

LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS
COME, WEEK 19

TITLE: THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS, PART I

TEXT: LUKE 4:1-2B

INTRODUCTION: (1) EVERY ONE OF US IN THIS ROOM TODAY, HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON.

* ALL OF US HAVE A COMMON REGULAR EXPERIENCE THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING CAN IDENTIFY WITH.

** WHAT IS IT? IT IS THE EXPERIENCE OF TEMPTATION.

*** AND SINCE THE FALL IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN, TEMPTATION HAS BEEN A CONSTANT UNRELENTING, UNCEASING, NEVER ENDING PART OF HUMAN LIFE. (ALL OF US ARE TEMPTED EVERYDAY).

(2) BECAUSE OF THAT REALITY, SOME HAVE TRIED TO AVOID TEMPTATION AND RESIST IT WITH SELF-INFLICTED PAIN TO MAKE THEMSELVES UNCOMFORTABLE AND PRESUMABLY HUMBLE, OR BY ISOLATING THEMSELVES FROM OTHER PEOPLE AND FROM PHYSICAL COMFORTS, TO BE MONKS.

* BUT NO PERSON HAS EVER FOUND A PLACE OR A CIRCUMSTANCE THAT CAN MAKE THEM SAFE **FROM TEMPTATION, WE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM** IT TOTALLY.

** SO THE REALITY IS, AS CHRISTIANS, WE MUST LEARN TO DEAL WITH IT. AND THE GOOD NEWS IS, WE CAN HAVE VICTORY OVER IT, I CORINTHIANS 10:13. (QUOTE IT).

*** AND BELOVED THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY OF ESCAPE. THE GREAT TRUTH IS THIS MORNING, WE HAVE A SAVIOR WHO DEALT WITH TEMPTATION HEAD ON AND WHO IDENTIFIES WITH TEMPTATION, WHO GIVES US AN EXAMPLE HOW TO OVERCOME IT AND WILL HELP US OVERCOME IT, HEBREW 2:18, HEBREWS 4:15&16 (QUOTE THEM).

(3) NOW LET ME CLARIFY SOMETHING RIGHT HERE, WHEN THE SCRIPTURE SAYS JESUS WAS **TEMPTED IN ALL THINGS AS WE ARE," IT DOESN'T MEAN HE WAS TEMPTED TO WATCH PORNOGRAPHY ON THE INTERNET OR CHEAT ON HIS INCOME TAX RETURN.**

* IT MEANS THAT HE WAS TEMPTED THROUGH ALL THE AVENUES THAT YOU AND I HAVE **EXPERIENCED! "THE LUST OF THE FLESH, THE LUST OF THE EYE AND THE BOASTFUL PRIDE OF LIFE," I JOHN 2:16.**

** IN FACT, THOSE ARE THE 3 AREAS THAT CHRIST IS SPECIFICALLY TEMPTED IN IN LUKE 4:1-13, THE SAME 3 AREAS THAT EVE WAS TEMPTED IN, IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND THE SAME 3 AREAS THAT ALL OF US ARE TEMPTED IN.

*** BUT CHRIST WAS TOTALLY VICTORIOUS, COMPLETELY OBEDIENT. AND LUKE 4:1-13 TELLS US HOW OUR SAVIOR TOOK SATAN ON HEAD TO HEAD AND WON.

**** AND IN THIS STRUGGLE IN LUKE 4 BETWEEN THE SON OF GOD AND THE SON OF PERDITION, WE ARE GIVEN CLEAR AND APPLICABLE **INSIGHTS INTO SATAN'S STRATEGY AGAINST GOD AND HIS PEOPLE AND ALSO INTO CHRIST'S WAY OF VICTORY OVER THE TEMPTER.**

(4) AND SIDE BY SIDE WE ARE SHOWN THE WAY OF DANGER AND THE WAY OF ESCAPE, THE WAY THAT LEADS TO DEFEAT AND DEATH AND THE WAY THAT LEADS TO VICTORY AND LIFE, IN SHORT, THE WAY OF SATAN AND THE WAY OF GOD.

