

12/8/13

LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS
COME, WEEK 20

TITLE: THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS, PART II

TEXT: LUKE 4:2-4

INTRODUCTION: (1) **AS CHRISTIANS, WE'RE IN A
WAR.**

* BECAUSE OF THAT, **WE CAN'T PLEAD
PACIFISM. WE CAN'T RUN FROM THE BULLETS.
WE CAN'T HIDE FROM THE BOMBS AND WE
CAN'T PLEAD MEDICAL DEFERMENT.**

** THE WAR IS WITHIN AND WITHOUT AND
CONTINUAL, IT DOES NOT LET UP, EVEN AFTER
WE HAVE WALKED WITH GOD FOR YEARS.

*** NOW PART OF THIS WAR IS THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE FLESH AND THE SPIRIT, PART OF IT COMES FROM OUR FALLEN WORLD SYSTEM WHICH TRIES TO PULL US AWAY FROM THE ALL-MIGHTY AND TO FOCUS ON THE TEMPORARY.

**** AND PART OF IT IS SATAN WHO HARASSES US WITH HIS IDEAS AND RATIONALIZATIONS AND BY MAGNIFYING OUR DESIRES TOWARD THE FLESH AND THE WORLD SYSTEM.

(2) CHRISTIAN, IN SHORT, OUR ENEMY IN THE SPIRITUAL WAR THAT WE ARE IN IS THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS.

* NOW SPECIFICALLY, THE DEVIL, WHO IS OUR CHIEF FOE, USES A WEAPON CALLED TEMPTATION TO LURE US INTO SIN, TO DEFEAT US **IN OUR DAILY WARFARE. THAT'S HIS WAY** TO GET BACK AT THE ALL-MIGHTY AND IN A SENSE BE WORSHIPPED AS A GOD.

** AND ONE OF THE WEAPONS THAT HE USES AGAINST US IN OUR WAR IS TO MAKE SIN LOOK GOOD TO US. HE DOES NOT WANT US TO FEAR DISOBEDIENCE, BUT TO DEVELOP CONFIDENCE IN OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL IT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

*** TEMPTATIONS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES COME WRAPPED IN THE MOST ATTRACTIVE PACKAGES. TEMPTATION AT TIMES SMELLS GOOD, LOOKS GOOD, FEELS GOOD AND CAN EVEN TASTE GOOD FOR A SEASON.

*** AND THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

(3) YET THE MOST HIGH AS RULER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE ALL-MIGHTY, HAS HIS PURPOSE IN TEMPTATION. HE NEVER TEMPTS US TO EVIL, JAMES 1:13 - SO GOD DOES NOT TEMPT US, BUT GOD DOES TEST US TO GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR HIM AND TO SHOW HOW MUCH WE LOVE HIM, AND TO GROW IN HIS LIKENESS IN HOLINESS.

* SO IN REALITY EVERY TEMPTATION THAT SATAN BRINGS OUR WAY TURNS OUT TO BE A TEST OF OUR LOYALTY TO OUR COMMANDER AND CHIEF.

** LET ME ILLUSTRATE. IF YOU LOVE FORD VEHICLES, YOU WOULD WANT TO SEE THEM TESTED TO PROVE THEIR DEPENDABILITY, THAT **THEY'RE A GOOD VEHICLE.**

*** BUT ON THE OTHER HAND; IF YOU HATE FORD VEHICLES, YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM TESTED TO PROVE THEM DEFICIENT, THAT **THEY'RE A PIECE OF JUNK,** THAT THE ACRONYM OF THE WORD FORD IS TRUE.

**** WELL, MY POINT - SAME TEST. DIFFERENT PURPOSES. ONE POSITIVE, THE OTHER NEGATIVE.

(4) LIKEWISE, IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM, WE SEE **THAT GOD'S INTENTION** IN TESTING IS OUR REFINEMENT, STRENGTHENING AND GOOD.

*** BUT THE TEMPTER'S INTENTION IS ALWAYS**
EVIL, AND THAT WHICH GOD CAN USE FOR GOOD
CAN, IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL, TURN OUT TO BE
FOR OUR MAXIMUM DETRIMENT. SO THE
STAKES ARE HIGH IN OUR CONFLICT.

