

The Demonologist Podcast – PATREON COURSES
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Class 4 Handout

Jesus, the new Adam and the Hand of God revealed

A tremendous first happens in Matthew 3:16-17:

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

This is the first clear revelation of the Trinity as all three persons manifested at the same time and place. Being an utterly unique and new event in the history of the universe, it likely drew the attention of not only people, but the angels, and the fallen angels.

Next we see Jesus being led into the desert. At least in part he is led there to be tempted by the devil. The Greek word for ‘tempt’ here is *peirazó* (πειράζω), which means to “objectively test.”

The testing of Adam and Eve happened with them surrounded by lush life, abundant food, and the companionship of each other. In spite of all these good things, doubted God’s honesty and disobeyed Him. Satan caused them to lust after food, to desire what looked good, and to try and become like God. Their punishment was isolation from God, loss of abundant food, and bodily decay and death.

The testing of Jesus in the desert happened with him in a lifeless place, no food, and complete isolation. Jesus underwent similar temptations from the garden, but in a more difficult context. The context for Jesus also reflected the spiritual condition of mankind since we were barred from the garden: alone in a spiritual desert, deprived of spiritual food, and prone to spiritual death.

The first temptation was, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.” There seems to have been a doubt in Satan. He tried to goad Jesus into proving that he is the ‘Son of God.’

Jesus responds, “It is written: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.” The Greek word translated into “One” is *anthrōpos* (ἄνθρωπος), which means ‘man’ or ‘human being.’ The Hebrew word *adam* אָדָם) means ‘man’ or ‘human being.’ So, Jesus basically responds that “Adam does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.” Jesus is likely referencing the original Adam who failed to trust in the word of God, and succumbed to the desire of his body to eat. Jesus was also referencing Deuteronomy 8:2-3 here, except instead of 40 years it was 40 days.

Remember how for these forty years the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the wilderness, so as to test you by affliction, to know what was in your heart: to keep his commandments, or not.

He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your ancestors, so you might know that it is not by bread alone that people live, but by all that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD.

By quoting this Jesus was essentially saying that he was going to keep God's commandments, so Satan moved on to the next temptation.

Satan takes Jesus to the top of the Temple in Jerusalem. Satan asks again, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you' and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" This was a quote from Psalm 91, that God has His angels protect those who trust in God.

Jesus responds, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'" This is a quote from Deuteronomy 6:16.

You shall not put the LORD, your God, to the test, as you did at Massah. But keep the commandments of the LORD, your God, and the decrees and the statutes he has commanded you.

Jesus was basically saying, "I won't test the promise that God would have His angels keep me from falling. Instead, I will just be satisfied with keeping God's law." Satan then takes Jesus to a high mountain, where all the kingdoms of the world can be seen. He offers dominion over all of them if Jesus just worships him. This is similar to when Satan promised Adam and Eve that they could become like God. It is also possibly similar to the temptation Satan use on the angels to rebel: the delusion that they could be like God.

Jesus responds, "Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" Here Jesus is again quoting from Deuteronomy, from 6:13.

Matthew closes with, "Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him."

Fallen angels look at God, what God has done, and what God has written. They only think and act in terms of doing a sham of what God has done. Satan quoted scripture instead of using his own words. He makes a sham version of the temptation recorded in Genesis: here Jesus plays Adam in Satan's "garden," desolate and empty. He tempts Jesus to distrust God, like he did with Adam. He tempts Jesus to eat, like he did with Adam. He tempts Jesus to be a god of this world, like he did with Adam.

Another interpretation of Satan's repeated question is that he knew Jesus was God, but was trying to make Jesus doubt the words that Jesus heard the Father say about Him at His baptism. If Satan knew that Jesus and the Father were one, why would he try to tempt him? Perhaps he knew but God the Father required him to try. Jesus is a kind of 'new Adam,' not falling to the same temptations as Adam.

Jesus is stepping in for a weak mankind. Satan thought he could control Jesus. Satan had controlled angels and men before. He may have thought that Jesus was an angel or a man. Satan had never controlled God, so if he thought Jesus was God it seems strange that he would risk trying to control him, let alone proposing that God worship him!

This story shows a few interesting things about the minds of fallen angels:

- Their perceptions, memory, and insights are limited to what God allows.
- They are still angels, and so cannot help but think and act in angelic ways. These are the reverse of God's ways, but in the same terms. They are not creative and new. They can only ape God.
- They try the same basic temptations over and over, as the basic temptations are grounded in the desires of the flesh, the allure of worldly power, and the tendency to idolize things that are not God.