

JESUS' BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION

BIBLE TEXT: Matthew 3:13-17; 4:1-11; Luke 4:14-32.

LESSON 17 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Matthew 3:13-17;

¹³ ¶ Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

¹⁴ But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

¹⁵ And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 4:1-11;

¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down:

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Jesus' Meeting with John at the Banks of Jordan

1. His approach through the multitude to be baptised of John, Matthew 3:13;

Matthew 3:5, 6;

⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

⁶ And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Luke 3:21-23.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

²² And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

²³ And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was *the son* of Heli,

2. The deference John pays to Jesus in his reluctance to baptise Him, Matthew 3:14;

John 1:26, 27.

²⁶ John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

²⁷ He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

3. Jesus baptised to fulfil all righteousness, Matthew 3:15.

II Jesus' Baptism and Anointing Divinely Sanctioned

1. The descent of the Spirit upon Jesus as He come up out of the water, Matthew 3:16;

Isaiah 11:2;

² And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Isaiah 42:1.

¹ Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

2. The Voice of the Father witnessing to the Son's anointing and baptism, Matthew 3:17,

Matthew 21:25.

²⁵ The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

3. The Holy Trinity -- Father, Son, and Holy Ghost -- revealed at the baptism,

Matthew 28:19;

¹⁹ ¶ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

I John 5:6, 7.

⁶ This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

⁷ For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Luke 4:14-32.

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.

¹⁶ ¶ And 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.

¹⁷ And 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,

¹⁸ The 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

III Jesus' Temptation and Triumph over Satan

1. His forty days' fasting in the wilderness immediately after His baptism, Matthew 4:1, 2;

Mark 1:12, 13.

¹² And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

¹³ And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

2. Satan's tempting Jesus when He hungered, and His triumph over the flesh, Matthew 4:3, 4;

Deuteronomy 8:3.

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.

3. Satan's tempting Jesus through the Word, and His triumph over presumptuous sin (tempting God), Matthew 4:5-7;

Psalms 91:11, 12;

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

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

Deuteronomy 6:16;

¹⁶ ¶ Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted *him* in Massah.

Psalms 19:13.

¹³ Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

4. Satan's tempting Jesus with an earthly kingdom, and His triumph over worldly glory, Matthew 4:8-11;

John 18:36.

³⁶ Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

IV The Beginning of His Ministry at Nazareth

1. His return, after His temptation, "in the power of the Spirit into Galilee," Luke 4:14, 15;

Micah 3:8.

⁸ ¶ But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

2. His sermon and text from Isaiah, at Nazareth, on the Sabbath day, Luke 4:16-19;

Isaiah 61:1, 2.

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are bound*;

² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

3. His declaration: "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears," Luke 4:20, 21;

Deuteronomy 18:15.

¹⁵ ¶ The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

set at liberty them that are bruised,

¹⁹ To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

²⁰ And 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.

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

²² And 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?

²³ And 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.

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

²⁵ But 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;

²⁶ But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, *a city* of Sidon, unto a woman *that was* a widow.

²⁷ And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

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

²⁹ And 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.

³⁰ But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

NOTES:

Jesus no doubt worked at His trade as a carpenter until He reached the age of thirty. He left Galilee and went down to Jordan where John was baptizing. John had been informed of His coming, for he said: "He that sent me to baptise with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptiseth with the Holy Ghost" (John 1:33). As He went up out of the water the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove, and a Voice from Heaven witnessed to what had occurred: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Jesus' baptism and temptation took place at the beginning of His ministry, for He returned into Galilee "in the power of the Spirit" and began His preaching. And entering into the synagogue at Nazareth on the Sabbath day, He read from the book of Isaiah: "The 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 broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." And closing the Book He declared, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."

Thus Isaiah's wonderful prophecy of the coming Messiah found its fulfilment seven hundred years later in the Lord Jesus Christ when at the banks of Jordan the Spirit of God came upon Him, and His glorious ministry of three and a half years began. This is the One of Whom Moses spoke: "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken."

There are other great truths revealed in this scene at Jordan. Jesus first appeared; then the Spirit of God descended like a dove; and finally the Father Himself was manifested in the Voice from Heaven. Here were God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost -- Three in One, the **Holy Trinity** -- lending divine authority to Jesus' baptism, to His anointing, and to His ministry. And at the close of His ministry Jesus again verified the fact of the **Holy Trinity** in His commission to the disciples and in instituting the Christian water baptism: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28: 19) -- a truth which is further vindicated by the Apostles Paul and John: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all" (II Corinthians 13:14); "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word [the Son], and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (I John 5:7).

And Jesus furthermore demonstrated the **mode of baptism** when he "went up straightway out of the water," indicating that He went down into the water and came up out of the water, and was thus baptised by **immersion**.

Before Jesus began His ministry, however, He was "led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." And a great victory was won while "He was there in the wilderness forty days . . . with the wild beasts." He fasted those forty days and hungered, but He gained the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; and His weapon of defence all the way through was the Word of God. Satan, with his cunning devices, ignominiously defeated the first Adam in Eden, but he was completely put to rout by the **last Adam** in the wilderness. And all who believe in Him may obtain the victory in the same way. Jesus could well say to His disciples, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

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.

QUESTIONS

1. With what was Jesus probably occupied from His boyhood days up to the age of thirty when He was baptised?
2. How did John know for what purpose Jesus appeared before him at Jordan? Why did John hesitate to baptise Him?
3. In what way was this baptism given heavenly sanction? In what way were the three Persons of the Godhead there manifested?
4. What great teaching in the Bible was corroborated by the manifestation of these three Persons?
5. What prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled at the baptism of Jesus? What did Jesus receive at that time?
6. What sermon did Jesus preach which indicates that Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled at His baptism?
7. Through what trial did Jesus pass that made His temptation in the wilderness particularly hard?
8. What were the temptations through which He passed? And what was His weapon of defence?
9. How did Jesus' victory over Satan compare with Adam's temptation in the Garden?
10. What name did the Apostle Paul attach to Jesus in comparing Him with Adam in the Garden