

# Christ

## Christ and The Temptations - Part 2

### The Temptations of Christ and Adam and The Children of Israel

It is often observed that Adam was tempted in a garden whereas the Lord was tempted in the wilderness. I see a delightful contrast. The Devil tempted the first man, Adam, and he fell bringing the entire world under the sentence of death and man under condemnation. In the wilderness the second Adam, Christ, was tempted and was victorious laying the early foundation for the Lord's ultimate victory over Satan and the liberation of those held under his power.

Continuing the meditation on the Lord being distinct from all other humans and that includes Adam.

#### 1) Contrasts:

- a) Adam did not have the Holy Spirit indwelling him for the Spirit of God began to indwell humans continually after the ascension of the Lord (Jn. 14:17).
- b) Adam chose fellowship with a sin marred creation and Satan over God. Christ accepted the will of God over personal apparent needs (Matt. 4:2-3).
- c) Adam was not made a baby and grow becoming a man, but was created a man (Gen. 2:7).
- d) Adam was tempted and fell, Christ was tempted and never fell (Gen. 3:6; Matt. 4:1-11).
- e) Adam was not spoken to by the evil one, Christ was (Gen. 3:6; Matt. 4:3, 6, 9).
- f) Adam was never given a distorted perspective of the scriptures to prompt him to sin (Matt. 4:6), for while Satan quoted Psa. 91:11-12, Satan left out verse 9 which states the condition for this, "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High thy habitation".
- g) Adam fell under the temptation of possibility thinking, the Lord never did (Gen. 3:5).
- h) Adam disobeyed God and plunged humanity into sin (Rom. 5:12, 19), Christ obeyed God and laid the basis for humanity's blessing (Rom. 5:19).
- i) Adam was in a garden, Christ was in a wilderness, city and Temple (Gen. 2:8; Matt. 4:1-11).

#### 2) Similarities:

- a) Both were completely human (Gen. 2:23; 1 Cor. 15:45; 1 Tim. 2:5).
- b) Both were called son of God (Lk. 3:38, note the words "the son" are in italics, and Lk. 4:3).
- c) Both were called Adam (1 Cor. 15:45).
- d) Both were the Heads of orders of humanity (Rom. 5:12-21).
- e) Both could be tempted (Gen. 3:6; Mk. 1:13).

### Similarities Between Christ and Israel Before the Temptations

Israel	Lord
Baptized in Red Sea (1 Cor. 10:2)	Baptized in Jordan (Matt. 3:13)
Israel called, "My Son" (Ex. 4:22)	Christ called, "My beloved Son" (Matt. 3:17)
Israel led into the wilderness (Ex. 16:1; 17:1)	Christ led into the wilderness (Matt. 4:1)
Israel in wilderness for 40 years (Num. 14:33)	Christ in wilderness for 40 days (Mk. 1:13)

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### Some Similarities Between Christ's Baptism and the Inauguration of the Priest

Priest	Christ
Washed in water (Lev. 8:6)	Christ was baptized (Matt. 3:16)
Anointed with oil (Lev. 8:12)	The Holy Spirit coming on Him (Matt. 3:16)

### The Lord Is Contrasted With Adam and His Temptation

Adam	Christ
In the garden (Gen. 2:8; 3:2; 3:6)	In the wilderness (Matt. 4:1)
Adam fell in the temptation and was disobedient. (Gen. 3:6)	Christ never fell in the temptation. (Matt. 4:2-11)
A place of plentiful food. (Gen. 2:9, 16)	A place of no food. (Matt. 4:2)
No wild beasts	He was with the wild beasts. (Mk. 1:13)
Adam by his transgression brought all mankind into a darkened world of slavery and corruption. (Gen. 6:11-12)	Christ by His obedience brought salvation and justification to the many. (Rom. 5:19)
With Adam there was no record of any urgings from the ultimate source, namely Satan. His temptation came from a secondary channel. (Gen. 3:6)	The Lord's temptations came directly from Satan. (Matt. 4:3)
Adam was never urged to eat the fruit to show who he was. (Gen. 3:6)	Christ was, urged to eat to show who He was "If thou be the Son of God". Therefore, to say that Christ could have been able to sin because He was just like any other man is in error. (Matt. 4:3)
The First Adam's defeat brought guilt and condemnation to all his family. (Rom. 5:12)	The Last Adam's victory brought the gift by grace and justification. (Rom. 5:15-16)
The First Adam was given an "help meet" to strengthen and encourage him. (Gen. 2:18)	The Last Adam stood alone. (Matt. 4:1)

### The Originator of The Temptations

Temptations come from two major sources, ones self (Rom. 1:24; 2 Tim. 4:3; 2 Pet. 3:3; Jude 1:16, 18) or Satan (Matt. 4:7). There was no sinful nature in our Lord that responded to the fulfilling of the temptation. He never found that which being offered enticing (The word translated "enticed" is the word used for the bait to catch a fish). It is translated "beguiling" (2 Pet. 2:14) and "allure" (2 Pet. 2:18). Because of His own holy character and

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at all times living in the Spirit of holiness, He saw sin as obnoxious; a displeasure with God's provision; a distortion of God's truth; and a disregard for God's purposes and pleasure.

