

MATTHEW 4:1-11

A. Review:

1. Last week we saw John the Baptist water baptize Jesus with the **Trinity** on full display. In 3:11 only, we saw **3** baptisms: water (John's), Spirit (Pentecost), and fire (Tribulation & Jesus' return to judge-context verses 7-12).
 - a. When comparing Matthew 3:11 (3 baptisms) with Ephesians 4:5 (Body's one baptism), we can see the different programs. Actually the Bible shows there are **12** baptisms, but only **one** pertains to us - the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:4-5).
 - b. Today many religious systems use Jesus' baptism to make, or **force**, one to be water baptized. They say for us to be a testimony, to **fully** follow the Lord, and to fully be **obedient** to Him, we must follow the Lord in water baptism.

* Jesus is our example, so if we want to be **like** Him, we need to be water baptized as our testimony of our faith in Him.

Answer: Why not an animal sacrifice for a testimony of His work? Yes, Jesus was baptized, but He also was circumcised and ministered only to the **Jews** (with 3 exceptions) - Matthew 10: 5-7. Some even say if you are not baptized, you are **not** even saved.

2. Again, **why** was Jesus baptized with water?

- a. Matthew 3:15, 5:17 - And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. Matt. 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

*This immediately tells us that water baptism is part of the Jewish Kingdom that was under law. We are **not** under law, so it does not apply to us.
- b. John 1:31 - [And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.]

*This was Jesus' announcement to Israel that Messiah had come and He was **starting** His ministry [the kingdom of heaven was at hand].

**This was part of God's fulfilling of His prophecy program to Israel. Also, Jesus was ceremonially setting Himself as Messiah and priest.
- c. Matthew 27:12-14 - And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Matt. 27:13 Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? Matt. 27:14 And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.
 - (1) Jesus numbered Himself with **transgressors**. Mark 15:28 - [And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.]
 - (2) When standing before Pilate, why was He mostly **silent**?

Answer: Jesus was standing in **our** place, silent and condemned. He was confessing our sins as His own (still **secret**!).

Luke 12:50 - [But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!]

- (3) Jesus took His place **with** sinners at His water baptism (He identified with us) and took the place of sinners at His baptism - into our **death** on the cross.

Question? Which of these two baptisms do religions mostly use?

3. Today:

Colossians 2:10-12 - [And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: Col. 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Col. 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.]

II Corinthians 5:15-16 - [And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. 2Cor. 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.]

- a. Many take water baptism from the Four Gospels and Acts; yet, they **fail** to practice tongues, serpents, signs, and giving up finances for the whole. Why eliminate most everything else in baptism's context - **except** for water baptism?
- b. Paul gave us instructions about the Lord's supper, why **not** a word on baptism? (I Cor. 1:17)
- c. Didn't Paul say that Jewish signs were to pass **away**, cease with the completion of the scriptures?
- d. In scripture, being washed-baptized is the spiritual picture of ceremonial cleansing of sins - **not** a burial!
- e. Can water baptism **add** any merit to my standing with the Lord? Think!

So I'm saved (a member-part of Christ's Body, in Him, of Him, by Him, through Him, on my way to heavenly places). But if I don't submit to the Jewish rite of water baptism (for the remission of sins), I am **not accepted by **most** of Christendom! Amazing.

4. Now we will see the temptation of Christ by Satan.

- a. Satan uses the **same** enticements that he used to defeat Adam and Israel: the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.
 - (1) *Eve: The tree of the knowledge of good and evil - she saw it was good for food [lust of the **flesh**].
 - (2) The fruit was pleasant to her eyes - [lust of the **eyes**].
 - (3) The tree gave her the desire to be wise - [**pride** of life].

1 John 2:16 - For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

- b. These temptations worked with Adam - but the Lord, the Son of Man, the second Adam, faithfully stood and Satan's temptations **failed**.

B.

Matthew 4:1 - Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

1. The Spirit communicates to Christ's "spirit" (the inner man) to go into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. It really does not matter here if it's a little spirit or a big Spirit. Christ's inner spirit always cooperated in accordance of the Holy Spirit - they are One.
2. The leading of the Spirit (Luke 4:1) here is more than an inner impression. It is a moving and compelling that causes Christ to move and act.
3. Being "tempted" here is not with evil, but its meaning is to be tested and tried.

James 1:13 - Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

**The devil comes to try Christ to see if His Person matches the claims about Him from Matthew 3:16-17.

C.

