

## Luke 4

### The Temptation of Jesus

([Matthew 4:1-11](#); [Mark 1:12-13](#))

**1And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,**

There is according to the Bible no human that has not been tempted by Satan and committed sins. There is in the same Bible a record that only one man ever lived His life without sinning. Jesus of course is the that man; God coming in the form of man walking an innocent life making Him the only human to ever live who qualified as the sacrifice required for the sins of mankind.

To the point of this verse; Jesus was in the area of Jordan with John the Baptist and having been baptized, only as an example to us, He then goes into the wilderness in the area of Judea to spend 40 days and 40 nights.

**2Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.**

At least part of the purpose of Jesus entering the wilderness; absence of people, was to confront Satan; to allow Himself to be tested by Satan. These temptations were of a spiritual nature as

Satan is a spiritual being that operates in the physical world as God would allow it.

We know that God allowed Satan to take control of the earth from the hands of Adam and Eve. Adam was in a sense given the deed to the earth and though his sin, he transferred that title deed to Satan. Satan was then called the Prince of the Air, that part of our environment that encompasses the earth; something as humans we all need to live; air.

Part of Jesus response to this 40-day testing was to deny the flesh, food. It stressed the flesh to make sure there was no evidence of allowing the flesh to dictate to Him what He would do under any circumstance presented to Him.

Satan capitalized or at least he thought he capitalized on that fleshly weakness and presented to Christ several options to deny His Godhood.

**3And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.**

Our flesh is demanding and one of the most demanding parts of our humanity is food and water. God built into us the desire to survive as a living being. But if we allow the flesh to dictate our living, even under the power of evil then we are doomed. We

must control the flesh by the spirit. I speak not as one that has mastered this but as a sinner, failing time after time due my deference to the flesh over the spirit. I have failed repeatedly, daily, yet God is Faithful to us even though we are unfaithful to Him.

***1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

So, Satan ply's Jesus with the idea of feeding His flesh and filling His empty belly.

**4And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.**

Jesus responds with a Spiritual response; rebuking the flesh and putting the Spirit ahead of the desires of the body. God had determined that the flesh needed food to survive but He also determined that the Spirit needed food as well to survive. That food the most important food; is every word that He speaks.

Human food has nutrition that God created the body to need; He also created the Spirit to need nutrients that only come from one place; that place is Truth and God is Truth.

***John 3:33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that **God is true.*****

***John 6:27 Do not work for food that perishes, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on Him God the Father has placed His seal of approval."***

***John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.***

***John 17:7 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.***

If God declares His Word to be Truth, where would Jesus go to, to find how to respond to Satan?

He would go directly to His Father's Word;

***Deuteronomy 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.***

It may be that all of God's nature pivots on this single word; TRUTH. God declares He loves us but if God is not based in Truth then His love would be questionable. We know it is not because God is TRUTH and we can TRUST everything He says. Not everything we say HE says, but everything He says.

We must live by the Word of God as Jesus states.

**5And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a**

moment of time. **6**And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. **7**If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

By what authority does Satan dare to show Jesus kingdoms of the world and declare he has the power to give it to Jesus?

*Genesis 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

God gave authority over all living creatures on the earth to man; Adam by giving him “dominion”.

Dominion in the Greek is; Radah in Strongs Concordance

*Transliteration: radah*

*Definition: to have dominion, rule, dominate*

Adam, through sin, transferred that authority or dominion, we might call it a deed to Satan, while in the Garden of Eden.

Interestingly Satan uses the same focus on Eve that he tried on Jesus; food for the flesh.

The sin:

*Genesis 3: **1**Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he*

said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

**2**And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; **3**but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

**4**Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **5**For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

**6**So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was **[a]**pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **7**Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves **[b]**coverings.