* IN LUKE 4:1-13, CHRIST REVEALS THE VICTORY SECRET, AS IT WERE, OF HIS MOMENTOUS STRUGGLE WITH SATAN.

** YOU SAY RAY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WELL, **THE DEVIL'S TEMPTATIONS DIRECTED AT JESUS** IN THE WILDERNESS OF JUDAEA WERE OBSERVED BY NO OTHER HUMAN BEING.

*** HE WAS ENTIRELY ALONE, AND IT IS THEREFORE OBVIOUS THAT WE COULD KNOW NOTHING OF WHAT TRANSPIRED THERE UNLESS JESUS HIMSELF HAD TOLD SOME OF HIS APOSTLES AND FOLLOWERS, WHO WROTE ABOUT IT.

**** SO WHAT WE HAVE HERE IN LUKE 4 WAS **THE ACCOUNT OF CHRIST'S VICTORY** TOLD BY JESUS HIMSELF TO SOME OF HIS APOSTLES, PASSED DOWN TO LUKE AND TO ALL HIS DISCIPLES FOR ALL TIME.

(5) SO WE NEED TO LISTEN, AND LEARN FROM OUR MASTER OF HOW WE CAN OVERCOME TEMPTATION, AS JESUS HIMSELF IS TEMPTED.

*** IN LIGHT OF THAT I'VE SIMPLY TITLED OUR STUDY "THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS, PART I" AS I INTRODUCE THE TEMPTATION OR TESTING OF CHRIST BY LOOKING AT V. 1 - 2B TODAY AND THEN THE 3 SPECIFIC TEMPTATIONS IN VV. 2C-13 OVER THE NEXT 2 SUNDAYS.**

**** BUT TODAY, I'LL JUST INTRODUCE THIS TEXT BY LOOKING AT VV. 1-2B.**

***** AND WE'LL LOOK AT 3 THINGS TODAY. NO. 1 THE TIMING OF THIS TEMPTATION, V. 1A; NO. 2 THE TEST OF CHRIST, VV. 1B & 2A; AND NO. 3 THE TEMPTER HIMSELF, THE DEVIL, V. 2B.**

****** AND WITH THAT OUTLINE IN MIND, LOOK AT V. 1A WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE TIMING OF THIS TEMPTATION.**

I. THE TIMING, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW THE WORDS "RETURNED FROM THE JORDAN" TOWARD THE BEGINNING OF V. 1 INDICATES AN IMPORTANT CONNECTION OF LUKE 3:21&22 OF CHAPTER 3 AND THE BEGINNING OF CHAPTER 4.

* AND THE CONNECTION IS THIS, AS SOON AS JESUS WAS BAPTIZED, IN LUKE 3, HE WAS LED INTO THE WILDERNESS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL, CHAPTER 4 (WITH **LUKE'S GENEALOGY INSERTED AT THE END OF CHAPTER 3.**)

** BUT CHRONOLOGICALLY THE TIMING IS, AS SOON AS CHRIST HAD BEEN BAPTIZED, HE WAS LED INTO THE WILDERNESS.

*** IN FACT, IN MARK CHAPTER 1 VERSES 12&13, **YOU'LL SEE THAT THE WORD IMMEDIATELY IS USED IN THE NAS, NKJV, ESV AND KJV AND THE WORDS "AT ONCE" IN THE NIV.**

**** FOR IN MARK 1:12&13 IT SAYS: **"AND IMMEDIATELY THE SPIRIT IMPELLED HIM TO GO OUT INTO THE WILDERNESS. AND HE WAS IN THE WILDERNESS FORTY DAYS BEING TEMPTED BY SATAN; AND HE WAS WITH THE WILD BEASTS, AND THE ANGELS WERE MINISTERING TO HIM."**

1. NOW THE POINT I WANT TO MAKE ABOUT THE TIMING OF ALL THIS IS, NO SOONER HAD JESUS EXPERIENCED THE FIRST GREAT TESTIMONY TO HIS MINISTRY, THEN HE FACED THE FIRST GREAT TEST OF HIS MINISTRY.

