

# Luke 4:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

## Analysis

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Satan offers 'all the kingdoms of the world' in exchange for worship, revealing both his temporary dominion over fallen creation and his ultimate aim. The phrase 'delivered unto me' (Greek 'paradedotai moi') contains truth—fallen humanity handed authority to Satan through sin (Romans 5:12). Paul calls Satan 'the god of this world' (2 Corinthians 4:4) and 'the prince of the power of the air' (Ephesians 2:2). Yet Satan's claim exceeds his authority; he is a usurper, not rightful owner. The temptation presents a shortcut to Messianic glory—rulership without suffering, crown without cross. This temptation would recur throughout Jesus's ministry as people sought to make Him king by force (John 6:15). Reformed theology recognizes this as the essence of all false religion: worship of created things (including Satan) rather than the Creator.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern kingdoms were often gained through military conquest or political alliance. Satan offers immediate universal dominion without the suffering prophesied in Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22. For a Jewish audience expecting a conquering Messiah who would overthrow Rome, this temptation had powerful appeal. The offer also exposed Satan's motivation—not mere hatred of humanity, but usurpation of worship that belongs to God alone. In showing Jesus 'all the kingdoms' in 'a moment of time,' Satan demonstrated his supernatural ability to transcend normal physical limitations, making the temptation more impressive.

Early church fathers saw here Satan's fundamental sin—the proud demand for worship—and Christ's humble submission to the Father's redemptive plan.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this temptation expose Satan's ultimate goal in all his schemes?
2. In what ways are Christians tempted to pursue godly ends through ungodly means?
3. Why must Christ's path to glory necessarily pass through suffering and the cross?

## Interlinear Text

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Καὶ ἀναγαγὼν αὐτῷ ὁ διάβολος εἰς ὅρος ὑψηλὸν  
And taking him G3588 the devil G1228 into mountain an high  
G2532 G321 G846 G1519 G3735 G5308

ἔδειξεν αὐτῷ πάσας τὰς βασιλείας τῆς οἰκουμένης ἐν  
shewed him all G3588 the kingdoms G932 G3588 of the world in  
G1166 G846 G3956 G3625 G1722

στιγμῇ χρόνου  
a moment of time  
G4743 G5550

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 73:19** (Parallel theme): How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

**Job 20:5** (Evil): That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?

**Ephesians 6:12** (Evil): For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

**1 Corinthians 15:52** (Parallel theme): In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

**Matthew 4:8** (Kingdom): Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;