

It Begins

Jesus is born into the world. John, as the forerunner, prepares the hearts of Israel. He proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John baptizes Jesus as an example. The Spirit descended in bodily form as a dove, and the Father articulated His delight in His Son.

Jesus is Tempted (Luke 4:1-13)

- Jesus is full of and led by the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus has been without food for 40 days. Moses (Exo. 34:28) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:4-8) did the same. (Interesting how these two are present at Jesus' transfiguration as well).
- Tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. Does this connect to the Exodus account? Was Jesus reenacting Israel's baptism into the sea? (Exodus 14; 1 Cor. 10:1-4). One must admit the connections are at least coincidental, if not purposeful. Jesus: Fled to Egypt due to the killing of little boys. Left Egypt. Baptized. Tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. Israel: Move to Egypt. Leave Egypt. Cross the Sea. Wander in the wilderness for 40 years after failing a test of faith. Some people make it out of the wilderness. Some don't. Jesus would. On top of that - Jesus will quote two passages from Deuteronomy 6-8, which remind Israel of God's deliverance from Egypt.
- Observations before entering the text:
 - All three temptations begin with "if." Two challenge His sonship, and one seeks His worship.
 - The three temptations parallel 1 John 2:15-17, which mirrors the temptation in Genesis 3:6.
 - Satan tempts, but you're the one who gives (James 1:14).
 - Jesus turns to scripture to combat Satan. We should take His lead. Satan misquotes scripture. This tactic is alive and well today.
- Temptations:
 - Turn the stone to bread:
 - We can't turn stones into bread, and neither would Jesus. However, it was more profound than that.
 - Quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, we're reminded that God tested Israel in the wilderness for 40 years. He allowed them to be hungry but then fed them with manna. This was to teach them that man doesn't live by bread alone. God had provided for them. Jesus was physically drained but spiritually full!
 - Worship me:
 - High mountain. High enough to see the kingdoms? (It's been claimed that Mt. Quarantania would provide such a view). Miraculous? Not sure. Get the point.
 - Yes, Satan did have some authority, but only one King was present.
 - Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:13, the last instruction in the wilderness, before taking the promised land. After the famous *shema* (*shuh-ma*), God reminds Israel how He delivered them into a new land ready to go. Therefore, it is God alone they should serve. He provides!
 - Throw yourself down:

- I read that Jewish tradition taught the Messiah to appear on top of the temple.
- Satan quotes Psalm 91:11 but leaves out the last portion, "to guard you in all your ways." This is important. I don't know if he deliberately did so, but context matters. This would not be the way of Jesus or His Father. Jesus saw it for what it was - testing God.
 - Though Luke doesn't record it, angels did appear ministering to Jesus. So perhaps the passage Satan misused appropriately came to fruition. The next time we read of angels administering to Jesus is in Gethsemane.
- Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16 in the same context as the first temptation. Not only has God provided. Not only should you serve Him alone, but you should not test your God (like you did at Massah (Mass-us) when they were thirsty - they tested Him by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?").
- Let's take note: Satan returns. Resist him with the word, but be sober: he'll fight as long as possible.
- **In-between vs. 13-16**
 - Further questioning about John's role (Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet)
 - Jesus' first disciples (including Andrew, Peter, James, Philip, & Nathaniel, and most likely John)
 - Jesus turns the water into wine.
 - Jesus travels to Capernaum, which will serve as a home away from home.
 - He heads to Jerusalem and flips tables at the temple.
 - He's performing miracles, and others are responding.
 - Nicodemus meets Jesus.
 - Disciples transition from John to Jesus.
 - Luke 4:14a. This happened when He heard the report about John the Baptist.
 - Jesus speaks to the woman at the well, and Samaritans believe.
 - Luke 4:14b-15 Jesus is back in Galilee. He'll teach in synagogues and make disciples.
 - Jesus heals a nobleman's son in Capernaum.

Jesus Returns Home (16:-31a)

- This begins Jesus' Galilean ministry, which lasted just over one and a half years (Moore says 12/27 A.D. - 4/29 A.D.). When you think of Jesus, most of His classic "stories" occur during this time.
- Jesus last visited Nazareth around a year ago, and John's ministry came to a halt (it is estimated to have lasted 14-18 months).
- Synagogues - Usually refer to a building where a local community is assembled. The synagogue was not a distinctively religious institution, as nonreligious activities also took place there. They provided Jews who lived far from the temple in Jerusalem a place to pray, teach, and - most importantly - read Scripture. Rabbis could lecture there, interpreting the Scriptures, explaining the law, and offering instructions. (Faithlife Study Bible - Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016). They were established between Malachi and Jesus' time. At least 200 years before Jesus. They were a prototype of our fellowships, practicing local autonomy with elders, singing, studying, praying, giving, and even disciplining. Initially, they were primarily for study.
- He reads from Isaiah 61:1-2.
 - The Spirit is upon Him.

- He is the anointed.
- He preaches good news.
- He opens eyes.
- He frees.
- He proclaims the year of the Lord's favor (Possibly the Year of Jubilee - Leviticus 25).
- He claims to have fulfilled the prophecy. To those who didn't believe, this would be the height of arrogance - it's blasphemy.
- The crowd turns on Jesus. He rebuttals their criticism with two examples:
 - Elijah - 1 Kings 17:1-16
 - Elisha - 2 Kings 5:1-14
 - Common denominator? These prophets turned to Gentiles when rejected by the Jews. Jesus would do the same.