* AFTER BEING ANOINTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ATTESTED BY THE FATHER AT HIS BAPTISM, A TIME OF GREAT JOY, VICTORY AND TESTIMONY FOR CHRIST, TEMPTATION COMES IMMEDIATELY, ACCORDING TO MARK.

** AND THIS COMMUNICATES A GREAT TRUTH, AND THAT IS THIS, MANY TIMES AFTER GREAT VICTORY IN OUR LIVES COMES GREAT TEMPTATION.

*** AFTER GREAT MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCES COMES GREAT TEMPTATION TO BRING US DOWN TO THE VALLEY.

**** AND WHEN WE HAVE JUST SUCCEEDED IN SOMETHING IMPORTANT, WE ARE INVARIABLY TEMPTED TO THINK THAT WE MADE THE ACCOMPLISHMENT IN OUR OWN POWER AND FALL.

2. WHEN WE ARE MOST EXHILARATED WITH SUCCESS WE ARE ALSO MOST VULNERABLE TO PRIDE AND TO FAILURE.

* VICTORY AT TIMES MAKES US THINK THAT THE BATTLES IS OVER IN THAT AREA AND WE LET DOWN OUR GUARD AND WE ARE TEMPTED AND FALL, WHICH REMINDS US OF I CORINTHIANS 10:12 AND PROVERBS 16:18. (QUOTE THEM)

** AND THIS IS POSSIBLY WHAT HAPPENED TO ELIJAH. FOR IF YOU RECALL IN THE CONTEST BETWEEN ELIJAH AND THE 450 PROPHETS OF BAAL ON MT. CARMEL, THE LORD GAVE DRAMATIC AND MIRACULOUS EVIDENCE THAT HE WAS THE TRUE GOD AND THAT ELIJAH WAS HIS TRUE PROPHET.

*** FOR FIRST GOD SENT FIRE FROM HEAVEN TO CONSUME THE SACRIFICES AND WOOD THAT ELIJAH HAD SOAKED WITH WATER.

**** **THEN, IN ANSWER TO THE PROPHET'S** PRAYER, HE SENT RAIN TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN JUDAH.

3. BUT WITHIN LESS THAN A DAY ELIJAH WAS IN DESPAIR AND ASKED THE LORD TO TAKE HIS LIFE. AFTER BEING COURAGEOUS AND IMMOVABLE BEFORE THE 450 FALSE PROPHETS, HE SHRIVELED BEFORE THE THREATS OF JEZEBEL, ONE WOMAN (WHICH A LOT OF MEN CAN IDENTIFY WITH).

* BUT FROM THE HEIGHTS OF GREAT VICTORY ELIJAH QUICKLY FELL INTO DEEP DESPAIR. HE WENT FROM ECSTASY TO AGONY, FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP TO THE VALLEY. AND A LOT OF US IDENTIFY WITH THAT.

** JOHN MACARTHUR IN HIS COMMENTARY ON MATTHEW 1-7 GIVES US AN ILLUSTRATION OF THIS. HE TELLS ABOUT A TIME WHEN HIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM WAS AHEAD BY SOME 50 POINTS IN THE 4TH QUARTER, A BLOWOUT.

*** AS A RESULT OF THE BLOWOUT, THE COACH WAS LETTING EVERYONE PLAY. YET THE TEAM WAS READY TO SCORE AGAIN AS THEY WERE ON THE 5 YARD LINE, A TOUCHDOWN WAS CERTAIN.

**** WELL, THE COACH DECIDED TO LET A 4TH STRING RUNNING BACK CARRY THE BALL, SO THAT HE COULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE TOUCHDOWN TO HIS CREDIT BEFORE HE GRADUATED THE NEXT SPRING.