** WHICH LEADS US TO THE CLASSIC BATTLE IN
LUKE 4:1-13. FOR AS WE TAKE A WALK INTO
THE JUDEAN DESERT WE SEE THE CONFLICT
BETWEEN THE TEMPTER AND THE CAPTAIN OF
OUR SALVATION.

*** AND AS WE STUDY A PORTION OF THIS
BATTLE, WE CAN LEARN FROM THE OUTCOME
OF HOW WE CAN BE VICTORIOUS AND HOW WE
HAVE A GENERAL **"WHO WAS IN ALL POINTS
TEMPTED AS WE ARE YET WITHOUT SIN,"**
HEBREWS 4:15. SO NOW HE IS OUR
SYMPATHETIC HIGH PRIEST, HEBREWS 2:18.

(5) NOW LET ME SET THE STAGE FOR THIS BATTLE. WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN IN **BETHLEHEM, SATAN'S FIRST STRATEGY WAS TO** KILL HIM. AND HE USED HEROD TO TRY TO CARRY OUT THAT DIABOLICAL PLAN, BUT THE PLAN FAILED.

* WELL, IF SATAN COULD NOT KILL CHRIST, HE WOULD TRY TO CORRUPT HIM. SATAN THOUGHT THAT HE MIGHT STRIKE A BLOW AT THE WORD BECOME FLESH.

** SATAN IN HIS DELUSION THOUGHT THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET JESUS TO SIN THROUGH HIS HUMANITY. HE ATTEMPTS TO GET THE SON OF MAN TO SIN AND TRIES TO TRIUMPH OVER THE VERY CHRIST WHO CREATED HIM.

*** AND I REMIND YOU CHRONOLOGICALLY THAT JESUS HAD JUST BEEN BAPTIZED IN THE JORDAN RIVER IN LUKE 3 AND HE HAD JUST GLIMPSED INTO HEAVEN.

**** NOW HE WAS TO GLIMPSE INTO HELL.

(6) JESUS HAD JUST HAD THE DOVE, THE HOLY SPIRIT, ANOINT HIM AND COME UPON HIM, NOW THE DEVIL COMES TO HIM.

*** AND TODAY WE'LL LOOK AT THE FIRST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST BY THE TEMPTER, IN OUR MESSAGE WHICH I'VE SIMPLY TITLED, THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS, PART II.**

**** AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT 3 THINGS IN LUKE 4:2-4. NO. 1 THE PREPARATION OF CHRIST, V. 2; NO. 2 THE PITCH BY SATAN BEING THE ULTIMATE PITCH MAN WHO TEMPTS CHRIST, V. 3; AND NO. 3 THE POSITION OF OUR SAVIOR, AS HE RESPONDS TO THE DEVIL, V. 4.**

***** SO WE'LL LOOK AT THE PREPARATION, THE PITCH, AND THE POSITION UNDER THE THEME OF THE FIRST TEMPTATION OF THE KING.**

**** AND WITH THOSE POINTS TO HANG YOUR THOUGHTS ON, LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE WHERE **WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST THOUGHT TODAY, THE PREPARATION.**

I. THE PREPARATION, (READ V. 2)

A. NOW BEFORE THE 3 STRONG TEMPTATION EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED TO JESUS, HE HAD FASTED 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS.

* AND THIS WAS A COMPLETE FAST, HE TOTALLY ABSTAINED FROM FOOD, IT SAYS HERE, **"HE ATE NOTHING DURING THOSE DAYS."**

** SO OUR LORD JESUS GOES ON A 40 DAY FAST, AND WE ARE NOT TOLD WHAT HE DID DURING THAT PERIOD, BUT HE NO DOUBT SPENT MOST OF THE TIME COMMUNING WITH HIS HEAVENLY FATHER. IT MUST OF BEEN A TIME OF PREPARATION.

*** FOR BETWEEN HIS BAPTISM AND THE TEMPTATIONS HE PROBABLY NEEDED THE SPECIAL PREPARATION OF BEING ENTIRELY ALONE AND UNDISTURBED WITH HIS FATHER.

