

Matthew 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Analysis

Jesus being 'led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil' shows the Spirit's guidance into testing, not away from it. The Greek word 'tempted' (peirazō) can mean tested or enticed—here both apply. This wilderness testing immediately follows His baptismal anointing, demonstrating that spiritual high points often precede trials. Jesus must prove qualified as the Last Adam where the first Adam failed.

Historical Context

The Judean wilderness west of the Dead Sea is barren, rocky, and dangerous. The 40-day fast parallels Moses (Exodus 34:28) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:8), linking Jesus to Law and Prophets. Satan's name means 'adversary,' identifying him as the covenant enemy.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does knowing the Spirit leads us into testing change your perspective on trials?
2. What does Jesus' temptation teach about spiritual preparation?

Interlinear Text

Τότε ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀνήχθη εἰς τὴν ἔρημον ὑπὸ τοῦ
Then G3588 was Jesus led up into G3588 the wilderness of G3588
G5119 G2424 G321 G1519 G2048 G5259

πνεύματος πειρασθῆναι ὑπὸ τοῦ διαβόλου
the Spirit to be tempted of G3588 the devil
G4151 G3985 G5259 G1228

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 2:18 (Parallel theme): For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Romans 8:14 (Spirit): For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Ezekiel 43:5 (Spirit): So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.

John 14:30 (Parallel theme): Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

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.

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.

Ezekiel 3:12 (Spirit): Then the spirit took me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, saying, Blessed be the glory of the LORD from his place.

Ezekiel 40:2 (Parallel theme): In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city on the south.

1 Kings 18:12 (Spirit): And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

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