

Time Audit Chronicles: The Temptation of Jesus

(Luke 4:1-13)

Prologue: The Beginning of Jesus' Testing

The Presswood family sat together in the living room, the glow from the fireplace casting flickering shadows on the walls. Ariel had just finished reading Luke 4:1-13, the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. She was deep in thought, trying to grasp the significance of this moment in Jesus' life. Alice, with Mr. Fluffernutter in hand, was pretending to be in the wilderness herself, wandering around the living room as if she were facing her own challenges.

"Daddy," Ariel began, "Why did Jesus have to be tempted by Satan? He's the Son of God—shouldn't He have been immune to temptation?"

Ryan smiled at his daughter's insightful question. "That's a great question, Ariel. Jesus was **fully God** and **fully human**. He came to earth to live a sinless life and be the perfect example for us. Even though He had the power to resist temptation, He chose to face it head-on to show us how to overcome temptation in our own lives. This moment in the wilderness was a critical part of His mission, demonstrating His obedience to God's will and His ability to resist sin on our behalf."

Ariel thought about this for a moment. "So Jesus wasn't immune to temptation, but He was able to resist it because He was always focused on God's Word and His plan?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "Jesus faced temptation just like we do, but He didn't give in. Instead, He responded to each of Satan's temptations by quoting Scripture, showing us how to rely on God's Word for strength. Let's use the Time Audit Machine to go back and witness this powerful moment when Jesus, after fasting for 40 days, resisted Satan's temptations in the wilderness."

The Journey Begins: Jesus in the Wilderness (Luke 4:1-2)

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves in the barren wilderness of Judea, surrounded by rugged terrain and harsh conditions. It was a place of isolation, far from the comforts of civilization. Jesus stood there, having fasted for 40 days and nights, a physical sign of His deep dependence on God.

"This is the wilderness," Ryan said softly, as they observed the rugged surroundings. "After His baptism, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, where He would fast and pray for 40 days. This time of fasting wasn't just about abstaining from food—it was about **spending time with God**, preparing for His public ministry, and preparing to face the spiritual battles ahead."

Ariel looked around at the desolate landscape. "It must have been so difficult—40 days without food in a place like this. Jesus was physically weak, but spiritually strong."

“Yes,” Ryan said. “This is where the battle between Jesus and Satan takes place. Jesus, even though He is fully God, was also fully human, and He felt hunger, weakness, and weariness just like anyone would. But He chose to focus on God’s will and trust in His Word, even in His physical weakness.”

Satan’s First Temptation: Turning Stones to Bread (Luke 4:3-4)

As Jesus stood in the wilderness, His physical hunger became the target of Satan’s first temptation. Satan appeared, attempting to exploit Jesus’ weakness:

“And the devil said unto Him, If Thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” (Luke 4:3-4)

Ariel frowned as she listened to the words of the temptation. “Satan was trying to get Jesus to prove He was the Son of God by turning stones into bread. But Jesus didn’t do it—He responded by quoting Scripture.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Satan’s first temptation was to get Jesus to use His divine power to satisfy His own needs. But Jesus, in His obedience to God’s will, refused to do so. Instead, He quoted **Deuteronomy 8:3**, saying that **man does not live by bread alone**, but by God’s Word. Jesus knew that His mission was more than just physical survival—it was about fulfilling God’s will, even if that meant enduring hunger and hardship.”

Ariel nodded. “Jesus showed us that physical needs aren’t as important as trusting in God’s Word and relying on His provision.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Jesus teaches us that our relationship with God and obedience to His Word are more important than anything else, even our physical needs.”

Satan’s Second Temptation: Power and Glory (Luke 4:5-8)

Satan then took Jesus to a high place, showing Him all the kingdoms of the world in an instant, and promised Jesus that all of them would be His if He would worship Satan:

“And the devil said unto Him, All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be Thine.” (Luke 4:6-7)

Ariel was shocked. “Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would just worship him! That’s such a temptation—having power and glory, but it’s all wrong.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Satan was trying to tempt Jesus with the promise of worldly power, wealth, and glory—things that could have been His without suffering. But Jesus knew that the path to true glory and power was through obedience to God, not through worshiping Satan. Jesus responded by quoting **Deuteronomy 6:13**, saying, ‘Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.’”

Ariel smiled. “Jesus wasn’t interested in shortcuts. He knew that true power comes from serving God, not from taking the easy way out.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Jesus knew that His mission wasn’t about gaining power or glory on earth—it was about fulfilling God’s will, even if it meant rejecting the temptations of this world.”

Satan’s Third Temptation: Testing God (*Luke 4:9-12*)

Finally, Satan took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem, daring Him to throw Himself down and test God’s protection, quoting Scripture himself:

“And the devil said unto Him, If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give His angels charge over Thee, to keep Thee: And in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.” (Luke 4:9-11)

Ariel’s eyes widened in disbelief. “Satan tried to get Jesus to test God by jumping off the temple, saying that God would protect Him. But Jesus didn’t fall for it.”

“No,” Ryan said. “Jesus knew that God’s protection wasn’t a reason to act recklessly. Satan was trying to get Jesus to prove His divine power through an extravagant and unnecessary display. But Jesus responded with **Deuteronomy 6:16**, saying, ‘Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.’ Jesus knew that God’s Word is not something to be manipulated for personal gain or to test God’s patience.”

Ariel nodded. “Jesus showed us that faith isn’t about testing God or trying to make Him prove Himself—it’s about trusting Him fully and living in obedience to His Word.”

Satan’s Defeat and Jesus’ Return to Galilee (*Luke 4:13-14*)

After the three temptations, Satan left Jesus, knowing he had failed. The angels came and ministered to Jesus, strengthening Him for the work ahead. Jesus then returned to Galilee, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, ready to begin His public ministry.

“And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from Him for a season. 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.” (Luke 4:13-14)

Ariel let out a deep breath. “Jesus resisted all the temptations. He didn’t give in to Satan, and He was strengthened by the Holy Spirit to begin His mission.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus shows us how to resist temptation by relying on God’s Word and His strength. Satan tried to lead Jesus astray with promises of power, comfort, and testing God, but Jesus overcame every temptation through Scripture and trust in God’s plan. And just like Jesus, we can resist temptation by knowing and using God’s Word in our own lives.”

Reflection: The Power of God's Word in Temptation

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on the powerful moments they had just witnessed. Ariel turned to her father, deep in thought, while Alice, still holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to face her own challenges in the wilderness.

"Jesus showed us how to fight temptation," Ariel said softly. "He didn't try to resist on His own—He used God's Word every time. That's how we can resist temptation, too."

"Yes," Ryan said, "Jesus shows us the importance of knowing and using Scripture. When we face temptation, we don't have to fight it alone. God

's Word gives us the strength we need to overcome."

Ariel smiled. "Jesus didn't give in to Satan. He chose God's will over everything else, and that's why He's the perfect example for us."

"Exactly," Ryan said. "Jesus was fully human, just like us, but He lived a perfect life. He resisted temptation and lived in perfect obedience to God, showing us that we can rely on God's Word to resist sin."

Takeaway: Overcoming Temptation with God's Word

In Luke 4:1-13, the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness shows us how to resist the lies of Satan and stay faithful to God. Jesus, though fully divine, faced temptation in His humanity. He overcame each temptation by quoting Scripture and relying on God's Word. His example teaches us that when we are tempted, we can stand firm by knowing and using God's Word to fight against sin. Jesus' victory over temptation shows us that true strength comes from trusting God and His plan, not from seeking shortcuts or earthly power.