The sin detected by God;

Genesis 3: **8**And they heard the **[c]**sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the **[d]**cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

**9**Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

**10**So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

**11**And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

**12**Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

**13And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”**

***The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”***

The interim punishment for the devil;

**14So the LORD God said to the serpent:**

***“Because you have done this,  
You are cursed more than all cattle,  
And more than every beast of the field;  
On your belly you shall go,  
And you shall eat dust  
All the days of your life.***

**15And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her Seed;  
He shall bruise your head,  
And you shall bruise His heel.”**

The interim punishment for the woman;

**16To the woman He said:**

***“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;  
In pain you shall bring forth children;  
Your desire shall be [e]for your husband,  
And he shall rule over you.”***

The interim punishment for man;

**17Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, **You shall not eat of it**’:**

***“Cursed is the ground for your sake;  
In toil you shall eat of it  
All the days of your life.***

**18Both thorns and thistles it shall [f]bring forth for you,  
And you shall eat the herb of the field.**

***19In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread  
Till you return to the ground,  
For out of it you were taken;  
For dust you are,  
And to dust you shall return.”***

***20And Adam called his wife’s name Eve,[g] because she  
was the mother of all living.***

God’s provisional solution for the sin of man was to kill an innocent animal to cover man’s nakedness. That was the first sacrifice of blood for sin. There would be hundreds of thousands of animals sacrificed over the centuries to temporarily cover the sins of the Jewish people until the Messiah would come and become the last sacrifice for all of mankind.

***21Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.***

God’s removal of man from the possessor of the earth and all living things;

***22Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— 23therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.***

The benefactor of all of this was Satan. With a void in the entity that had dominion over the earth and in light of the provisional

penalty that man was to endure, he was relegated to a laborer not the commander and chief of all that is living under God's authority.

Satan wanted to remove man from being the apple of His eye and Satan accomplished that with one small piece of fruit and a LIE.

Satan did not have the same fortune when dealing with Christ Jesus. Jesus was way out of Satan's league, and Satan stupidly thought he could sway Jesus with some simple food. The stakes were too high, all of humanity all of eternity for humanity was a stake. The same stakes were in the Garden of Eden, but Adam did not have the ability to understand that apparently, or he simply defaulted to his flesh. In either case, Jesus was not someone to be toyed with by Satan and Jesus made it clear that the title would be transferred back to its rightful owner in short order.

**8And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

***Deuteronomy 6:13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.***

There can be only one response to Satan or to anyone who tries to intimate that there is an authority higher than God's authority.

In Spokane I have seen a house not far from my where our grandchildren live that has two flag poles. One pole has the Christian flag and the other has the American flag. Now some man has written what is called flag etiquette; and in that man-made edict it says that in America the American flag is flown in the position of honor over all other flags, either by its position as on a stage or its height relative to any other flag flown next to it.

This family has the Christian flag above the US Flag. A clear violation of flag etiquette as proclaimed by man but clearly a **correct** reflection of the TRUTH. God is above all, including the United States of America and its flag.

As a note on the American Flag and the legislation that has been passed;

*December 22, 1942 to become Public Law 829; Chapter 806, 77th Congress, 2nd session. Exact rules for use and display of the flag (36 U.S.C. 173-178) as well as associated sections ([36 U.S.C. 171](#)) Conduct during Playing of [the National Anthem](#), ([36 U.S.C. 172](#)) [the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag](#), and Manner of Delivery were included.*

A couple of sections that are of interest to we Christians.

***“Section 175...(c) No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America, **except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for the personnel of the Navy.**”***

In the preamble to the legislation this is recorded;

***“This code is the guide for all handling and display of the Stars and Stripes. It does not impose penalties for misuse of the United States Flag. That is left to the states and to the federal government for the District of Columbia. Each state has its own flag law.”***

There are two essential parts to verse 8 that we should concentrate on;

***Vs 8... “for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”***

Worship and Serve only God, not a nation, not a person, not an environment, not an idol, only God.

**9And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:**

Jerusalem is the center of the earth when it comes to God’s chosen people. Jerusalem is God’s time piece on this earth. If you want to know where we are in God’s Time Table look to Jerusalem. Satan understands the importance of Jerusalem to God and so he chose that location to test Jesus on a different level of Spirituality.

One of Satan's greatest weapons is questioning authority either with the word "If" or with a simple question. He questioned God's authority in the Garden with Eve;

***Luke 4: Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.***

He questioned it with his temptation of Christ;

***Luke 4: 3And the devil said unto him, **If** thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.***

***Luke 4: 7**If** thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.***

***Luke 4:9.... **If** thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:***

**10For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:**

Now we find Satan quoting God's Word; taking a little truth and mixing it in with the essence of a lie will make the whole statement a lie.