4. WELL, THEY GAVE HIM THE BALL, THE LINE OPENED A HUGE HOLE AND HE SCORED. AS THE CROWD CHEERED HE TURNED TO WAVE, PUT HIS HANDS UP, BUT KEPT RUNNING AND HIT THE GOAL POST AND WAS KNOCKED OUT COLD.

* HE WAS SO CARRIED AWAY WITH HIS TRIUMPH THAT HE COMPLETELY LOST HIS PERSPECTIVE AND HIS SENSE OF REALITY. CONSEQUENTLY THE THRILL OF HIS VICTORY, HIS TOUCHDOWN WAS SHORT LIVED.

** AND HOW MANY TIMES HAS THAT HAPPENED **TO US IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM. I KNOW IT'S** HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE.

*** **I HAVE VICTORY BY GOD'S GRACE OVER AN** AREA OF GREAT TEMPTATION OR A BESETTING SIN AND I GET EXCITED AND THINK, OH THE JOY OF VICTORY, **I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL,** AND FALL AN HOUR LATER TO THE SAME TEMPTATION.

**** OR I SENSE THE LORD HAS USED ME AND **THERE'S THAT JOY AND THE EXHILARATION THAT WE KNOW THAT WE'VE BEEN USED BY THE ALL-MIGHTY TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING FOR HIS KINGDOM AND THEN I FALL FLAT ON MY FACE.**

5. AND MY POINT IS THIS, IN TIMES OF GREAT VICTORY AND THE MOUNTAIN-TOP EXPERIENCES, WE NEED TO BE ON GUARD THAT MUCH MORE AND USE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, BE YIELDED TO THE SPIRIT AND GUARD OUR HEARTS.

* AND **BELOVED, THAT'S WHAT OUR SAVIOR DID,** TO GIVE US AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW, HE HAD EXPERIENCED THE FAVOR OF HIS FATHER, THE ANOINTING OF THE SPIRIT, AND NO DOUBT GREAT JOY FROM HIS OBEDIENCE AND IMMEDIATELY HE WAS TEMPTED IN A BIG TIME WAY IN THE LUST OF THE FLESH, THE LUST OF THE EYES AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE.

** IN LIGHT OF THAT, LET US BE ON GUARD, WALKING IN THE SPIRIT, LETTING THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN US RICHLY SO THAT WE DO **NOT YIELD TO TEMPTATION, AND THAT'S THE** TIMING OF THIS TEMPTATION.

*** NOW MOVING ON **WE'LL LOOK AT OUR 2'D** POINT TODAY AS WE LOOK AT V. 1B &2A, THE TEST. (LOOK BACK AT V. 1 PLEASE).

II. THE TEST, (READ VV. 1B&2A)

A. NOW I WANT YOU TO SEE UNDER THE TEST OF CHRIST, HE WAS LED BY THE SPIRIT AND FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

* AND **IN MARK'S ACCOUNT OF THE** TEMPTATION OF CHRIST IT SAYS THAT CHRIST **WAS "IMPELLED" TO GO OUT INTO THE** WILDERNESS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

** AND IN **MATTHEW'S** ACCOUNT OF THE TEMPTATION IN MATTHEW **4:1, IT SAYS:** "THEN JESUS WAS LED UP BY THE SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL."

*** NOW MY POINT FROM THESE VERSES IS, ALTHOUGH THE TEMPTATIONS WERE GIVEN BY **SATAN, THEY WERE A PART OF GOD'S PERFECT** PLAN FOR THE WORK OF HIS SON.

**** THIS WAS NOT A SURPRISE FOR THE SON, HE WAS BEING LED, DIRECTED, CONTROLLED AND EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, FILLED, LIT. SATURATED, PERMEATED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHICH HE WAS ALL OF HIS LIFE.

