

Matthew 4:1-11
The Examination of the King (STBC 3/8/2015)

Greeting: The church I pastor (Baltimore Bible Church) has been working our way through the gospel of Matthew and it's been an absolute joy for me and a great blessing to our congregation.

Matthew is a book that proclaims and defends Jesus as the King and Deliverer of the Jewish people as well as the rest of humanity.

We'll be looking at Matthew 4 but let me help you out with the context.

- In Chapter 1:1-17 we are given the **GENEALOGY OF THE KING**. If anyone was going to have the audacity to claim the he was the Messiah he had to be able to prove it by his family line. Jesus had that proof. In Chapter 1-17 we see that Jesus is the son of David and the son of Abraham (1:1 READ)
- In Chapter 1:18-25 we are introduced to the **BIRTH OF THE KING**. The Genealogy proved his right to rule but if this Messiah is going to be Savior of the world he needs to have the power to save. He can't be any ordinary king. How do we know this king is able to save us from sin when all men are born sinners? What 1:18-25 lets us know is that He came from the outside the sinful stream of humanity. He was not born of a man but was conceived of the Holy Spirit. Because of his miraculous birth, He was able to save people from their sins.
- In Chapter 2 we see the **RECOGNITION OF THE KING**. He was Worshipped by those Least Expected to Perceive (1-2 READ) Feared by one Least Expected to Believe (3-4 READ) Ignored by those Most Expected to Receive (5-6) But Jesus will be recognized and God made sure of it by bringing in these wise men.
- Then in Chapter 3 there is this **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE KING**. In verses 1-12 we are introduced to the greatest Old Testament prophet, the voice crying out in the wilderness John the Baptist. His ministry was so powerful that even ancient historians outside of the Bible mention him. It was said that Herod feared that if John wanted to start a rebellion against Rome he would have had the support of the people to do it. But he didn't come as a military general he came as a herald, an announcer. He didn't come to conquer land he came to conquer hearts.
- Then the greatest announcement was heard from heaven itself when Jesus was baptized. Look at verse 17 of chapter 3 (READ 3:17) There is no greater affirmation than that. If anyone wondered if Jesus was qualified to be there was no greater testimony than this. The spirit descending, the heavens opening, the

Father Speaking. Who would question that Jesus was qualified to be King? Who would want to challenge that?

But in chapter 4 we discover that there was at least one who wanted to challenge that. He is the father of all who want to challenge Jesus' rightful claim to be the King. Let's turn our attention to Matthew 4:1-11 (**READ Matthew 4:1-11**)

Introduction:

It's been said that:

"As familiar as we have grown with this simple narrative, it presents us with one of the most wonderful, mysterious, awful scenes of the world's history." (Broadus, Matthew, 62)

There is a lot that we learn from Matthew 4 about the nature of temptation and how to overcome temptation. However, I don't want you to miss that all of that is secondary to what Matthew 4 is about. Matthew 4 is about the EXAMINATION OF THE KING. All that was declared about Jesus in chapters 1-3 is going to be put to the test.

In Chapter 3 He received the testimony from heaven. And now in chapter 4 He is going to have that affirmation put to the test by hell. The Son has been approved as the One in whom the Father was well pleased in chapter 3, and now in chapter 4, Satan is going to see just how well pleased The Son is with the Father.

This is an "all out" "no holds barred", attack on Christ, that tested Him to the farthest point that temptation could go. Jesus endured temptation to its limit.

The kind of test that Jesus is about to undergo here is greater than what any person has been able to withstand in all of human history. It is more intense than anything faced by Adam, by Moses, by Elijah, or even by Job. As great as Job's trial was, Job was never offered the kingdoms of the world. If he gave in and cursed God the best he could look forward to was death.

Job's wife suggested that he curse God and die (Job 2:9), but he was never approached personally and directly by Satan to be offered anything.

We have nothing in all of history that is as sinister as this. No one has ever been subjected to this kind of concentrated attack.

This passage can be divided up into three sections.

(In verses 1-2 we see that) The King's Examination is Spirit Directed.

(In verses 3-10) The Kings Examination is Satanically Devised.

(And in verse 11) The Kings Examination is Supernaturally Decided.

I. First of all the King's Examination was Spirit

Directed.

Satan was given the green light to have his way with Jesus, but it was ordained by the Spirit that this would happen.

