

# Mark 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

## Analysis

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The phrase 'immediately the Spirit driveth him' (εὐθὺς τὸ Πνεῦμα αὐτὸν ἐκβάλλει, euthys to Pneuma auton ekballei) uses violent imagery—'driveth' (ekballei) means to cast out or expel forcefully, the same verb used for exorcising demons. This demonstrates that Jesus' wilderness testing wasn't accidental but divinely ordained. The Spirit who just descended upon Jesus at baptism now compels Him into confrontation with Satan. This sequence reveals God's sovereign plan: anointing precedes testing, commission precedes conflict. The wilderness recalls Israel's forty-year testing after exodus through the Red Sea (a baptism, 1 Corinthians 10:1-2), but unlike Israel who failed repeatedly, Jesus will succeed perfectly. Reformed theology emphasizes that Christ's temptation was real—He faced genuine enticement to sin yet remained sinless (Hebrews 4:15), qualifying Him as the sympathetic High Priest and the Last Adam who succeeds where the first Adam failed. His victory over Satan in the wilderness foreshadows His ultimate victory at the cross (Colossians 2:15).

## Historical Context

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Mark's account is notably brief compared to Matthew and Luke's detailed temptation narratives. The timing 'immediately' after baptism indicates no delay—Jesus moves directly from public anointing to private testing. The wilderness (erēmos) likely refers to the Judean desert west of the Dead Sea, a harsh, desolate region where hermits and ascetics sought spiritual encounters. This was also where Israel wandered forty years. Jewish expectation held that the Messiah would recapitulate Israel's history, and Jesus does so perfectly—succeeding where Israel

failed. The immediate sequence (baptism-wilderness-ministry) established a pattern: divine commissioning is confirmed through testing before fruitful ministry begins.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does understanding that the Spirit drove Jesus into temptation help you view your own trials as divinely appointed opportunities for spiritual growth rather than accidents or punishments?
2. What does Jesus' immediate obedience to the Spirit's leading into difficulty teach about trusting God's guidance even when it leads to hardship?

## Interlinear Text

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|       |             |       |            |       |          |       |       |
|-------|-------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|-------|-------|
| Kαὶ   | εὐθὺς       | τὸ    | πνεῦμα     | αὐτὸν | ἐκβάλλει | εἰς   | τὴν   |
| And   | immediately | G3588 | the Spirit | him   | driveth  | into  | G3588 |
| G2532 | G2117       |       | G4151      | G846  | G1544    | G1519 |       |

ἐρημον  
the wilderness

G2048

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