1. AND JESUS SPECIFICALLY WENT TO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TESTED BY HIS FATHER BY THE COMPELLING PROMPTINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, SO THE TEMPTATIONS DID NOT CATCH GOD BY SURPRISE, IT WAS A PART OF HIS PLAN.

* BELOVED JESUS WAS NOT TEMPTED SO THAT THE FATHER COULD LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT HIS SON, FOR THE FATHER HAD ALREADY GIVEN THE SON HIS DIVINE APPROVAL.

** JESUS WAS TEMPTED SO THAT EVERYONE MIGHT SEE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS HOLY, THE CONQUEROR, THE VICTOR, THE EXAMPLE.

*** AND CHRIST EXPOSED SATAN AND HIS TACTICS AND DEFEATED SATAN. HE IS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE, AND THIS TEMPTATION ENABLED HIM TO BE OUR SYMPATHETIC HIGH PRIEST.

2. AND FROM GOD'S STANDPOINT THESE TEMPTATIONS WERE TESTS THAT DEMONSTRATED THE HOLINESS, THE PURITY AND THE QUALITY OF OUR LORD.

* AND YES IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE DIVINE SON TO SIN. HE COULD NOT GIVE IN TO THE TESTS AND SIN, BUT HE HAD TO ENDURE UNTIL THE TESTS WERE COMPLETED. AND THERE WERE MANY TEMPTATIONS BEYOND THE 3 WE NORMALLY TALK ABOUT, LOOK AT V. 2A PLEASE.

B. READ V. 2A.

* NOW ACCORDING TO V. 2A, JESUS WAS LED AROUND BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WILDERNESS FOR HOW MANY DAYS? 40.

** AND IT APPEARS JESUS HAD BEEN TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL THROUGHOUT THE 40 DAYS WITH MANY TEMPTATIONS, AND WHAT WILL FOLLOW ARE 3 MORE INTENSE TEMPTATIONS AFTER HE IS DONE FASTING, FOR V. 2B SAYS, JESUS ATE NOTHING DURING THOSE DAYS, SO SATAN **THINKS, I'VE GOT HIM NOW AFTER NUMEROUS TEMPTATIONS FOR 40 DAYS, HE HAS TO BE TERRIBLY HUNGRY! WHICH LORD WILLING, I'LL TALK ABOUT NEXT SUNDAY.**

- BUT THE QUESTION SOME PEOPLE ASK HERE **IS, WERE JESUS' TEMPTATIONS REAL?**

*** WELL, YOU BET THEY WERE. JESUS WAS GOING UP DIRECTLY AGAINST THE TEMPTER HIMSELF AND TOOK HIS BEST SHOTS AND DID NOT YIELD USING RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO US CONTINUALLY TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION, THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT AND PRAYER AND FASTING, MATTHEW 26:41.

**** AND ALTHOUGH CHRIST WAS DIVINE, HE ALSO WAS A MAN. AND AS A MAN HE USED THE SPIRITUAL RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TODAY TO EVERY CHRISTIAN. IT APPEARS TO ME THAT HE DID NOT USE HIS DIVINE POWER TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION, **BUT YIELDED TO THE FATHER'S WILL, FOR TEMPTATIONS INVOLVE THE WILL AND JESUS CAME TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL, JOHN 6:38.**

1. AND GOING BACK TO THE QUESTION, WERE THESE TEMPTATIONS REAL? THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUSLY THEY WERE TO THE DEVIL BY HIS EFFORT, FOR HE THOUGHT HE COULD MAKE THE SON IN HIS HUMANITY STEP OUT OF THE **FATHER'S WILL AND DO HIS THING LIKE HE DID** A LONG TIME BEFORE.

* AND FOLKS REMEMBER TEMPTATION IS NOT SIN. YIELDING TO THEM IS SIN, ENTERTAINING THEM IS SIN, SUBMITTING TO THEM IS SIN.