***Psalms 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.***

We see this it so called journalism today; where a partial truth may exist, by the time you read the entire article it has little to do with the truth and more with speculation and opinion, but it passed off as in-depth reporting. Some have started calling it

“fake news” and that has more truth in it than the journalism unfortunately.

The same thing has happened with God’s Word, the many man-made doctrines that are called churches; small “c” church have abandoned the truth for a lie on many issues that God has declared sin. God warned of this incompatible nature of lies of Satan which man has swallowed whole. It is incompatible with His Spirit and He declared He would pour out His Wrath on those who followed this path of lies.

***Romans 1: [18](#)For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; [19](#)Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. [20](#)For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: [21](#)Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [22](#)Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, [23](#)And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. (This includes things like environmentalism and other things that man worship instead of God; God calls it worshipping the creation instead of the Creator) emphasis mine***

***[24](#)Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: [25](#)Who changed the truth***

*of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

**26**For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: **27**And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

**28**And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; **29**Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, **30**Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31**Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: **32**Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Many main-line denominations today have given themselves over to the lust of the flesh. They have traded the truth for a lie and call any of us who want to walk in obedience to God's Word, closed minded, racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic and the list goes on. It is bullying it an extreme level. God gave Christians clear direction; we are to walk in His Truth. We are to love all people as He loves all people. He does not hate the homosexual, and neither should we; we should pray for them. He DOES hate the sin or homosexuality as well as ALL other sin; ALL SIN. God will not make accommodation for any sin including homosexuality, it

is a sin and those engaged in it need to be saved. Sin, all sin leads to death. We are not to judge sinners, God has already done that, we are to love them and pray for them, but that does not mean we make accommodation for their sin. We are to speak the truth to them in Love and let God's Spirit deal with their hearts.

**11And in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.**

*Psalms 91:12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

Satan is the father of lies and will not hesitate to take a portion of God's Word the Truth out of context and Spiritual meaning for his own desire for power.

*John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **abode not in the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: **for he is a liar, and the father of it.***

Jesus was not caught off guard as if that were even possible; so, Jesus does what He always does; He quotes His Father who is TRUTH.

**12And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.**

*Deuteronomy 6: **16Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah. 17Ye shall diligently keep***

*the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee. [18](#)And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, [19](#)To cast out all thine enemies from before thee, as the LORD hath spoken.*

Being foiled at each turn in dealing with Jesus but having with some success within and through man, Satan continues his quest to destroy man, whom God loves and created. The Biblical view of Satan's goal is simple; destroy anything God Loves and take power.

**[13](#)And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.**

This season of quasi tranquility was really an illusion that Jesus did not accept as TRUTH. When Satan says he is going to leave you alone and stop tempting you, it is a lie. He will not stop; demons need no sleep or vacation; they work diligently for their master. The temptations often come from our own minds our fleshly will trying to get us to defy God. Those thoughts are embedded in us from sins of the past. We must overcome the mind as evil is trying to control our minds. Ask God to rebuke the evil in our minds on a daily sometimes minute by minute basis.

During the next couple of years of Jesus Ministry Satan continued to get the religious leaders to hate and try to kill Jesus and that season of fake peace would come to an end at the Cross. Jesus warned His disciples of this coming time;

*John 14:3 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.*

### **Jesus Begins His Ministry**

**[\(Isaiah 9:1-7; Matthew 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15\)](#)**

**[14](#)And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. [15](#)And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.**

The common man can hear the gospel and the Holy Spirit quicken his Spirit and new life springs forth. Not so with religious people, there is strife in the manmade churches of our age. We should not be surprised; Jesus told us that the end of the age would be a church (small “c”) that would be called Laodicea, a lukewarm church, neither hot nor cold, such a useless fashion all seeking manmade power and prestige all the time either watering down the Truth or abandoning it altogether.

I am not advocating for anyone not to go to church but go with your eyes wide open and in full knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

***2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

***Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.***

Studying and make yourselves knowledgeable about the Word of Truth, so when you are faced with a false doctrine even here in this Bible Study that you will recognize it for what it is. God tells us not to forsake the fellowshiping together with the saints.

