

## Episode #715 Matthew 4 Part 2-The Lord Versus the Devil

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. The Lord was being tempted by the devil in the wilderness. He had stood up to the temptation to turn stones into bread when He was hungry, answering from Scripture that man should not live just on bread, but on every word of God. The devil then took Him up on a pinnacle of the temple to tempt Him to jump down. This time, the devil quoted Scripture to try to convince the Lord to fall to the temptation. But just how did he quote it?

III. The Temptation in the Wilderness

- A. Verse 6. It is written in Psalm 91:11-12, but the devil misquotes it twice. See the King James Version of this verse. He leaves out, “in all your ways,” not wanting to remind the Lord what His ways should be. He adds “at any time,” which is not there in Hebrew, making it sound like He could do any frivolous thing He likes and God would do this. The devil used the Septuagint, that adds this! Faulty translations can be used by the enemy. This temptation had to do with the pride of life, I John 2:16.
- B. Verse 7. Quoting from Deuteronomy 6:16. “Tempt” means to put to the proof. Not the same word as earlier, for the Spirit sent Him to be tested! Notice the “again” here and in verse 8. I believe this was a repetition of the same temptations already done as recorded in Luke 4:1-13, which explains their different order, etc.
- C. Verse 8. The kingdoms of the world are its governments. The world is the orderly system or arrangement. Their glory is their praise, honors, parades, etc.
- D. Verse 9. The devil claims that the governments of the world belong to him! The Lord never argued against this. Of course, that does not mean he got his control of them legitimately. Worship = Greek *proskuneo*, which here clearly means more than obeisance, but actual worship. This temptation has to do with the lust of the eyes, finishing the three in I John 2:16.
- E. Verse 10. Notice that the devil and Satan are clearly the same (thank the Lord there aren’t two of them!). He quotes Deuteronomy 6:13. In Luke He merely tells him to depart, not a dismissal, and the temptations there continue. There are two other different details. I believe the devil repeated the same temptations twice, here the last time and intensified. Notice that worship should only be done to God. (Yet people worshiped Christ!)
- F. Verse 11. Angels are God’s agents, who came and ministered (related to “deacon”) to the Lord now that the temptations were done and the testing passed!

VII. Conclusion: Satan tempted the Lord with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, as in I John 2:16. Whereas Adam and Eve fell to these tests, however, the Lord stood every one, answering with the true word of God. Do we cling to God and His truth when we are tempted? Do we know God’s Word well enough to answer the devil’s lies, even when he uses Scripture to make them? Let us learn from our Lord’s example and know how to stand up to temptation!