

# Satan

## The Temptations of Satan on The Lord - Part 3

### Introduction

There are several avenues from which temptations originate, three in particular:

- a) 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” (Jam. 1:14), “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (Jam. 1:15; Rom. 1:24; 2 Tim. 4:3; 2 Pet. 3:3; Jude 1:16, 18), or Satan (Matt. 4:7).
  - i) There was no sinful nature in our Lord that responded to the fulfilment of the temptation. He never found that which was being used to entice, was attractive. Because of His own holy character, and 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.
- b) 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).

We must remember that Satan is an opportunist and will never let one go to waste, 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, Satan used this to have Peter in a place where he was tempted (Lk. 22:31).
- d) When David went out for an evening stroll, he had no idea of the lurking of Satan, 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). There is little value in saying she ought not to have been on the housetop. That was a natural place (not having a bathroom) to wash where the water flowed from the roof to the drainage.
- e) 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.

### Where do temptations come from?

- 1) Temptation can come from another individual with full knowledge.
  - a) The temptation of the Lord by the 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.
- 2) Temptation can come from religious authorities.
  - a) “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?” (Matt. 12:10).

## Satan

### The Temptations of Satan on The Lord - Part 3

- 3) Temptation can come from others as one anticipates personal suffering.
  - a) Almost every individual when facing betrayal and horrendous suffering, would have been at least agitated by it.
  - b) Judas for betraying Him (Jn. 13:26-29), or by the disciples determining which was the greatest (Mk. 9:34; Lk. 22:24). The Lord never orally chastised them, but beautifully this demonstrates His patience and love.
- 4) Temptation can come from unbelievers probably seeking to humiliate him.
  - a) His brethren 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 for self-glorification but the glory of God (Jn. 17:4).
- 5) Temptation by those who mocked His claims.
  - a) When the Lord was on the cross they taunted Him to come down from the cross. His response was silence, for they would never understand His reasoning and love (Matt. 27:40).
- 6) Temptations came from those who sought to make Him king.
  - a) 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).

#### Where The Temptations Took Place

- a) Many saints have been mistaken in where the temptations took place. It is partly because they are commonly spoken of as “the temptations in the wilderness”. That is not correct. Indeed, it is possible that only two took place there, the temptation to make stones bread and to bow in worship to Satan. The others took place in the holy city and the pinnacle of the temple. There can be no doubt that there were temptations throughout the forty days the Lord was in the wilderness but the temptation to make stones into bread came at the end of the forty days ( Matt. 4:2; Lk. 4:2).
- b) In that barren wilderness, void of the resources of sustaining life, the Lord lived for forty days and nights. It was so typical of the religious, political, economic, social world in which He lived, lifeless and empty of the blessings of life. In this earthly wilderness, the spirituality of the Lord and His devotion to God shone in moral excellency. The Lord was an oasis of spiritual refreshment, as a root out of a dry ground (Isa. 53:2); a tree planted by the rivers of water (Psa. 1:3) bringing forth fruit for the glory of God as symbolized by the apple tree (Song of Sol. 2:3), not only fruit but such a fragrance of delight as the Rose of Sharon, the lily of the valleys (Song of Sol. 2:1); the Altogether Lovely (Song of Sol. 5:16); the Branch of righteousness (Jer. 33:15); the fountain of life (Psa. 36:9) and the one of whom it is said that He is “fairer than the children of men” (Psa. 45:2.). How wicked to even think for a moment that this man so lovely to God would have sinned and acted in rebellion against God.
- c) From these two references, there is an indication the wilderness is the region of the demonic world. This being so, the Lord was brought into the offensive role in the satanic realm. It was in the wilderness that John went to preach, and taking the offensive, went into the very arena of satanic powers and defeated them by people repenting and being baptized. The demonic world was also in the place of death, for the tombs were the place the demonic were, and into their very realm the Son of God came, “He went forth to land”, that is the Lord was taking the initiative (Lk. 8:27). This leads to the important observation that the life of the Lord was marked by being on the offensive and defensive, and the same with Satan. When the Lord goes into Satan’s territory then Satan, who will never back down from a confrontation, will go to meet Him. When Satan goes into the Lord’s realm, then the Lord will not evade a confrontation with him on his activities. Since the Lord was in this world He was in the Satanic arena, so Satan treated the Lord not just as an intruder, but as one who was intent on destroying him. To his Satanic Majesty this could not be tolerated, Christ must be nullified, and if necessary, killed.

## Satan

### The Temptations of Satan on The Lord - Part 3

- d) Mark, in His record of the Lord's temptation, sums it up in three words, "Tempted of Satan", and then six words telling of the zoological environment, "And was with the wild beasts" (Mk. 1:12-13). This is not to add drama but to manifest the quiet confidence the Lord had in God His Father for safe keeping. There is no mention of God doing any miracle, as He did with Daniel when cast into the lions den when He shut the lions mouths. Neither is there any record of the Lord preventing them from doing any damage to Him. It was an impossibility for two reasons:
- i) In the case of the old prophet the lion brake his bones, but concerning the Lord, God had said, "A bone of Him shall not be broken" (Jn. 19:36) thus showing He was a righteous man (Psa. 34:20).
  - ii) To be a perfect sacrifice not only had the Lord to be without spot or defilement in anyway, but also physically perfect.

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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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