I will not intentionally declare any false doctrine to you, but I am human and can be mistaken. So, study for yourselves what God says, not what I say God says.

### **Jesus Rejected at Nazareth**

**[\(Isaiah 61:1-11; Matthew 2:19-23; Matthew 13:53-58; Mark 6:1-6; Luke 2:39-40\)](#)**

**16And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.**

It is unclear if this is referring to Jesus' custom or a Hebrew custom. In Hebrew tradition, children 5 and older were allowed to come to the Synagogue, it was not until they were 13 when it became part of the legal life of those who were called Jews. We are told little about Jesus life as a child other than at 13 he did go

to the temple in Jerusalem and engaged the teachers in discussions about the Law and the Prophets. It would seem likely that as He said He had to about His Fathers business that He would make a habit of attending Synagogue and all Festivals.

The other option of this being a “custom” would be that it was the custom of the Hebrews to go to synagogue on the Sabbath day. The last part of the sentence about “stood to read” has its own set of requirements. Jesus was born in Bethlehem but raised in Nazareth working with His step father as a carpenter. So, these people would all know Him very well. It was the tradition within the synagogue that ruler or elder presided over the functions of the Synagogue. The Priests and Levites had no role in the local Synagogue as their roles were specific to the Temple. It was normal that if a stranger were present and the elder knew that the person was competent that they would be asked to read from the scrolls of the Law and the Prophets.

**17And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,**

Again, it is unclear whether the scroll was already opened to this scroll of Isaiah or if Christ opened it to that part of Isaiah (Esaias).

As a point of interest, the five books or Scrolls of the Law the first five books called the Pentateuch were rolled on two rolls, as one roll was unrolled the other roll would take up that part of the parchment. However, 17 books or scrolls of the Prophets were on a single roll and the person reading it would unroll the desired prophetic scroll until they found what they were looking for and read that section. The scroll would then be rerolled back onto the single roller.

The elder or ruler of the local Synagogue usually had planned out a lesson so it is likely that the book or scroll was already opened to the specific portions of the Prophet Isaiah, which if you think about it; God determined that His Son would read this exact scripture on this exact day and receive the exact response that He would; all to fulfill prophecy.

So, consider prophecy for a moment; Is prophecy telling about something that has not yet happened or is it revealing what has already happened in God's time frame but not yet in ours; He is just letting us know what is going to happen because He has already seen it? Prophecy is the difference between the world timeline and God's timeline. In God's timeline He says He knew you before you were in your mother's womb.

**Psalm 139:16**

***16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.***

This verse in Psalms is declaring that God knew you before you were formed in your mother's womb, He saw your entire life and knew whether or not you would eventually come to the Truth and ask His Son into your hearts.

**Psalm 139:1-24**

***139 O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.***

***2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.***

***3 Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.***

***4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.***

***5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.***

***6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.***

***7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?***

***8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.***

***<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;***

***<sup>10</sup> Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.***

***<sup>11</sup> If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.***

***<sup>12</sup> Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.***

***<sup>13</sup> For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.***

***<sup>14</sup> I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.***

***<sup>15</sup> My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.***

***<sup>16</sup> Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.***

***<sup>17</sup> How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!***

***<sup>18</sup> If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.***

***<sup>19</sup> Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.***

***<sup>20</sup> For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain.***

***21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?***

***22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.***

***23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:***

***24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.***

Jesus is now going to read from Isaiah

**18The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,**

The first thing to take note that Christ speaks directly with the use of trinity; “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me...” speak directly of the Holy Spirit.

**“because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,”**

This prophecy and continuing, speaks of God as “He” and of the Messiah when Jesus refers to “Me” to which this prophecy is about. So, Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit, of God and of Himself.

Perhaps we can separate the Hebrew nation into two groups for discussion sake. There were those who were true believers in that they sought the Messiah to fulfill all the prophecies and the Law.

The rest or second group were more shall we say, worldly, in that they sought not the one who would “heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind to set at liberty them that are bruised” they were seeking a Warrior King who would free them from the yoke of Rome.

Today we can divide America and the world into two groups, believers and those who do not believe. The result will be the same as in the days of Christ.