** AND OUR TEMPTATIONS ARE ALWAYS REAL, BUT DO WE ALWAYS YIELD TO THEM AS BELIEVERS? NO! BUT BY YIELDING TO THE SPIRIT DOES THAT MAKE THEM ANY LESS REAL? NO. THEY ARE VERY REAL.

*** NOW GET THIS. THE WORD TEMPTED IS THE GREEK WORD PAY-RA-ZO AND IS A MORALLY NEUTRAL WORD THAT SIMPLY MEANS TO TEST.

**** NOW WHETHER THE TESTING IS FOR A GOOD OR EVIL PURPOSE DEPENDS ON THE INTENT OF THE ONE GIVING THE TEST.

2. AND WHEN THE SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES THE TESTING IS AN ENTICEMENT TO EVIL THE WORD IS MOST FREQUENTLY TRANSLATED BY A FORM OF THE ENGLISH TEMPT, WHICH CARRIES THE NEGATIVE CONNOTATION.

* AND THE FACT THAT THE DEVIL WAS HERE DOING THE TESTING CLEARLY INDICATES THAT JESUS WAS BEING TEMPTED, ENTICED TO DO EVIL.

** YET GOD OFTEN USES SATAN TEMPTING TO EVIL AS HIS OWN MEANS OF TESTING FOR GOOD IN HIS SOVEREIGN PLAN.

*** WHAT SATAN INTENDED TO LEAD THE SON INTO SIN AND DISOBEDIENCE, THE FATHER USED **TO DEMONSTRATE THE SON'S HOLINESS AND WORTHINESS.**

**** **AND THAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR ALL TRUE BELIEVERS, TRUE SONS.** CHRISTIANS CANNOT BE TEMPTED IN A WAY THAT GOD CANNOT USE FOR THEIR GOOD AND HIS GLORY.

3. **AND THAT'S** WHY JAMES SAYS IN JAMES 1:2-4 (QUOTE IT) (TEMPTATIONS OR TESTINGS IS A FORM OF THE GREEK WORD USED IN LUKE 4:2, THE NOUN FORM OF THE VERB USED IN LUKE 4:2).

* **AND BELOVED THAT IS GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE, TO USE SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS AS A MEANS OF TESTING AND STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH IN HIM AND OF OUR GROWING STRONGER IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

** GOD BRINGS TESTING IN OUR LIVES IN ORDER **THAT OUR SPIRITUAL "MUSCLES" MAY BE** EXERCISED AND STRENGTHENED.

***** AND WHETHER THE TESTING IS BY GOD'S** INITIATIVE OR SENT BY SATAN, GOD WILL ALWAYS USE IT TO PRODUCE GOOD IN US WHEN WE MEET THE TEST IN HIS POWER.

**** BUT ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT GOD NEVER TESTS IN THE SENSE OF ENTICING TO EVIL, JAMES 1:13-15 SAYS: (QUOTE THEM).

4. NOW IN THOSE VERSES, ALL FIVE FORMS OF **"TO TEMPT" ARE** THE WORD PAY-RA-ZO USED IN LUKE 4:2 OR A FORM OF IT, AND ALL 5 INDICATE THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF TESTING, THE INDUCEMENT TO EVIL - WHAT WE CALL TEMPTATION.

* AND AGAIN GOD NEVER HAS A PART IN THAT SORT OF TESTING, WHAT WE CALL TEMPTATION, BUT HE CAN AND WILL TURN EVEN THE WORST SORT OF TESTING INTO THE RIGHT SORT, WHEN IT IS SURRENDERED TO HIS WILL AND POWER.

**** AND IT IS GOD'S GREAT DESIRE TO TURN INTO**
VICTORY WHAT SATAN INTENDS FOR FAILURE,
TO STRENGTHEN US AT THE VERY POINT WHERE
THE ADVERSARY WANTS TO FIND US WEAK.

***** AND AS WE GO BACK TO LUKE 4:2, JESUS**
WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL, ENTICED TO EVIL,
BUT THE FATHER WAS TESTING HIM TO SHOW
HIS HOLINESS AND WORTHINESS. AND THAT
WAS THE TEST.