- The place of the temptation is Spirit Directed, in the harsh wilderness and in absolute isolation
- The timing of the temptation is Spirit Directed, after 40 days of fasting, while He was in a physically weakened condition.
- The instrument of the temptation is Spirit Directed, “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”

What the Holy Spirit in His genius has done is place Jesus in a situation where absolutely no one would be able to question His victory, once it was won.

Harsh Environment:

The context would seem to indicate that this is the same wilderness that John came from. The wilderness of Judea would have been a barren area located just west of the Dead Sea about 35 miles long and 15 miles wide.

One writer described it as:

“an area of yellow sand and crumbling limestone. It is an area of contorted strata, where the ridges run in all directions as if they were warped and twisted. The hills are like dust heaps, the limestone is blistered and peeling, the rocks are bare and jagged, and often the ground sounds hollow” (MacArthur quoting William Barclay, Matthew, 87)

This isn't the kind of red carpet treatment you would expect for one who has just been proclaimed King. This is a harsh reception.

Absolute Isolation:

Beyond the harsh environment, He is completely alone. **Mark 1:13** brings out this idea of desolation when he says:

Mark 1:13 “He was with the wild beasts”

Jesus goes from the obscurity of the small town of Nazareth to absolute isolation. There wasn't going to be one human soul around to comfort him or encourage him or support him for what he was about to face. He would be alone for this fight. There is no army for this King.

Physically Weakened:

He would face this test in a physically weakened condition. Look at what verse 2 says: “And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights”

There are some commentators who try to ease the impact of these words by saying that it might have meant that he fasted from certain foods or that he fasted for only certain hours of the day.

The plain reading of the passage, as well as the other instances of the word “fast” in Scripture, support the idea of total abstinence from food. The verse clearly indicates the absence of food by the words “He then became hungry.”

In a 1997 article in the *British Medical Journal*, a senior medical examiner at the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, cites well-documented studies reporting the survival of hunger strikes for 28, 36, 38 and 40 days. Most other reports of long-term survival of total starvation, however, have been poorly substantiated.

(<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-long-can-a-person-sur/>)

The instrument for this examination is Satan himself:

II. The King’s Examination is Satanically Devised (vss. 3-10)

This is no lightweight contender. This is the absolute best that hell has to offer and the one who holds sway over the entire world.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Unbelievers are called “children of the wicked one” **Matthew 13:38**

Until men are transferred to the kingdom of His beloved Son they are in the domain of darkness, and (**Colossians 1:13**)

They are under the dominion of the “prince of the power of the air” according to **Ephesians 2:2**

While the throne does not belong to Satan legally, through man’s rebellion Satan has become the “god of this world” according to **2 Corinthians 4:4**

One of the first things that ancient Kings did after being declared King, was to subjugate any competitors to the throne.

Satan is the challenger to the throne and Jesus is thrust into the wilderness to face him. Satan gives Jesus his best shot.

Second Corinthians 2:11 says that we should not let Satan take advantage of us because “**we are not ignorant of his schemes**”.

There are 3 ways that Satan attempted to get Jesus to doubt His Father’s love for Him. He tried to get him to doubt the Provision of the Father, the Protection of the Father and the Promotion of the Father.

Let's take a look the first one:

A. The Provision of the Father (3-4)

To survive 40 days without food is remarkable in and of itself.

That's just to say there aren't a lot of documented cases for survival over 40 days. To survive a 40 day fast alone would be remarkable but to do that kind of fast in an arid and bleak wilderness is incredible.

Just like any other human being He hungered afterwards. If we assume that the normal processes of the body occurred. He would have experienced the loss of fat and muscle mass and other tissues that would have been lost and broken down for energy. His body would have been weakened and fatigued. His muscles might have been in pain and his skin possibly dry and cracked. Even focusing mentally under this condition is difficult.

It is at this time that Satan arrives with His assault.

"If you are the Son of God"

If you are the Son of God what are you doing out here hungry after 40 days? Isn't this long enough?

Surely God won't mind you making bread out of a couple stones. If you are the "Son of God" It would only seem reasonable that if the children of Israel could be provided for miraculously, so could the "Son of God"!

You're about to die out here from starvation. What's the big deal it's only bread? Provide for yourself!

