A. **Matthew 4:1; James 1:2-4**

He was even led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted, not actually tempted by God, but situated so as to be tempted, because the individual gains strength from the experience if he overcomes.

B. **Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16**

He was tempted to sympathize with us and help us through our temptations.