**19To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20And he closed the book, and he gave *it* again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.**

It was common practice that whomever was reading the scripture when done would return the role to the elder and sit down, preparing to expound upon the scripture that was just read. So, as this verse indicates all eyes would be upon Jesus as they waited for Him to reveal some nugget of Truth.

This entire verse is a quote from the Prophet Isaiah;

**18The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

**21And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**

Jesus wastes no time as was His nature to speak Truth and speak it Boldly. He just told them that the prophecy of a coming messiah was fulfilled in their hearing and sight that very minute.

However, Jesus left out the very last part of this prophecy; at the end of vs 2 it says;

***“and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all that mourn.”***

The reason He left that part out is precisely why He told them that this prophecy was fulfilled in their ears this day was that this part of the prophecy would not be fulfilled until His second coming.

Now we will see the flesh take over for those in attendance and they will do it with the same manner that Satan does things; questions!

**22And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?**

The question comes; “Is not this Joseph’s son?” This is where it gets really interesting as the difference between God’s timeline and man’s timeline.

Man, lives in the present, sometimes we have regrets and soon discover that all the wailing we can do will not change the past, so we look to the future and decide that we will do things a certain way. Then we are caught up in the present and find ourselves doing some of the same things we regretted to have done previously. So, the present is where we have to take a stand; repent and forget the past it is finished. The future is only in our control as we live in the present. That is where Satan operates in our lives. That is where Satan operated in the lives of those present with Christ at these exact moments in time.

They had heard of some of the things that were being said about Jesus already, but the flesh is the flesh, it has many doubts and when fueled by Satan or earthly desires the flesh is very destructive.

**23And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.**

This is interesting as well, in that there had been no miracles by Jesus in Capernaum at this time, even though in John it is

recorded that Jesus and his mother, and disciples spent a number of days there. That was yet in the future because at this point in chronological order Jesus had not picked His disciples. We will see that when we get to Chapter 5. It is likely that Jesus is prophesying as to what those in Nazareth will be saying in the future. More like a query, (why didn't Jesus perform miracles in Nazareth.)

**24And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.**

Jesus made the point that when people know you, they are less likely to believe a religious narrative than if you were a stranger. Consider the idea that when people know us well, they know our warts and idiosyncrasies. We have all seen it even in our own families, we can tell them about Christ and a relationship with Him for years and then someone from the outside comes in from the outside and everyone is amazed at all that they tell them.

**25But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; 26But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman *that was a widow*. 27And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.**

The reference here is found starting in 1 Kings 17:10 where Elijah is sent not to the people of Israel but to a Phoenician woman to save her from starvation. The Phoenicians were hated by the Judean Israelites due to their being intermarried with so many non-Israeli's since the time of their fall.

Likewise starting in 2 Kings 5:14 Elijah was sent to save Naaman from leprosy and not the many in Israel who suffered from the same affliction. Naaman was in Syria the most virulent enemy of Israel at that time.

These references were not lost on those from Nazareth his hometown in attendance as He spoke. They knew well what Jesus was alluding to in that God being rejected by His chosen people simply reached out to the gentiles showing Israel they were special only because He had declared them special. God was demonstrating through those images of His going outside Israel in Elijah's time He was prepared to do it again but this time it would be about salvation of the world.

I believe it was God's plan all along to bring salvation to the entire world. His perfect will was that His chosen people Israel would be a beacon to the world to show them the omniscience of God, but they failed God in that in many ways, but in many ways it has

come to be through the Christian Judeo Bible that the world knows the story of Salvation and the Love God has for mankind.

We have not replaced Israel as God's Chosen people as many religions try to intimate. In the end times many from Israel will turn to Christ as God has prophesied and we will join with them together as God's Children.

***Colossians 3: 5Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.***

**28And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,**

This wrath in the Greek is;

thumos thoo-mos': passion (as if breathing hard) -- fierceness, indignation, wrath.

In the context of this verse we see human beings taking exception to Jesus the God of the Universe over His referencing when God rescued individuals outside of the chosen people Israel. This

infuriated them and the term used in indignant. When I think of people being indignant, I think of being self-centered anger. They weren't worried about God they were indignant that Jesus was inferring that God would again go outside Israel and that irritated them.