**** AND EVEN IN HIS PERFECT HUMANITY, JESUS NEEDED **WHAT WE CALL A "QUIET TIME"** FOR PRAYER AND COMMUNION WITH HIS FATHER IN PREPARATION FOR TEMPTATION AND PREPARATION FOR OVER 3 YEARS OF INTENSE MINISTRY.

1. AND IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THIS WAS A PATTERN FOR CHRIST, FOR IN LUKE 6:12 IT SAYS:

* AND JESUS DID THIS IN PREPARATION FOR CHOOSING THE 12 ACCORDING TO LUKE 6:13.

** AND THEN IN MATT. 14:23 IT SAYS ABOUT JESUS ON ANOTHER OCCASION: **"AND AFTER HE HAD SENT THE MULTITUDES AWAY, HE WENT UP TO THE MOUNTAIN BY HIMSELF TO PRAY; AND WHEN IT WAS EVENING, HE WAS THERE ALONE."**

*** AND IN THIS TEXT, JESUS GOT ALONE TO PRAY.

**** AND THEN SHORTLY BEFORE HIS BETRAYAL, HE GOT ALONE WITH HIS FATHER IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE TO PRAY FOR 3 HOURS.

2. FOR IT SAYS IN MATT. 26:36: "THEN JESUS CAME WITH THEM TO A PLACE CALLED GETHSEMANE, AND SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "SIT HERE WHILE I GO OVER THERE AND PRAY."

* AND BY THE WAY, IN THIS TEXT, CHRIST MAKES THIS STATEMENT TO PETER, JAMES AND JOHN IN V. 41 WITH THE THOUGHT OF TEMPTATION IN MIND. QUOTE MATTHEW 26:41.

** NOW MY POINT FROM THESE VERSES IS, OUR LORD JESUS, THE GOD-MAN IN HIS HUMANNESS, , THE PERFECT HOLY ONE WHO COULD NOT HAVE SINNED, HE HAD NO SIN NATURE AS GOD, BUT TOOK TIME TO GET ALONE WITH HIS FATHER IN PREPARATION FOR TEMPTATION, IN PREPARATION FOR MAJOR DECISIONS, IN PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY AND IN PREPARATION FOR GOING TO THE CROSS, IN **ESSENCE IN SUBMITTING TO HIS FATHER'S WILL.**

*** AND IF OUR SAVIOR TOOK THE TIME TO DO THAT, HOW MUCH MORE SHOULD WE? CERTAINLY WE HAVE A GREATER NEED WITH OUR SINFULNESS – RIGHT?

**** SO I ASK EVERY ONE OF YOU HERE TODAY THAT PROFESS TO KNOW CHRIST IN APPLICATION, DO YOU HAVE A REGULAR QUIET TIME FOR THE WORD, PRAYER, WORSHIP AND MEDITATION?

3. IF YOU DON'T, I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT THERE ARE AREAS OF TEMPTATION YOU ARE NOT HAVING VICTORY OVER, FOR YOUR DECISIONS WILL BE CLOUDED BY THE FLESH AND THE WILL OF GOD IS NOT A PRIORITY. AND **HE IS WORTHY TO BE OUR NO. 1 PRIORITY. (IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION WHEN YOU ARE HAVING REGULAR QUIET TIMES.)**

* AND DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE CAN GIVE ALL THE EXCUSES WE WANT, BUT IF WE **DON'T HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME OUR PRIORITIES ARE OUT OF WHACK AND IT'S NOT A MATTER OF NOT HAVING ENOUGH TIME, IT'S A MATTER OF PRIORITIES, FOR I'M SURE ALL OF US MAKE TIME TO EAT PHYSICALLY AT LEAST TWICE A DAY, BUT HOW ABOUT FOOD FOR YOUR SOUL? JOB 23:12**

** IF YOU NEED HELP, TALK TO ME OR ONE OF THE OTHER PASTORS.

*** BELOVED, VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND SENSITIVITY COMES FROM BEING CONSTANTLY PREPARED FOR IT, WHICH IN TURN, COMES FROM CONSTANTLY RELYING ON THE LORD AND SPENDING TIME WITH HIM.

