

## Message Notes

### The Temptations of Jesus

#### Introduction - The State of the Union

#### Today's Message

*The Temptations of Jesus*  
Luke 4:1-13

#### Setting the Story

Luke 4:1-2

**I've heard this somewhere before.**

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

**Temptation #1**

Luke 4:3-4

**Temptation #2**

Luke 4:5-8

**I've heard this somewhere before.**

Psalm 91:11-15

**Temptation #3**

Luke 4:9-12

**"He left him."**

Luke 4:13

#### Two Sources of Temptation

**"Never cease your preparation for battle!"** Hebrews 2:18

#### Gospel Application

Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? Do you believe Jesus is willing and able to help amidst your temptations?

## Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

#### Luke 4:1-13

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours." 8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" 9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

12 Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

#### Deuteronomy 8:2-3

2 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. 3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

#### Hebrews 2:18

18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.



# The State of the Union

The Gospel of  
**LUKE**

# Today's Message:

## *The temptations of Jesus*

### Luke 4:1-13

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# The Setting

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We must not fall to the common error of supposing that the temptations that came to Jesus were somehow easy. They were excruciating. Jesus met them as a human totally dependent on the Father, not as a quasi-man...As the Son of God, Jesus chose to live in absolute submission to the will of God in every temptation.



~ R. Kent Hughes, Luke: That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word

# The Setting

## Luke 4:1-2

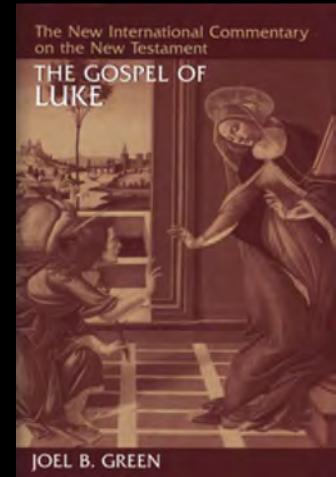
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# I've heard this somewhere before

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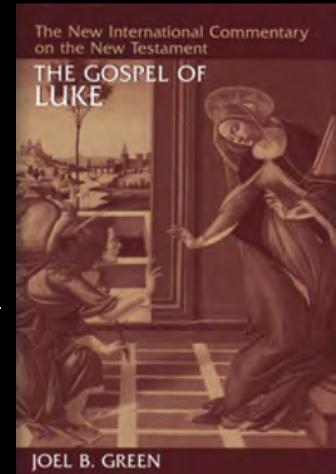
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The similarities are sufficient in scope and quantity to show that the narrator has drawn attention deliberately to Jesus in his representative role as Israel, God's son...



In the OT and in subsequent Jewish tradition, fidelity to God was proven in the midst of testing – whether by the direct action of God himself, through difficult circumstances, or by the direct activity of the devil. In the present scene, the testing conducted by the devil seeks specifically to controvert Jesus' role as Son of God either by disallowing the constraints of that relationship or by rejecting it outright.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



# Temptation #1

Luke 4:3-4

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5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

# Wait! What?

**John 12:31-32**

31 (Jesus speaking) “Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

The temptation was a powerful enticement. All the Master would have to do would be to acknowledge in worship the limited sovereignty Satan has been allowed to exercise on Planet Earth. The temptation was to take the easy way to kingship, apart from God's will – to be a “shortcut Savior.” The choice juxtaposed infinite extremes – the long, cruel agony of the cross and the instant exaltation following a fleeting bow to the god of this world.

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## Psalm 91:11-15

9 If you say, “The Lord is my refuge,” and you make the Most High your dwelling, 10 no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; 12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone...14 “Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. 15 He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose.

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**



# Temptation #3

Luke 4:9-12

12 Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

## Luke 4:1-13

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

#truth

# Jesus is the Son of God!

Hebrews 2:14-15

14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood,  
he himself likewise partook of the same things, that  
through death he might destroy the one who has the  
power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those  
who through fear of death were subject to lifelong  
slavery.

#truth

# Jesus is the Son of God!

Hebrews 4:15

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

# Two sources of temptation

1. The devil tempts

# Two sources of temptation

## 1. The devil tempts

1 Thessalonians 3:5

5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent  
to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some  
way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors  
might have been in vain.

# Two sources of temptation

2. Our flesh

# Two sources of temptation

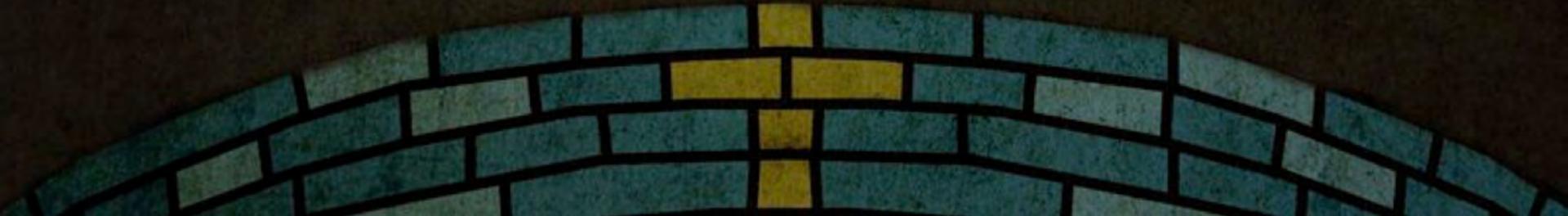
## 2. Our flesh

James 1:13-14

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

The devil does not sleep, nor is the flesh  
yet dead; therefore, you must never cease  
your preparation for battle.

**THOMAS À KEMPIS**



# “Never cease your preparation for battle”

Ephesians 6:10-13

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.  
11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

**“Never cease your preparation for battle”**

Hebrews 2:18

18 Because (Jesus) himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

“Well, when (the devil) comes knocking upon the door of my heart, and asks ‘Who lives here?’ the dear Lord Jesus goes to the door and says, ‘Martin Luther used to live here, but he has moved out. Now I live here.’ ”

~Martin Luther



# Gospel of Luke Application

Do you recognize Jesus as the Son of God?

# Gospel of Luke Application

Do you recognize Jesus as the Son of God?

Do you believe Jesus is willing and able  
to help amidst your temptations?