Here was Satan's attempt to get Jesus to doubt the Father's provision for Him. He tried to convince Him that the Father could not be trusted to provide for Him. He suggested that hunger was unworthy of Him as a Son of God and unnecessary for Him as a Son of God.

It seems like such a small thing doesn't it? But this temptation went way deeper than just feeding Himself. What Satan was trying to get Jesus to do was to act independently of the Trinity. Instead of working in perfect harmony with the Father and the Spirit Satan wanted Jesus, just this once, to exercise his own will independent of the other persons.

This would have been absolute treachery!

Jesus would not be able to say:

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work (or...)"

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 8:29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

Matthew 26:39 yet not as I will, but as You will."

This would be no small concession to the Devil. If you remember the whole human race was catapulted into the mess we're in over a piece of fruit. Satan became the god of this world over a piece of fruit. This would be a total victory for him. He is seeking to isolate the Son from the Father and incite rebellion in the Trinity. Can we even imagine such a thing?

Satan is saying, why not act independently? Aren't you tired of playing the submissive role? For just once why don't you do something just for you?

Jesus would spend the next 3 years of His life doing all kinds of miracles. Healing the sick, Raising the Dead, Feeding the multitudes. We're about to jump into all kinds of miracles in a few weeks.

But out of all those miracles guess how many were for Himself? None!

Satan in this instance is not so much doubting that Jesus is the Son of God as much as He is questioning what has it really profited you?

You were declared the Son of God and your big reward is being near starvation in the wilderness? How's that working out for you? You voluntarily laid aside your rights for this? Take your rights back! Provide for yourself!

But how does Jesus respond?

Listen to this! "It is written". I love this, because Jesus didn't have to quote Scripture. Whatever He said would have been Scripture. Jesus defeats Satan as a Son of Man. He could have used His divine prerogative to banish Satan but instead He uses the very same resource that we have at our disposal. He uses the Word of God.

Here we have modeled for us a wonderful example of how to meet the enemy with the most powerful weapon you own.

Human reasoning and psychology and manmade gimmicks would have no power in this arena. Jesus picks up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Eph 6). **Psalm 119:11** Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

Jesus quotes from **Deuteronomy 8:3**

'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'

Why don't we turn back to Deuteronomy 8, because I find this absolutely fascinating.

The book of Deuteronomy records Moses' final words and was written just prior to Israel's entrance into the promised land. The children of Israel at this time were camped in the plains of Moab according to Numbers 36:13 and had just spent 40 years wandering around in the wilderness.

By the way, all of the passages that Jesus quotes come from Deuteronomy and they all have the wandering in the wilderness as the backdrop. That's the context that Jesus is speaking from and it's purposeful.

Jesus is making a connection between His experience and Israel's experience.

Jesus' 40 days in the desert was a representation of Israel's 40 years in the wilderness.

Just as Israel was allowed go hungry in the wilderness, Jesus was allowed to suffer hunger in the wilderness.

Look at the context for the quote in Deuteronomy. **(Read Deuteronomy 8:1-3 READ).**

Listen to this, even though Israel was God's son, God let Israel go hungry on purpose. That's what verse 3 says "He let you be hungry" why?

"that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone,"

God withheld food from Israel to teach them how to be dependent on Him. They couldn't get food any other way and that's exactly how God wanted it. They were forced to depend on God for their life and their provision.

The lesson that the Israelites had to learn was that bread didn't keep them alive, God did. That's the same lesson that Christ experienced as well. The lie that Satan offers us is that there is something that we need that is outside the will of God; and if we don't get it is evidence of God's lack of care for us or lack of love for us.

How many times are we tempted in the same way? We are deceived into believing that there is something essential to our lives that God is not delivering to us.

Maybe it's a certain type of job, maybe its security, maybe it's your health, maybe it's a relationship, maybe it is sex, maybe it is sleep, or maybe it is a certain food or some other comfort, or stability in life.

Russell Moore states:

“To lose control of your appetites is to lose sight of the gospel itself, the truth that God knows what you need to survive” (Moore, Tempted and Tried, 80)

I’m not sure what it is in your life but you need to be reminded that none of those things sustain your life, God does through His Word.

2. The Second temptation was a temptation to **doubt the protection of the Father (vss 5-7)**

For this second temptation Satan transports Jesus from the Judean wilderness to the temple in Jerusalem.

We can speculate about how this happened but the text doesn’t answer those questions for us. It just says that it happened.