**29And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. 30But he passing through the midst of them went his way,**

There is no indication there was a miracle here, it just indicates that Jesus was able to walk through their midst. This was on the sabbath so the distance would have to have been less than a mile according to Jewish law.

Can you imagine the people of His own village so caught up in their anger they were going to try to kill the Creator of the Universe? Jesus could have as at the cross called down angels from heaven to dispatch these folks, but He had laid down His power to carry out the mission that the Godhead had determined was the course to save mankind.

## Jesus Expels an Evil Spirit

[\(Mark 1:21-28\)](#)

**[31](#)And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. [32](#)And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.**

You would not think that location is the difference? It is really not location but people that make the difference. Timing was within perhaps one week from the time Jesus is rejected by those that knew Him to another group of Israelites that did not know Him from childhood. Their response is 180 degrees from Jesus hometown, again proof that vs 24 is accurate;

**[24](#)And he said, *Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.***

**[33](#)And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,**

Being “unclean” this individual would not have been allowed in the synagogue, so he must have slipped in unnoticed. Why would a demon possessed man chose to come to the place where God was going to be? The Word does not tell us so we must just understand that he is there where he should not be in the presence of the One who the demon dreads.

Not only does this demon possessed man sneak into the synagogue he then broadcasts his presence in a loud voice.

**34Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, *thou* Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.**

This demon uses a plural term that likely includes all the demons in the area of where they were; Galilee. We know this as it is declared in the singular that this demon consists of one demon in verse 33. The demon tries to use a forceful statement, obviously not aware of Jesus' power yet, and tells Jesus to "Let us alone; what have we to do with thee thou Jesus of Nazareth?" Satan and demons are not all knowing creatures, they are not omnipresent (everywhere at once), they are not omni powerful (all powerful), they are not omniscient (all knowing) they are spirit beings relegated to doing what they are told to do by their master Satan.

Based on the second part of the verse; "***art thou come to destroy us?***" reveals that they do not know their eventual demise but are thinking that by siding with Satan they are on the winning team.

This demon is not without some knowledge as he correctly identifies Jesus as "***God's Holy One***" at the end of the verse.

**35And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.**

Jesus does not debate nor answer the demon's question, in other words He does not engage in conversation with the demon, which is sound wisdom for us as well when dealing with evil spirits.

Two things we see here; Jesus tells the demon to cease speaking and to come out of the man he possesses. We will find looking through scriptures that the demons are aware of the bottomless pit and they seem to prefer, any lodging, aside from that pit. It is unclear if demons must have something living to inhabit or they must go to the pit. That would be strong incentive to find a suitable host to live in or otherwise the demon may have to report to the pit which they abhor.

We also see that the departure of demons from a living being is not a smooth transition for the host. In this case the man is thrown to the ground, in another account a man is thrown into a fire and those demons plural go into a herd of pigs and run headlong over a cliff. Apparently, pigs don't respond well to demon possession. It is like the old saying of putting lipstick on a pig, it is a waste of time and it irritates the pig. We are not told what happened to the demons after the pigs were destroyed. We do know from Scripture that when a demon is dispossessed they try to return to

their previous host. Depending on what that previous host has done within his or her spirit will determine what the demons do. I do not believe Christians can be demon possessed. I believe Christians can be harassed by demons especially if the Christian is back sliding and engaging in sinful actions.

**36And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word *is* this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.**

**Q.** Were demons cast out of people under the Old Covenant (Old Testament)?

The only reference to demons being cast out is a reference to King Saul would become agitated and David would play his harp and demons would depart Saul.

***1 Samuel 16: 23And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.***

It appears that the question of casting out demons was asked of Jesus and His response seems to indicate that with Satan given power of the air (earth) in some manner, that in order for another to cast out that power and possession of a person a stronger person needs to have greater power. That power was in the Hands of Christ.

**Matthew 12:28** *But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. 29* *Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.*

By the declaration in vs 36 by the witnesses of this demonic casting out;

**36** *And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.*

We need to go to what Jesus declares Matthew 12:28 that He is that power that overcame the strong man (Satan).

**12:28** *But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*

Jesus again declares that He is the Messiah.

**37** *And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.*

This word “fame” in the Greek is;

Transliteration: échos

Phonetic Spelling: (ay'-khos)

Definition: a noise, sound

Usage: (a) a sound, noise, (b) a rumor, report.