*** AND OUR LORD AGAIN IS OUR EXAMPLE HERE, HE PREPARED FOR TEMPTATION, HE PREPARED FOR MINISTRY, AND BECAUSE HE HAD SPENT TIME IN COMMUNION WITH HIS FATHER, EVEN IN HIS WEAKEST PHYSICAL MOMENTS, IN PHYSICAL WEAKNESS FROM FASTING 40 DAYS IN HIS HUMANNESS, HE WAS SPIRITUALLY STRONG.

**** AND HE DID NOT ALLOW SATAN TO GET A FOOTHOLD.

4. AND LET ME SAY THIS BEFORE I MOVE ON TO V. 3, ACCORDING TO THE PARALLEL ACCOUNT IN MARK 1:13 AND HERE IN LUKE 4:2, JESUS WAS TEMPTED THROUGHOUT HIS STAY IN THE WILDERNESS FOR 40 DAYS.

*** AND POSSIBLY IT WAS THE DEVIL'S STRATEGY** TO GRADUALLY WEAR THE LORD DOWN LITTLE BY LITTLE BEFORE CONFRONTING HIM WITH THE 3 GREAT TEMPTATIONS THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY RECORDED.

** BUT JESUS WOULD NOT YIELD TO HIS ADVERSARY, HE WAS PREPARED FOR TEMPTATION WHICH LEADS US TO V. 3 AND OUR **2'D POINT TODAY, THE PITCH BY THE TEMPTER.** LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.

II. THE PITCH, (READ V. 3)

A. NOW SATAN HERE IS SPOKEN OF AS THE DEVIL, DEE-A-BLOSE IN THE GREEK, WHICH IS ONE OF HIS DESCRIPTIVE NAMES AND TITLES IN SCRIPTURE WHICH DESCRIBES ONE OF THE THINGS HE DOES WELL, HE ACCUSES, HE SLANDERS AND BEYOND THAT HE SOLICITS PEOPLE TO TRY TO GET THEM TO SIN, HE ENTICES PEOPLE TO SIN.

* AND THE DEVIL COMES TO CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS TO DO HIS THING AND WE ARE NOT TOLD WHAT FORM THE DEVIL MAY HAVE TAKEN ON THIS OCCASION, BUT HIS CONFRONTATION WITH JESUS WAS DIRECT AND PERSONAL. THEY ACTUALLY WILL SPEAK TO EACH OTHER WHICH SHOWS AGAIN THAT SATAN IS A REAL BEING NOT A FIGMENT OF OUR IMAGINATION, OR A FOG OR AN IDEA, BUT A REAL PERSON.

** WELL, AS THE TEMPTER COMES TO JESUS, HIS FIRST TEMPTATION TAKES THE FORM OF AN APPEAL TO THE PHYSICAL APPETITE, THE AREA OF THE LUST OF THE FLESH.

*** **AND IT'S INTERESTING THAT FOOD HAS** SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS TEMPTATION AS IT DID WITH ADAM AND EVE.

**** FOR ADAM AND EVE WERE ALLOWED TO EAT FROM ANY OF THE TREES IN THE GARDEN EXCEPT FROM THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, QUOTE GENESIS 2:16&17.

1. NOW ADAM AND EVE WANTED WHAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE AND WANTED THEIR WILL **OVER GOD'S WILL** AND THEY ATE THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT.

* WELL, THE TEMPTER COMES TO JESUS AND SAYS IF, WHICH CAN BE TRANSLATED SINCE, **WHICH APPEARS TO ME FROM WHAT I'VE** STUDIED TO BE THE CORRECT TRANSLATION FROM THE CONTEXT HERE.

** FOR THE CONJUNCTION IF, THE GREEK WORD A (EI), IS A PRIMARY PARTICLE OF CONDITIONALITY, IT IS A CONDITION OF THE FIRST CLASS IN THE GREEK WHICH ASSUMES A THING TO BE TRUE.

*** SO THIS WORD DOES NOT IMPLY DOUBT. SATAN KNEW THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD, AND JESUS KNEW THAT HE WAS THE SON OF GOD, GOD THE SON AND HAD NOTHING TO PROVE.

