

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	ἐρήμῳ	ἡμέρας	τεσσαράκοντα
And	he was	there	in	G3588	the wilderness	days	forty
G2532	G2258	G1563	G1722		G2048	G2250	G5062
πειραζόμενος	ὑπὸ	τοῦ	Σατανᾶ	καὶ	ἦν	μετὰ	τῶν
tempted	of	G3588	Satan	And	he was	with	G3588
G3985	G5259		G4567	G2532	G2258	G3326	
θηρίων	καὶ	οἱ	ἄγγελοι	διηκόνουν	αὐτῷ		
the wild beasts	And	G3588	the angels	ministered	unto him		
G2342	G2532		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?