We’re not sure where Satan took Jesus but there were many places on the temple grounds that overlook some steep drops. Josephus mentions a place on the eastern side of the temple that oversaw the Kidron valley and it was reported that the drop to the valley floor was some 450 feet. (MacArthur, 93).

What Satan does is try to tempt Jesus in the other direction. In His initial temptation he tried to tempt Jesus not to trust the Father for his life and now he tries to tempt Jesus to completely trust the Father with His life.

“If you won’t make a little bread to save your life because you trust the Father so much, why don’t you prove your trust for the Father by throwing yourself down?”

Satan quotes from Psalm 91, which is a beautiful Psalm that extols the protection and salvation of God. We’re not sure who wrote Psalm 91 but I find it interesting that it is placed in the 4th section (or book) of the Psalms that begins with a Psalm of Moses. Psalm 90 is a Psalm about the wandering in the wilderness. Just after the Psalm about the wilderness wanderings is placed this one

Look at verses 1-2 of Psalm 91 (READ). This highlights the safety we have in God. A shelter is a place of physical safety. A refuge was a place of legal safety. A fortress was a place of military safety. This is all about our trust in God for protection. We find all of this under the Almighty’s shadow. This is a beautiful picture. Then look at what it says in vss. 9-12 (Read)

There is this protection by God that is offered to the one who trusts in God. What Satan is saying is, if this verse applies to anyone surely it should apply to Jesus.

You’re the Son of God after all aren’t you? Are you going to tell me that God would offer safety and protection to other people and not give that same

protection to you? If there ever was a person with whom this would be literally fulfilled, it would be you.

Out of all places to fulfill it, why not here in the holy city (Jerusalem)? Why not in the holiest place in the city (at the temple)?

According to Rabbinic tradition the coming of Messiah would be marked by His appearance on the roof of the sanctuary.

Satan is saying a baptism out in the wilderness wasn't a dramatic enough entrance. People can explain that away but if Jesus were to float off of the temple and make a perfect landing without a bruise, now that would be powerful!

Prove your trust in God and Let Him prove His trustworthiness to you.

On the surface it might seem like the Devil might have a point. Why wouldn't God send his angels to protect his Beloved Son? Why shouldn't He be recognized by a more dramatic entrance? Doesn't Psalm 91 offer protection?

Jesus puts Psalm 91 in its context because it is the Scripture which interprets Scripture. The Reformers called it *Analogia Fide* (the analogy of faith) or sometimes called it *Analogia Scriptura* (the *analogy of scripture*). What that doctrine teaches is that all beliefs are to be tested for their consistency against the faith or against the scriptures, comparing scripture with Scripture. It is possible to isolate a text and make it say the exact opposite of what the context of the passage is saying.

Satan knows more Scripture than any of us! It is the Scriptures properly understood and applied that He can't stand.

“Satan's greatest weapons are half truths” (Schaff quoted in Broadus, 70)

How many problems would be avoided if we knew our Bibles in context! The false religions and cults would be put out of business wouldn't they?

If Jesus followed Satan's suggestion to jump, He would at the same time be violating a clear command of Scripture in another place. This is what Jesus points out. He says “again, or on the other hand, or furthermore or it is also written”

'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'

This is a quote from Deuteronomy 6:16 where Moses says...

Deuteronomy 6:16 "You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah.

That's a reference to Exodus chapter 17, why don't we turn there. The children of Israel in Exodus 17 are still fresh out of Egypt at this point. It's fascinating to note their recent history.

- They have just seen the Lord's mighty hand in delivering them by the plagues on Egypt
- They have seen the Lord fight for them and cast the Egyptian army into the Red Sea after they walked on dry ground.
- In Chapter 15 God turned bitter water into sweet at Marah.
- In Chapter 16 God fed them with Mannah from heaven
- Now in Chapter 17 they are complaining for water

READ Exodus 17: 1-7

This is group of anything but believers. They didn't ask for water because they believed that the Lord was with them. They asked for water because they doubted that the Lord was with them.

This is amazing! After they saw the plagues in Egypt, the crossing at the Red Sea, the water at Marah, and the Mannah from heaven, they have the nerve to say "Is the Lord with us or not!"

This is not the heart of belief but stubborn unbelief. It was a demand that God do what I want Him to do, when I want Him to do it, in the way that I want Him to do it in and if He doesn't I refuse to trust Him! This isn't walking by faith but walking by sight.