**** **IN FACT, DON'T YOU THINK THAT SATAN HEARD THE VOICE OF THE FATHER AT JESUS' BAPTISM, CONCENTRATING ON CHRIST THE WAY HE DID, "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON." SURE HE DID.**

2. AND EVEN THE DEMONS KNEW WHO JESUS WAS AS HE WALKED ON THIS EARTH. SO SATAN IS NOT CASTING DOUBT BUT STATING SOMETHING THAT IS ASSUMED TO BE TRUE.

- AND UNLIKE CULTISTS, LIBERAL THEOLOGIANS AND OTHER HERETICS, SATAN AND DEMONS KNOW THAT JESUS IS GOD.

* SO THE BETTER TRANSLATION IS **"SINCE YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, YOU HAVE THE POWER, TURN THESE STONES INTO BREAD SINCE YOU ARE HUNGRY, YOU HAVE THE POWER. YOU ARE GOD!"**

** AND TO TURN STONES INTO BREAD WAS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE FOR CHRIST, BUT WAS THE KIND OF MIRACLE HE WOULD LATER PERFORM.

*** FOR WITHIN A FEW MONTHS HE WOULD BE STANDING ON THE SHORES OF GALILEE, TAKING 5 LOAVES AND TWO FISH IN HIS HAND, AND WITH THEM FEEDING THOUSANDS.

**** SO HE HAD THE POWER. AND THERE WAS A LEGITIMATE NEED, HE WAS HUNGRY, WHY NOT USE YOUR POWER TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF?

- **AND THE DEVIL'S TEMPTATION THAT JESUS** COMMAND A STONE TO BECOME BREAD WAS NOT A TEMPTATION TO SELF-INDULGENCE FOR IT IS NOT A SIN TO EAT FOOD WHEN ONE IS HUNGRY. NOR WAS IT PRIDE FOR JESUS TO SHOW OFF HIS POWER FOR NO ONE WAS AROUND.

3. SO THE TEMPTATION WAS, WHY NOT USE YOUR DIVINE POWER AS GOD TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN NEEDS? HIS TEMPTATION WAS SUBTLE AND INSIDIOUS - TO ENTICE, TO ENTRAP.

* **SATAN'S TEMPTATION WAS AN** APPEAL TO **JESUS' RIGHT AS THE SON OF GOD. WHY** SHOULD YOU STARVE IN THE WILDERNESS SINCE **YOU ARE GOD'S SON**, GOD THE SON?

** **AND HERE'S WHAT IT MEANS. JESUS WAS** BEING TEMPTED TO DOUBT NO. 1 **THE FATHER'S** LOVE: NO. 2 **THE FATHER'S PROVISION**; AND NO. 3 **THE FATHER'S WILL.**

- THE DEVIL WAS ATTEMPTING TO GET JESUS TO **DISTRUST HIS FATHER'S LOVE AND PROVISION** FOR HIM, INSINUATING THAT HIS FATHER WAS **DISINTERESTED AND INDIFFERENT IN JESUS' PLIGHT.**

*** JESUS HAD EVERY RIGHT, SATAN SUGGESTED, TO USE HIS OWN DIVINE POWERS TO SUPPLY WHAT THE FATHER HAD NOT.

**** AND SATAN WANTED JESUS TO USE HIS POWER IN THE WRONG WAY AT THE WRONG TIME, TO USE HIS POWER AS THE SON TO MEET HIS OWN NEEDS RATHER THAN TO FULFILL HIS GOD-GIVEN MISSION.

4. BELOVED, JESUS IN HIS INCARNATION CAME **TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL AND ONLY THE FATHER'S WILL**, HE WAS ON A DIVINE MISSION.

*** IN JOHN 4:34 JESUS SAID: "MY FOOD IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME, AND TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK."**

** IN JOHN 6:38 JESUS SAID: (QUOTE IT)

*** NOW UNDERSTAND, SATAN WANTED JESUS **TO ABANDON THE FATHER'S WILL** AS HE DOES WITH US AND FOR JESUS TO MOVE FROM THE HUMILITY OF HAVING A BODY AND WILLINGLY LIMITING HIMSELF TO THAT BODY, TO PUTTING HIS NEEDS FIRST, TRYING TO MAKE HIM THINK, "YOU ARE THE SON, FEED YOURSELF, THE **FATHER HASN'T.**"

**** AND CERTAINLY THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTHING WRONG WITH CHRIST MEETING HIS OWN NEEDS – AS WE RATIONALIZE – RIGHT?