Matthew 4:2 - And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

1. For 40 days, Jesus ate nothing. He was so involved in what was taking place (His battle against temptation) that it is not until it is over that His human side said: [afterward an hungred].
2. [forty] is the number of testing-probation. Israel was in the wilderness for 40 years. Moses fasted 40 days. Moses' life consisted of 40 years-40 years-and 40 years. Elijah fasted 40 days. So did David and Solomon. Now here Christ also does it, in order to be tested.

D.

Matthew 4:3 - And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

1. [If thou be the Son of God] The Father had just proclaimed that He was!
2. Satan is recorded speaking three times in the Bible:
 - a. Genesis 3:1 - [Yea, hath God said,]
 - b. Job 1 and 2 - [Doth Job fear God for nought?]
 - c. Matthew 4:3 - [If thou be the Son of God,]

*Each time that Satan speaks, he is questioning or casting doubt on God's Word or His people.
3. Our media and universities have a modern-skeptical-critical mindset right in line with Satan. The world fights so hard against any authoritative, absolute Word. Education has placed everything known up for question. But some things (Biblical) are not open to be questioned...just believed! God's Word brings about faith.
4. Note: Everything Satan tempts Christ to do is not wrong. The temptations actually are things that Christ does during the tribulation and at His return to earth.
 - a. [command that these stones be made bread] There was nothing wrong with Jesus doing this to feed Himself.

- b. Scripturally, God will supernaturally feed His remnant someday. It is that just at this moment in time, it is **not** the right time **yet**. Here Jesus is tempted to make bread in the wilderness.

Question? Has God ever made bread in the wilderness?

John 6:31 - Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

- c. Revelation 12:6, 14 - And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. Rev. 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

*In the tribulation, God is going to **feed** her (the remnant) in the wilderness.

*Hosea 2:14-15 - Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. Hosea 2:15 And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

*How did God feed them coming out of Egypt? **Manna!**

E.

Matthew 4:4 - But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

*Jesus demonstrates that the only real safety when fighting the devil is to **know** scripture, so you can **use** the scripture against the devil's temptations.

Ephesians 6:13, 16-17 - Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph. 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Eph. 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

F.

Matthew 4:5-7 - Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, Matt. 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Matt. 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

1. One day Jesus will come out of the sky with His angels (Rev. 19). Satan is asking Jesus to do things that He is already going to do, but at the **wrong** time. To be tempted to do something right at the wrong time, that's a temptation. Satan uses scripture himself: Psalm 91:11-12 - [For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. Psalm 91:12 They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.] *These verses are what Satan tried to use.

2. Again, Jesus uses scripture to **defend** Himself.

*Us - it takes God's Word, wisdom and doctrine in our minds and **hearts** so that we will know God's will at the right time.

G. Matthew 4:8-10 - Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; Matt. 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Matt. 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

1. Satan shows Christ all the kingdoms of the world and Satan says they all could be Christ's **if** He would worship Satan.

Answer: Won't Christ one day have all the kingdoms of this world **anyway**?

Revelation 11:15 - [And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.]

2. So again, the temptation is not wrong in and of itself (to receive the kingdoms). However, Jesus would have to **cut** a corner of time, wouldn't He? What if Jesus had said okay? Then there would be **no** D.B.R., no redeemed Israel or Body of Christ, and **all** would go to **hell**!

* Most focus on the bowing to Satan, when the temptation was so subtle in trying to **pre**vent Christ from
* **ful**filling Genesis 3:15!

3. Satan is saying that, as the prince and god of this world, all the kingdoms were **his** and Christ **would not** have to fight him to get them. Satan is saying, "Come **join** my team and allow me to be your Lord to worship."

4. Jesus' answer - He says that He is in agreement with the very **first** commandment [Thou shalt have no other gods before Me].

* Jesus is saying that He won't join Satan's team, He won't worship Satan, and by the way - those kingdoms won't be yours for very long because they will be Mine - **Scripture** says so!

5. With each of the three temptations, Christ used scripture against Satan.

- a. stones into bread - "It is written" - Deuteronomy 8:3

- b. temple pinnacle, jump, angels - "It is written" - Deuteronomy 6:16

- c. all the kingdoms...Yours if You worship Satan - "It is written" - Deuteronomy 6:13-14

H. Matthew 4:11 - Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

*This battle was over for **now**. But the war would continue, culminating on the cross of Christ. We learn that even when we resist the spiritual attacks and they flee, they only stay away for a **brief** time. Then, they are right back trying to defeat us **again**!