It is where we get our word echo which means to “repeat”. The implication is simply that what these people had seen and heard was repeated all around the country.

## Jesus Heals at Peter's House

([Matthew 8:14-17](#); [Mark 1:29-34](#))

**38**And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.

Jesus as we know had a great deal to accomplish and seemed to have little down time. Right after he dispatched a demon, Christ got up and was immediately invited into the home of Simon Peter. This was an abrupt mention of Peter as he had not yet been appointed as an apostle to Christ. Peter had obviously been in the synagogue while Christ was there and saw Him cast out the demon.

**39**And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

Jesus rebuked; in the Greek rebuked is

Transliteration: epitimaó

Phonetic Spelling: (ep-ee-tee-mah'-o)

Definition: to honor, to mete out due measure, to censure

Jesus spoke words to the fever, and it left her. This was astounding in that now Christ revealed that besides having power over demons He also had power of sickness. Just like the demon this sickness had to obey Him the Messiah.

***Matthew 4:24 And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.***

**40** Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on **every one of them**, and healed them.

This verse reveals the strict adherence to the Sabbath law of restricted travel on the Sabbath. A practicing Jew could travel no more than a mile on the Sabbath and when the sun set it indicated the Sabbath was ending so the travel restriction was then removed.

The word had spread almost immediately after the demon's removal at the synagogue so by the time Jesus rebuked the fever from Peter's mother in law people had already prepared to bring their sick to Jesus that evening.

Jesus wasted no time in healing the many that were brought to Him, none were beyond His reach and power. That is an early indication to us that there is no sin beyond the reach and power of our Lord Christ Jesus. He is the Messiah and in Him abides the King and High Priest of God's Glory.

**41** And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, **Thou art Christ the Son of God**. And he rebuking

***them* suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.**

It is astounding, but of course we have 20/20 hindsight, that the demons knew exactly who Christ was and even ventured to speak of it, but the religious leaders of that day rejected every aspect of Christ being the Messiah. How about today, how many millions of so-called religious people reject Christ perhaps not by name but definitely by the way they live their lives.

The religious leaders of Christ's days were of that sort, they spoke with words their love for God but rejected the One He Sent, His Only Son. We all know John 3:16 but how many people read beyond that single verse to see God's heart in the matter of belief and unbelief?

***John 3:16* [16](#)For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. [17](#)For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. [18](#)He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that **believeth not** is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. [19](#)And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.** [20](#)For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. [21](#)**But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.****

**Q.** Did Jesus die for the Pharisees and Sadducees? Yes

**Q.** How many people did God want to save and how many of those did Jesus die for?

***1 John 2:2, "and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."***

***1 John 4:14, "And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world."***

***Second Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

**Q.** How many people did God want to save?

All

## **Jesus Preaches in Judea**

**(Mark 1:35-39)**

**42And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them. 43And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.**

It appears that Jesus worked through the night to heal people of sickness, possession and diseases. At sunrise Jesus departed into the desert; we are not told why but He must have been

fatigued. But how would Jesus be fatigued? He was fully man and fully God, however He laid aside His Godly form and was created as a man with all the frailties that exist in man. But Jesus was resolute and walked a sinless life, obedient even to the cross and to death for the salvation of mankind.

There would be little rest for Christ, the people followed him into the desert and there He told them He had to go to others as well.

**Q.** His reason for going?

He was sent by God to do this and He was obedient to His Father.

**44And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.**

**Q.** Why the synagogue?

It was where the people gathered that He was originally sent to. Jesus was not initially sent to the gentiles; He was sent to God's Chosen People the Hebrew Nation. The nation of Israel was to be the guiding light to the world in the manner in which they loved and followed the God of Creation. They failed, just like you and I have failed until one day, the Holy Spirit quickened our individual spirits and we saw with open eyes the Truth of God. His Son, our Savior and nothing has been the same since for us. But what about Israel? Have they seen the truth in Christ? No, and we

know exactly how God is going to bring salvation to Israel. It will be through much pain and agony, much destruction and loss. But some will come to the truth in the end times. How do we know that? God has promised that in the Book Revelation and other Old Testament prophecies.