5. EXCEPT FOR THIS: IT WAS NOT YET TIME FOR CHRIST TO EAT. HE AND HIS FATHER HAD APPARENTLY SPECIFIED WHEN THE FAST WAS TO BE OVER.

* TO PERFORM A MIRACLE NOW WOULD BE TO INTERFERE WITH THE DIVINE PLAN AND FOR **JESUS TO PUT HIS WILL OVER THE FATHER'S WILL** AND HIS RIGHTS OVER WHAT THE FATHER WANTED.

** AND BELOVED, THERE WILL BE TIME FOR THAT AS EVEN ANGELS WILL MINISTER TO HIM AFTER THE TEMPTATIONS ARE OVER IN MATTHEW 4:11, BUT NOT RIGHT NOW.

*** SO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH HERE. AS ALWAYS SATAN TOOK A LEGITIMATE NEED AND ASKED CHRIST TO SATISFY IT IN AN ILLEGITIMATE WAY.

**** THUS THE ESSENCE OF THIS TEMPTATION WAS TO SHOW THAT THE NEEDS OF THE BODY, THE TEMPORAL, ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE NEEDS OF THE SOUL, THE ETERNAL.

- DESIRES NOT DUTY, POWER, NOT POVERTY, LIVE FOR THE NOW, NOT FOR ETERNITY, **GRATIFY YOURSELF, IF YOU DON'T MAKE YOURSELF NO. 1, WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU** - IS THE IDEA.

6. AND I'LL EXPAND ON THIS MORE IN OUR CONCLUSION, BUT SATAN TEMPTS US MANY TIMES TO GRATIFY DESIRES THAT ARE NOT WRONG IN THEMSELVES, BUT WRONG IN FULFILLING THEM WHEN WE WANT THEM AND HOW WE WANT THEM. AND SATAN WANTS US ALWAYS TO PUT SELF FIRST, OUR NEEDS AND WANTS AND DESIRES FIRST OVER WHAT GOD WANTS, WHICH IS ALWAYS BEST – WHAT OUR LORD WANTS.

*** WELL, THIS IS SATAN'S PITCH TO CHRIST IN HIS FIRST TEMPTATION, BUT MOVING ON, V. 4 GIVES US THE POSITION OF CHRIST, THE POSITION HE TOOK USING THE PROVISION OF THE WORD OF GOD. LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.**

III. THE POSITION, (READ V. 4)

A. NOW I LOVE V. 4. FOR OUR LORD'S FIRST RECORDED WORDS TO SATAN WERE THE WORD OF GOD, IT IS WRITTEN, JESUS USES THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD – EPHESIANS 6:17.

* AND NOTICE THAT THERE IS NO DISCUSSION WITH SATAN, NO ARGUING, NO DEBATING, NO **QUOTE "BINDING", BUT "IT IS WRITTEN."** I LOVE THAT.

** AND THE STATEMENT IT IS WRITTEN IS VERY POWERFUL, FOR THE VERB WRITTEN IS A PERFECT PASSIVE INDICATIVE IN THE GREEK WHICH EXPRESSES A COMPLETED ACTION AND A PERMANENT STATE RESULTING FROM IT.

*** AND IT COULD BE TRANSLATED ACCORDING **TO THE SCHOLARS I HAVE STUDIED, "IT STANDS WRITTEN AND IS STILL IN FORCE. IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN AND STILL STANDS WRITTEN,"** WHICH IS A STRONG AFFIRMATION OF THE UNCHANGING CHARACTER OF THE SCRIPTURES.

**** JESUS AFFIRMS THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD BY WHAT HE SAYS AND BY USING IT TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION.

