

## Rebellion and Redemption #6 - Victory in the Wilderness

*Matt. 1:20–23, John 9:39, Matt. 3:7–12, 4:1–10, Deut. 34:1–4, Rev. 21:10.*

### Memory Verse - **Hand out Scriptures to read**

**Luke 19:10, NKJV** *For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

### Immanuel to the Rescue

Plan “A” for the devil was to prevent the Messiah from coming. This is why he killed the Israelite males, descendants of David, and babies in Bethlehem. Failing at this plan “B” was to neutralize Jesus by getting him to sin.

**Matthew 1:20–23 (NKJV)** <sup>21</sup> *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”* **Isaiah 7:14** (God is with us.)

**\*John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Romans 8:3–4 (NKJV)** *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

**Ezekiel 37:27 (NKJV)** *My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

**Revelation 21:3** *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

**First**, He came to restore the dominion that Adam lost (*Romans. 5:12, 15*).

**Secondly**, He came to bring judgment and to destroy the works of the devil (*John 9:39, 1 John 3:8*).

**Third**, Jesus came into the world to seek and to save the lost (*Luke 19:10*) and to take away their sins (*John 1:29*).

**Finally**, Jesus came to show us what God is like, to reveal to us—and to the watching universe—His true character (*John 14:9*).

- There was a European monarch who worried his court by often disappearing and walking incognito amongst his people. When he was asked not to do so for security's sake, he answered, "I cannot rule my people unless I know how they live."

### Jesus' Baptism

**Matthew 3:11–12 (NKJV)** *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*

**Luke 3:3–6 (NKJV)** *And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; <sup>6</sup> And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”*

### Stones Into Bread

**Matthew 4:1 (NKJV)** *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

**The devil tempts those that are a threat to him.**

**Thieves do not steal from paupers.**

The Israelites also went to the wilderness to be tempted or tested.

**Deuteronomy 8:15–16 (NKJV)** *who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; <sup>16</sup> who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—* **Like Job.**

**Matthew 4:2, 3** *And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. <sup>3</sup> Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”*

**One must have a consciousness of good and evil to be tempted.**

**\*James 1:2–3 (NKJV)** *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*

The person who avoids temptation by avoiding contact with all people may do no harm, but neither does he do any good. He is morally useless.

**Matthew 3:16–17 (NKJV)** *When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**”*

**James 1:12–14 (NKJV)** *Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. <sup>14</sup> But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.*

**\*Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)** *But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”*

### Another Temptation

**Matthew 4:5–7 (NKJV)** *Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, “In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”* Religious place, words.

**Josephus writes that the pinnacle of the temple was about 450’**

**Deuteronomy 6:16 (NKJV)** *“You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah.*

The first Adam fell in a paradise. Jesus, the second Adam, overcame in a wilderness. The first Adam fell with every need met. The second Adam, Jesus overcame with great want.

The Old Testament begins with the Serpent tempting Adam and Eve and the world’s fall. The New Testament begins with Satan tempting Jesus and the world’s salvation.

**Josephus writes that the pinnacle of the temple was about 50’ high.**

**Satan uses this to tempt Jesus to rely strictly on the supernatural.**

Satan does the same today. A wonderful Christian girl begins dating an unbelieving young man. A proposal is made and the devil whispers, "Go ahead, jump into a relationship with him. God will perform a miracle and save him."

### Devil Worship

**Matthew 4:8–9 (NKJV)** *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”*

#### Moses on Mount Nebo

**Deuteronomy 34:1–4 (NKJV)** *Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan, <sup>2</sup> all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, <sup>3</sup> the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.”*

**Revelation 21:10 (NKJV)** *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

**Isaiah 14:13 (NKJV)** *For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;*

**\*Matthew 4:10, 11 (NKJV)** *Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.*

**Deuteronomy 6:13 (NKJV)** *You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.*

### All Temptation falls into one of three areas.

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

**Genesis 3:6** *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.*

1. He was tempted through his senses.
2. He was tempted to test the supernatural.
3. He was tempted to take shortcuts

**In the temptations of Jesus the devil was asking Him to “Look down, jump down, bow down.” Just let gravity take over.**