If Jesus were to take Satan up on this little performance in the temple He would be demanding from God.

This is what I want you to do (I want you to catch me when I fall)
 This is when I want you to do it (at the moment I jump)
 This is how I want you to do it (send some angels to catch me)

This would not be faith on the part of Christ and He understood that because He knew his Bible in context. We don't create danger to now be saved from!

The whole context of Psalm 91 is for those that trust God not those that test Him and even that protection cannot be divorced from the sovereign will of God. There are times in God's sovereignty and for His own purposes that He will not protect us from adversity but that doesn't mean we are separated from his love.

Brothers and Sisters are you willing to submit yourselves to God's will? Are you willing to trust Him even if He doesn't do what you want Him to do, when you want Him to do it, in the way that you want Him to do it? That's faith. I know some of you have been holding on to the Lord and trusting for certain prayers and you need to keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking.

However, if the Lord doesn't answer with what you want, when you want it and how you want it, don't lose faith! Jesus was well pleased with the Father and so should you be.

Well, Satan is not done. He has one final trick up his sleeves and for this one he takes Jesus up on a very high mountain.

3. The Third temptation was a temptation to **doubt the promotion of the Father (vss 8-10)**

We are not sure what mountain Jesus was taken to. The highest mountain in Israel is Mt Hermon, which is North of the Golan Heights and its highest peak is around 2,236 meters above sea level (7,336 ft).

We're not sure if He was there or if there were some other peak but wherever He was, what Satan showed him was more than the human eye could see.

Somehow Satan supernaturally cast a vision before Jesus of all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, what he showed Him was way beyond Palestine.

G. Campbell Morgan explains it in this way:

“Conveying Him to some high mountain peak, he showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of the...By some strange power at the command of the enemy, he made to pass before the vision of Christ a gorgeous and magnificent scene...Not merely a few and imperfect kingdoms of Palestine but all the kingdoms of the world, the great Roman empire, Greece, Pergamos, Bithynia, the Bosphorus, Syria. Pontus, Judea and Egypt, all the known kingdoms of the world. And yet more than this, for the statement has no such limitation as that indicated by the word made use of “known kingdoms” All the kingdoms of the world, the great unexplored lands with their thousands of nations and tribes.” (Morgan, quoted in Pentecost, 104).

Can you imagine it? Satan says all these things I will give you, right here, right now for just one simple request, just bow the knee one time and it's all yours. You came for the kingdom and I am prepared to give it to you.

The offer that Satan was making was a real offer and He does not deny its legitimacy or its desirability. He would give it all for one act of worship. Satan wasn't asking for continued or repeated acts of worship. He uses an aorist tense, for a one time act. Just fall down once and it's yours.

Here the mask is off and we see what Satan has been after since he fell from heaven. He desires more than anything else to be treated as God. That's the bare and unvarnished truth about Satan. He wants to be treated as God!

2 Thessalonians 2 describes a scene that will take place in the future in order to address a question that came up during Paul's day. In the first century they were anticipating the coming of Christ and there were some who believed and

were teaching others that they missed it. Paul says you don't have to be concerned about that and listen to his reason why.

(2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 READ)

What Satan is desperate for, what he desires so badly, and what he is willing to risk everything for- is worship. What he was willing to receive through the worship given to Egotistical Kings and false gods through the ages, Satan will one day demand in person, when he sets himself up as God in the temple of God. That is his end game. That is what he wants.

I would go so far as to say that this is the goal of every sin. Satan may mask it on the front end as just an innocent departure from the rigid, stiff and strict rules of an overbearing and demanding dictator. Just relax a little it doesn't take all that. He might appear to be giving you a break and an easy way out but what he wants in the end is worship. He won't be satisfied until you are down at his feet. That is the goal of sin to have you knees bowed face down towards Satan. That is the ugly and harsh reality of what Satan really wants from you.

There would have been no prize greater to Satan than that one picture of the Son of God bowing the knee to him! He was willing to give up the kingdoms of the world to get it. Why trust the Father for a promotion when I can give it to you now without a struggle? There is no need for any suffering.

This is the first time that Jesus responds directly to Satan and His direct command is to go. He again quotes from Deuteronomy 6 this time verse 13.