There are several avenues from which temptation originates:

- 1) Temptation can come from the law of sin within the human heart or mind. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (Jas. 1:14); "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death (Jam. 1:15).
- 2) Temptation can come directly from Satan: Satan said, to Eve, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"; "Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:1-6). David and Satan: "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel" (1 Chron. 21:1).
- 3) We must remember that Satan is an opportunist and will use every one he can, for instance:
  - a) Temptation can come from Satan using an individual as with Peter and the Lord, "Peter took Him, (the Lord) and began to rebuke Him, saying, Be it far from Thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me" (Matt. 16:22-23).
  - b) Being an opportunist and an enemy, God may permit His saints to be put in the place of testing, being tempted by Satan, just as He did with Christ and Job (Matt. 4:1-11 and Job chs. 1-2).
  - c) There are also times when Satan takes a seemingly innocent happening and uses it as a platform for temptation. What could be more enjoyable than standing by an open fire on a cold night (Mk. 14:54; Jn. 18:18), but Satan used this to have Peter in a place where he was tempted.
  - d) When David went out for an evening stroll he had no idea of the lurking of Satan and who was working behind the scenes. Neither did Bathsheba, who was having a bath, think that it would lead to the death of her husband. Unwittingly Bathsheba took a bath and Satan used it to tempt David (2 Sam. 11:2). I am confident that Satan puts things into our minds and hearts and unwittingly we respond. How wonderful then is the Lord that in His omniscience He could never be unwittingly moved by Satan. With David it was not a base thing that caught him off guard but a beautiful thing. In reviewing life, it is more often the beautiful things that Satan uses to destroy a saint or enslave an unbeliever.
  - e) Temptation can come from another individual in full knowledge.
    - i) The temptation of the Lord by a lawyer: "One of them, which was a lawyer, asked Him a question, tempting Him" (Matt. 22:35). This one was done with full comprehension of what he was doing.
  - f) Temptation can come from religious authorities.
    - i) "The Pharisees, also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that He would shew them a sign from Heaven" (Matt. 16:1); "The Pharisees came to Him, and asked Him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? Tempting Him" (Mk. 10:2).
  - g) Temptation can come from others as one anticipates personal sufferings.
    - i) It would have been so expected had the Lord on the night of His betrayal to be distracted by anger at Judas for betraying Him (Jn. 13:26-29) or by the disciples determining which was the greatest (Mk. 9:34; Lk. 22:24). He could have orally chastised them but He never did. How beautiful this demonstrates His patience and love.

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- h) Temptations From Various Voices.
- i) It was immediately after the voice of God's endorsing of the Lord (Matt. 3:17) came the voice of Satan taunting Him (Matt. 4:3). When God speaks honouring Him there is no pride filled smirk waiting for man's congratulations or waiting for man's approval, but He immediately went into the wilderness. When Satan speaks there is nothing but rebuff. Furthermore, Satan knew that when He said "No", He meant no! This is where His glory shone out. The evil one knew there was no value in pressing the matter, it was a dead issue. In His public ministry He heard the voice of Satan through others.
  - ii) To those desiring Him to be king, the Lord will give no grounds for their future accusation of making Himself a king. This is because He lived His life in the awareness that Satan was ever watching Him for any iota of apparent wrong that He would do. That was never possible. He sent them away, and with them the disciples (Mk. 6:45).
  - iii) To those who were pressing Him to go to Jerusalem to be seen, He told them they could go up and He went up in secret. He did not come to be a standard bearer (Jn. 7:4).
  - iv) When taunted to come down from the cross, His response was silence for they would never understand His reasoning and love (Matt. 27:40).
  - v) There was the voice of acceptable behaviour when it is the normal thing to go to visit a loved one when sick, and if they die, go to the funeral. Yet the Lord does neither. This is where His moral glory shines. He will, as in the temptation to bow down and receive from Satan all the kingdoms of the world, wait God's time. Human evaluations and being judged by others and concern about, "What would others say", meant nothing to him. All He desires is the approval of God.

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**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.  
John 16:13**

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