****** WHICH LEADS US TO OUR FINAL WORD IN**
LUKE 4:2, TO SEE ONE MORE THING TODAY, THE
TEMPTER. LOOK BACK TO MATT. 4:2B.

III. THE TEMPTER, (READ V. 2B)

A. NOW THE TEMPTER IN V. 2B IS CALLED THE
DEVIL. **AND ONE OF SATAN'S MOST COMMON**
NAMES IS THE DEVIL, FROM DEE-AB-OL-OS
WHICH MEANS ACCUSER OR SLANDERER.

* NOW HE IS CALLED BY MANY OTHER NAMES IN THE BIBLE LIKE, **"THE RULER OF THIS WORLD"**, **"THE PRINCE AND THE POWER OF THE AIR"**, **THE "GOD OF THIS WORLD"**, **"THE SERPENT OF OLD"**, **THE "TEMPTER"**, IN V. 3 OF MATTHEW 4, THE NAME **"SATAN"**, **"ADVERSARY"**, A **"MURDERER"**, **THE "DRAGON"**, **"BEELZEBUB"** AND THE **"EVIL ONE"** TO GIVE YOU SOME OF HIS NAMES AND WHAT HE IS CALLED IN SCRIPTURE.

** AND HE IS A REAL PERSON, A FALLEN ANGEL OR CHERUB. AND MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING SOME PROFESSING CHRISTIANS, DO NOT BELIEVE IN A PERSONAL DEVIL. BUT JESUS DID. AND THE WORD MAKES IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT HE IS A REAL BEING.

*** AND SATAN HAS NEVER MADE HIMSELF MORE PERSONALLY MANIFEST THAN HE DID TO JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS.

**** **IN FACT, THE LORD'S OWN ACCOUNT SHOWS UNMISTAKABLY THAT THE OPPONENT HE FACED WAS PERSONAL AND REAL IN EVERY SENSE.**

1. AND SATAN WAS SO REAL EVEN TO MARTIN LUTHER THAT IT IS REPORTED THAT ON ONE OCCASION LUTHER THREW AN INKWELL AT HIS ADVERSARY.

* AND BELOVED, UNDERSTAND THIS, HAVING BEEN CAST OUT OF HEAVEN BY THE LORD, **SATAN'S FULL FURY** HAS EVER SINCE BEEN TURNED AGAINST GOD AND HIS WORK.

**** AND DURING JESUS' INCARNATION THAT** WRATH WAS SPECIALLY FOCUSED IN ALL ITS INTENSITY AGAINST THE SON AND AGAINST HIS DIVINE MISSION.

*** AND SATAN FAILED AND WAS A PAWN IN THE PLAN OF GOD TO HAVE THE SON DIE FOR HIS PEOPLE.

***** AND NOW THE DEVIL'S SINGLE PURPOSE IS**
TO FRUSTRATE THE PLAN OF GOD AND TO
USURP THE PLACE OF GOD. HE NOW ATTACKS
ALL THAT BELONG TO CHRIST AND PURSUES
EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP OTHERS FROM COMING
TO CHRIST. HE IS THE TEMPTER, AND HE
PERSONALLY AND LITERALLY CAME AFTER
CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS OF JUDAEA OVER
2,000 YEARS AGO.

AND AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY (1) LET ME
SAY THAT THE DEVIL IS A DEFEATED FOE, BUT
HE IS NOT BOUND YET. WE KNOW HOW THINGS
WILL END FOR HIM, BUT THE END HAS NOT
COME YET WHEN HE WILL BE BOUND.

* AND I HEAR PEOPLE SAYING THAT WE NEED TO
BIND SATAN TODAY. WELL THE REALITY OF THE
MATTER IS HE WON'T BE BOUND UNTIL
REVELATION 20:2.