Deuteronomy 6:13 "You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.

Why don't you turn one more time to Deuteronomy 6. If there is anything that Moses wanted to get across to the children of Israel who were about to cross over into Canaan, it was that there is only one God to be worshipped. A little earlier in Chapter 6 Moses hammers away at this with one of the first verses a Hebrew child was to learn.

אֶחָד ה' הוּא אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה יְשׁוּרָאֵל שְׁמַע:

Hear O Israel the Lord your God the Lord is One.

Listen to urgency of this chapter

Deuteronomy 6:5-15 (READ)

The temptation for them was that they would become satisfied with the things instead of being satisfied with God and even to believe the gods of these lands were responsible for giving these things. They were tempted to think that if they really wanted to get ahead in this new land they had to do things the way the Canaanites did them.

Moses says don't be fooled! Don't forget who your God is.

Jesus was not the least bit drawn to this foolish request. This is the only time that he tells Satan to go.

Lenski comments that

“the plain reason Jesus told Satan to go was because Satan had exhausted all his temptations... the command to Satan to begone is the announcement of victory on the part of Jesus”

Jesus would receive His promotion and all the kingdoms of the world would be His but he would do it in the way that the Father prescribed.

In Psalm 2 this same promise of all the kingdoms of the world is offered to the Son by the Father. There was already a plan for Christ to receive the kingdoms of the world.

Psalm 2:8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession

The Father promised the Son the nations as His inheritance and the ends of the earth as His possession.

Jesus referred to those that come to faith as those that the Father has given me.

John 6:39 "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

In order to redeem these people the Son agreed to come as the sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:4-7

4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME;

6 IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE.

7 "THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) **TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.**'"

The Son's entrance to the world to be a sacrifice was in obedience to the will of God. In Philippians 2:8 it says

Philippians 2:8 “He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

The way to inherit the kingdoms of the earth was through death, and Jesus understood that. There is no doubt that the Kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Revelation 11:15). However, the way to this kingdom would be through His death.

Jesus could have accepted the kingdom from Satan but there would be a catch, the kingdom would have been unredeemed. Jesus could have been the sovereign over the world but He could not also be the savior of the world and agree to Satan at the same time.

The kingdom would belong to Christ but would not have been saved by Christ.

The only other time we have Jesus saying he went to Satan is when Peter tries to suggest that Jesus shouldn't go to the cross to gain the kingdom.

Matthew 16:21-23 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Idolatry is offered by Satan as a substitute to the cross and if we pay attention we will recognize when Satan is offering us the same thing today. He offers easy ways out and that tempts us to compromise. Jesus was victorious.

The victory is secured and there is one person left standing and one person sent fleeing. Satan is ordered to be gone because he is utterly vanquished. The Spirit Directed period of testing and the Satanically Devised period of temptation is over.

There is one last point to cover and it's quick.

Verse 11

III. The Kings Examination is Supernaturally Decided (vs 11)

If there was any doubt about who won this battle verse 11 seals it (read vs. 11).

The Father sent the angels to the corner of the victor.

The same angels that Christ would not command to bear Him up lest He dash His foot against a stone, the same angels that he would call to save Him from those that came to crucify Him, are the very angels sent to minister to Him after the trial is over.

What kind of ministry did they have towards Christ? An obvious answer is that they ministered to His need.

- 1) No doubt he would have been given physical **provision**. Just like the angel who came to minister to Elijah when he was weary. It says in **1 Kings 19:5-6**

“5 He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat."

6 Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again.

7 The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you."

8 So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.”

I think it would have been a similar kind of ministry to Christ here.

- 2) Maybe there would have been some kind of **protection**, if we assume He is still on a high mountain. Who knows maybe they did bear him up lest he dashed His foot against a stone in this case.
- 3) And I can't imagine the angels appearing before the Son of God without worship, a reminder of His future **promotion**.

The very things that Satan tried to offer Jesus in a cheap and illegitimate way, the Son of God received from Father, who sent His angels to minister to Him for a sustained period of time. The verb tense is imperfect.

The Son was satisfied with the Father's Provision, the Father's protection and the Father's promotion and passes His examination with Flying colors.

The question that remains is, how are you doing with your examination? Are you well pleased with the Father? Are you satisfied with what God has given you?

Do you demand what you want, when you want and how you want it? Or are you content with God alone being your portion forever?