1. AND CERTAINLY, EVEN MORE THAN DAVID, OUR LORD JESUS COULD SAY THE WORDS OF PSALM 119:11 & PSALM 119:16 (QUOTE THEM).

* SO JESUS QUOTES TRUTH TO DEAL WITH TEMPTATION, AND WHAT A PATTERN FOR US. TO MEET TEMPTATIONS FROM SCRIPTURES **WE'VE MEMORIZED**. FOR SUCH CONCENTRATION **BLOCKS SATAN'S ATTEMPTS TO CONFUSE US** WITH HIS LIES, **WE'RE NOT THINKING RIGHT WHEN WE SIN, WE MUST SAY TO SATAN, "GO FOR IT IS WRITTEN"** (ILLUST. PRIDE, MONEY, IMPURE THOUGHTS).

** NOW THE SPECIFIC VERSE THAT JESUS QUOTED WAS DEUT. 8:3, WHICH ALL THREE OF HIS QUOTES IN THIS PASSAGE ARE FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY.

*** AND IN QUOTING DEUT. 8:3 TO SATAN, JESUS DECLARED THAT WE ARE BETTER OFF TO OBEY AND DEPEND ON GOD, WAITING ON HIS PROVISION, THAN TO GRAB SATISFACTION FOR OURSELVES WHEN AND AS WE NEED IT. RATHER THAN INSTANT FLESHLY GRATIFICATION, THERE IS DEFERRED GRATIFICATION THAT IS TRULY GRATIFYING.

**** SO JESUS WAS SAYING: FOOD IS NOT THE MOST NECESSARY PART OF LIFE, THE SUPPORT OF LIFE GOES BEYOND FOOD TO THE GOD WHO GIVES LIFE, IT GOES BACK TO THE WILL OF GOD WHICH IS COMMUNICATED IN THE WORD OF GOD.

2. AND BELOVED MANKIND MUST HAVE BREAD, BUT BREAD ALONE CANNOT SUFFICE FOR OUR NEEDS. AND BETTER TO BE WITHOUT BREAD THAN TO BE WITHOUT GOD!

* AND AS BELIEVERS, WE ARE ALWAYS BETTER OFF TO OBEY GOD AND TO TRUST IN HIS GRACIOUS SUSTENANCE THAN TO IMPATIENTLY AND SELFISHLY PROVIDE FOR OURSELVES IN WAYS THAT DISOBEY, OR IN ANY WAY COMPROMISE, HIS WORD.

**** AND IF YOU'LL GO BACK** ON YOUR OWN TO DEUTERONOMY 8:2&3 AND READ IT SOME TIME, **YOU'LL SEE THAT MOSES IN THAT TEXT WAS** BASICALLY SAYING THE SAME THING TO ISRAEL AS GOD PROVIDED MANNA FOR THEM IN HE **WILDERNESS. ISRAEL'S TESTING WAS DESIGNED** TO HELP ISRAEL DEPEND ON GOD AND THAT IT **IS BETTER TO OBEY GOD'S WORD THAN TO** SATISFY HUMAN DESIRES.

AND AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY (1) I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE THOUGHT OF THE SUBTLETY OF TEMPTATION AND MAKE APPLICATION.

* AND THAT IS, IF WHAT IS PRESENTED TO US IN TEMPTATION WERE INHERENTLY EVIL, IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO RESIST AND DEAL WITH IT.

** WE FIND TEMPTATION ALLURING PRECISELY BECAUSE THE BANQUET THAT IS SPREAD IN OUR PATH LOOKS SO GOOD; AND MANY TIMES IT LOOKS GOOD BECAUSE IT IS GOOD IN THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE.

*** FOR EXAMPLE, FOOD IS GOOD, BUT ARE WE GLUTTONS AND CONTROLLED BY IT? PROVERBS 23:21. SEX IS GOOD IN MARRIAGE, AND MARRIAGE ALONE, BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN. **MUSIC IS GOOD, IF IT'S NOT IMMORAL.** SLEEP IS GOOD AS LONG AS WE DO NOT ALLOW **IT TO BE A CONSUMING PASSION AND THAT'S** ALL WE WANT TO DO AND BECOME SLOTHFUL. AND ON AND ON I COULD GO.