** AND HE IS NOT IN HELL YET, AND IS A ROARING LION ACCORDING TO I PETER 5:8, AND HE IS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT ACCORDING TO II CORINTHIANS 11:14.

*** AND HE IS ANGRY AND HATES CHRISTIANS AND HE IS MIGHTY, BUT NOT ALL-MIGHTY.

**** AND WE ARE NOT TO BE IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICES, HIS SCHEMES IN II CORINTHIANS 2:11. AND HE CANNOT TOUCH US UNLESS THE FATHER WILLS IT.

(2) AND I GUESS THAT GREAT TRUTH COMFORTS ME AND REMINDS ME THAT I CAN ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS IN CHRIST, WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS IN CHRIST. I CAN RESIST SATAN **AND HIS DEMONS IN GOD'S POWER, I PETER 5:9** AND JAMES 4:6&7. (QUOTE THEM)

* AND BELOVED, LET IT BE CLEARLY AFFIRMED, **OUR LIVES ARE NOT IN SATAN'S HANDS, BUT IN GOD'S HANDS, I JOHN 4:4** & JOHN 10:27-29 (QUOTE THEM).

**** AND SATAN CANNOT ACT APART FROM GOD'S**
DIVINE PROVIDENCE. SATAN IS NOT IN
CONTROL. THE ONLY POWER HE HAS IS WHAT
GOD GIVES HIM.

*** THE DEVIL MIGHT BE THE GOD OF THIS
WORLD, BUT HE CAN RULE ONLY BY THE DIVINE
WILL.

**** MARTIN LUTHER WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID
THAT THE DEVIL'S POWER IS "AS BIG AS THE
WORLD, AS WIDE AS THE WORLD, AND HE
EXTENDS FROM HEAVEN DOWN TO HELL; BUT
THEN HE ADDS, "BUT THE EVIL SPIRIT HAS NOT
A HAIRBREADTH MORE POWER OVER US THAN
GOD'S GOODNESS PERMITS."

3. LUTHER SAID ON ANOTHER OCCASION, THE
DEVIL IS GOD'S DEVIL. AND GOD HAS USED HIS
REBELLION TO SERVE HIS OWN DIVINE
PURPOSES. AND IN THAT SENSE HE IS GOD'S
SERVANT!

* BELIEVER, REMEMBER, THE DEVIL HAS EXACTLY AS MUCH POWER AS GOD LETS HIM HAVE, AND NOT ONE MITE MORE.

**** AND THE EXPRESSION, "THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT" IS NOT BIBLICAL. HE CAN TEMPT YOU BUT HE CAN'T MAKE YOU SIN, JUST AS OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES OR PEOPLE CAN'T MAKE YOU SIN IN BLAMESHIFTING.**

***** WE SIN, BECAUSE WE WANT TO, BECAUSE WE WANT OUR WAY OVER GOD'S WAY AND OUR WILL OVER GOD'S WILL.**

- AND HERE IN PALESTINE COULD JESUS HAVE BEEN MORE ISOLATED OR IN LESS COMFORT THAN THE WILDERNESS OF JUDEA, IT WAS HOT, BARREN AND A DESOLATE AREA AND JESUS WAS HUNGRY BUT BAD CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NO EXCUSE TO GIVE INTO TEMPTATION. AND JESUS DID NOT. HE WON. HE WAS VICTORIOUS!

4. AND CHRISTIAN, I REMIND YOU, OUR WAR IS WINNABLE. WE HAVE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT THAT JESUS USED, WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO WILL EMPOWER US AND WE HAVE OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST TO GO TO.

* AND YES SATAN WANTS TO PULVERIZE US IN TEMPTATION, BUT GOD WANTS TO PURIFY US THROUGH TESTING. WE CAN BE VICTORIOUS! LET US LIVE THAT WAY AND FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF OUR SAVIOR. I CLOSE WITH HEBREWS 4:15&16 AGAIN. (QUOTE THEM AND PRAY).