

Mark 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

Analysis

Mark's account states Jesus 'was in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan'. The forty days parallel Moses' forty days on Sinai, Elijah's journey to Horeb, and Israel's forty years—Jesus fulfills these typologies. 'And was with the wild beasts' evokes both danger and Edenic harmony. 'And the angels ministered unto him' indicates divine provision. Where Adam fell in paradise, Christ prevails in wilderness. Reformed theology sees Jesus as the Second Adam who succeeds where the first failed.

Historical Context

The forty-day period carried deep Old Testament significance. Moses fasted forty days on Sinai (Exodus 24:18), Elijah traveled forty days to Horeb (1 Kings 19:8), Israel wandered forty years (Numbers 14:33-34). Jesus' forty days fulfill these types—He is the true Israel who perfectly obeys. The Judean wilderness was dangerous terrain inhabited by predatory animals, yet Jesus was supernaturally protected.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' forty-day testing demonstrate that qualification for ministry requires proven faithfulness?
2. In what ways does Jesus' victory over Satan provide confidence for believers facing temptation?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἐν τῇ ἔρημῳ ἡμέρας τεσσαράκοντα
And he was there in the wilderness days forty
G2532 G2258 G1563 G1722 G3588 G2048 G2250 G5062

πειραζόμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ Σατανᾶ καὶ ἦν μετὰ τῶν
tempted of Satan And he was with G3588 G4567 G2532 G2258 G3326 G3588
G3985 G5259 G4567 G3588

θηρίων καὶ οἱ ἄγγελοι διηκόνουν αὐτῷ
the wild beasts And the angels ministered unto him
G2342 G2532 G3588 G32 G1247 G846

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:15 (Parallel theme): For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Exodus 34:28 (Parallel theme): And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

Matthew 26:53 (Parallel theme): Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?