

# Luke 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan,  
and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

## Analysis

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Jesus, 'full of the Holy Ghost,' was 'led by the Spirit into the wilderness.' The Greek 'plērēs pneumatōs hagiou' (πλήρης πνεύματος ἁγίου, full of Holy Spirit) emphasizes Jesus' complete Spirit-anointing from His baptism. The Spirit's leading into wilderness for temptation demonstrates divine purpose in testing—not to cause failure but to prove and display Jesus' righteousness. Unlike Israel who failed wilderness testing, Jesus succeeds, showing Him as the true Israel who perfectly obeys God. Temptation follows anointing—spiritual strength invites spiritual attack.

## Historical Context

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The wilderness location recalls Israel's 40-year wilderness wandering after Egyptian exodus. Israel repeatedly failed testing through disobedience and idolatry, forfeiting their inheritance. Jesus' 40 days echo this period, but He succeeds where Israel failed. The wilderness also evokes Elijah's wilderness experiences and John the Baptist's wilderness ministry. In Jewish thought, wilderness represented both testing and spiritual encounter with God—a place of vulnerability requiring complete dependence on divine provision.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' Spirit-led entrance into temptation teach us about the relationship between spiritual anointing and spiritual warfare?
2. What does Jesus' success in wilderness temptation reveal about His qualification to be the true Israel who perfectly obeys God?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἰησοῦς δὲ πνεύματι ἁγίου πλήρης ὑπέστρεψεν ἀπὸ  
Jesus And Ghost of the Holy being full returned from  
G2424 G1161 G4151 G40 G4134 G5290 G575

τοῦ Ἰορδάνου καὶ ἦγετο ἐν τῷ πνεύματι εἰς τὴν  
G3588 Jordan and was led by G3588 Ghost into G3588  
G2446 G2532 G71 G1722 G4151 G1519

ἔρημον  
the wilderness  
G2048

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 10:38** (Holy): How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

**Luke 4:18** (Spirit): The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

**Isaiah 61:1** (Spirit): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind

up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

**John 3:34** (Spirit): For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

**Matthew 3:16** (Spirit): And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

**John 1:32** (Spirit): And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

**Ezekiel 3:14** (Spirit): So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

**Luke 4:14** (Spirit): 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.

**Acts 8:39** (Spirit): And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

**1 Kings 19:4** (Parallel theme): But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.