

# THE THREE TEMPTATIONS



<https://glemmelo.com/2013/06/08/jesusworshipedgodalone/>

For forty years, the ancient Israelites wandered in the wilderness learning from God, but they failed to actualize what Jesus successfully achieved during his 40 days in the desert.

The three temptations:

## 1. THE FIRST TEMPTATION

Satan tempted Jesus in satisfying his hunger from his 40-day fast by challenging him to use his superhuman powers and turn stones into bread (Matthew 4:1).

Jesus responded by quoting the latter part of Deuteronomy 8:3. “Yes, **he humbled you by letting you go hungry** and then **feeding you with manna**, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that **people do not live by bread alone**; rather, **we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD**” (Deuteronomy 8:3).

The ancient nation of Israel, while wandering through the lands of the rebellious gods ruling over the nations [the wilderness] was humbled by going hungry (Deuteronomy 8:3), so God could teach them what Jesus understood. There are two types of food: earthly and heavenly—one is temporary, the other is eternal. The ancient Israelites were fed by God while they journeyed through the wilderness with food from heaven—manna. The heavenly food was intended to expose them to the concept of daily spiritual nourishment. Satan was unable to tempt Jesus to change his priority. Through his 40-day fast, Jesus became a power-house of eternal strength.

Satan entraps people into a world of ignorance and deceit. They are blue-pilled in a physical world of earthly knowledge and temporary pursuits void of their Creator and the life-exciting knowledge of their spiritual calling.

**The first temptation: earthly food or heavenly food.** Ancient Israel failed to understand the value of spiritual knowledge, understanding and wisdom. They kept falling back into this earthly world focusing on temporal living. Jesus never left his spiritual focus, the important task given to him.

## 2. THE SECOND TEMPTATION

Satan took Jesus to the highest point of the temple and challenged him to jump. Satan knows the scriptures and he quoted Psalm 91, which vows if you make God Almighty your dwelling place, giving your allegiance to the Great God, then no harm will come to you.

“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone...’Because he loves me,’ says the LORD, ‘I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation’” (Psalm 91:11-16).

All so true and what a wonderful promise God, our Creator and Father in heaven gives to all who love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

In 21<sup>st</sup> century language, Satan was saying, “Go on! If you are loved by the Great God, show me—show everyone—prove to us that God loves you!”

Jesus replied by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16, “You shall not put Yahweh your God to the test.”

This quote referenced the rebellious behavior of the Israelites coming out of Egypt. Despite all of the miracles God Almighty performed for them, they still disbelieved and distrusted God, perpetually putting Him to the test. Their hearts were hard, rebellious and defiant. God concluded, “For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.’ So I declared an oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest’” (Psalm 95:10-11).

In 21<sup>st</sup> century language, Jesus replied, “I trust in my Father in heaven and I have no need to question Him. God is faithful.”

**The second temptation: trust in yourself or trust in God.** The ancient Israelites could not let go and put their complete trust in God. It was difficult for them as it is for Christians today. Jesus put his life in the hands of God, without question—fully and completely.

## 3. THE THIRD TEMPTATION

The devil took Jesus to the highest mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me” (Matthew

4:9). This temptation was by far the most tempting. With all of Jesus' heart, he wanted to rescue mankind from the strangle-hold of the devil.

Jesus replied, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the LORD your God, and serve him only'" (Matthew 4:10).

In 21<sup>st</sup> century language, Jesus said, "I worship only my Father in heaven, the Creator God. I trust in His plan and His timing."

**The third temptation: Rulership through Satan or rulership through God Almighty.** The great promise of the rogue gods ruling over the nations was self-glory, self-reliance, self-determination. The ancient Israelites looked at the wealth and glory of Egypt; they wanted to be like the nations around them and all the glory of greatness. God wanted a humble people, a non-self-serving people BEFORE rulership could be offered. That would take time and a carefully designed, strategic plan. Jesus was aware that God had a plan—from the beginning. While every detail is not shared with him, he has no reason to question God. "But about that **day or hour no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but **only the Father**" (Matthew 24:36).

Both houses of the ancient Israelites eventually failed to become a holy kingdom of priests and turned against the Great God to worship His rogue sons, lured by the immediate desires of rulership and self-glory. Jesus was prepared to wait and stand strong. His desire to rescue mankind had to go on hold, for God has a plan for their salvation, which first required the payment of sin. Jesus would undergo a horrific death, then after his resurrection, still 2,000 years must pass as his bride grows from the nutrition of the spiritual food, and puts all her trust in God while waiting patiently for her deliverance, then he will return to battle the wicked and unrepentant as King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus kept to the plan and trusts God, still today, even after God has given him all power in heaven and earth, he waits for the green light without knowing the day or the hour when he will return and avenge the saints.

Some matters of the plan are so top secret and so crucial that only God, the Father knows. God encourages His people to be patient especially when beastly powers reign. The plan may appear to be failing; don't be disheartened. God is acquiring what He needs for judgment against the wicked. "This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus" (Revelation 13:10b, 14:12).

The saints eat continually of the word of God; His spiritual food revives them daily. They love God, their heavenly Father with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. In Him, they pledge their eternal allegiance and trust in Him completely. Many have been persecuted through-out the ages and even in peaceful times. Many suffer while they wait patiently for their deliverance, resurrection and rulership with Christ—their husband and head under God Almighty. They are a humble, God-fearing and God-serving people who will form part of God's new government in His great and eternal kingdom.

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