**** BUT WHETHER IT IS SEX, FOOD, OR PLEASURE, GOD HAS PRESCRIBED THE RULES AND HIS RULES ARE GOOD RULES AND ARE THERE FOR OUR OWN BENEFIT AND BLESSING. HIS WILL PRESCRIBED IN HIS WORD IS ALWAYS BEST.

(2) AND OUR CHALLENGE IS TO HAVE THE FAITH AND ASSURANCE THAT HIS WAY IS BEST, EVEN **WHEN IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE** ON THE SURFACE.

* OUR ASSIGNMENT, LIKE THAT OF ADAM AND EVE, IS TO BELIEVE THAT EVEN A GOOD TREE WILL BECOME POISON IF GOD HAS FORBIDDEN IT.

** AND BELOVED, CHRIST SAW THE TEMPTATION FOR WHAT IT WAS. THOUGH RAVAGED BY HUNGER HE REPLIED: MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, AND IN MATTHEW 4:4 IT SAYS (QUOTE IT.)

*** AND THE BREAD THAT SATISFIES THE SOUL IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT WHICH SATISFIES THE BODY.

**** CHRIST APPEALED TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY AND A HIGHER PURPOSE. IF THE DEVIL WOULD COME WITH ERROR, CHRIST WOULD COMBAT HIM WITH TRUTH.

3. BECAUSE OF THAT THE TEMPTER DID NOT GET THE DISOBEDIENCE HE WANTED, BUT GOD THE FATHER GOT THE OBEDIENCE HE WANTED!

* THUS WE SEE THE PURPOSE OF TEMPTATION: IT IS TO GIVE US A POWERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO DECLARE OUR LOYALTY, TO GROW AND TO SHOW THAT **WE BELIEVE THAT GOD'S WAY IS BEST EVEN WHEN WE DON'T ALWAYS FEEL IT SO. LET US FOLLOW OUR SAVIOR'S PATTERN** GIVEN IN LUKE 4 IN DEALING WITH TEMPTATION, I CORINTHIANS 10:13.

** BUT ONE LAST APPLICATION AND THAT WAS SATAN WAS TRYING TO GET JESUS TO DOUBT **HIS FATHER'S LOVE, HIS FATHER'S PROVISION AND HIS FATHER'S WILL.**

*** AND SOMETIMES DURING HARD TIMES AND TRIALS, WE ARE OFTEN TEMPTED TO DOUBT **GOD'S LOVE FOR US. FOR WE REASON, IF GOD** LOVED US, HE WOULD NOT HAVE PERMITTED WHATEVER PAINFUL, HURTFUL, DISAPPOINTING TRIAL WE FIND OURSELVES IN.

**** AND SOMETIMES OUR FRUSTRATION, DOUBT, AND ANGER IS HEIGHTENED BY THE REALIZATION THAT UNGODLY PEOPLE SEEM TO BE PROSPERING, WHERE WE FIND OURSELVES AGREEING WITH THE PSALMIST IN PSALM 73:3 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE PSALM 73:17.

4. AND WE LIKE THE PSALMIST MUST REFOCUS **AND GO BACK TO "IT IS WRITTEN," QUOTE JOHN** 15:13, ROMANS 5:8, EPHESIANS 3:19, ROMANS 8:35-39.

* AND ULTIMATELY TO THINK RIGHT GO BACK TO **THE CROSS, AND IF YOU EVER DOUBT GOD'S** LOVE, THINK AND MEDITATE UPON THE CROSS. AND HOW MUCH DOES GOD LOVE ME? THIS MUCH.

** AND IF YOU ARE HERE WITHOUT THE SAVIOR TODAY, I WANT TO TAKE YOU BACK TO THE CROSS, BECAUSE UPON IT, JESUS DIED FOR SINNERS, TOOK THEIR PLACE, PAID FOR THEIR SIN AND ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD TO CONFIRM TO ALL THAT HE IS GOD THE SON, THE SON OF GOD, THE ONLY SAVIOR WHO CAN FORGIVE YOUR SINS IF YOU COME TO HIM IN REPENTANT FAITH TODAY. (I CALL YOU TO **TURN TO THE SAVIOR TODAY IF YOU DON'T TRULY KNOW HIM.) LET'S PRAY.**