

Matthew 4:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

Analysis

Satan's challenge 'If thou be the Son of God' attacks Christ's identity and tempts Him to prove His sonship through miraculous sign rather than trusting the Father's word declared at baptism. This parallels the serpent's 'Yea, hath God said?' (Genesis 3:1). The temptation was to use divine power for self-preservation rather than depend on providence, anticipating the later mockery at the cross: 'If thou be the Son of God, come down' (Matthew 27:40).

Historical Context

The pinnacle of the temple was likely the Royal Portico overlooking the Kidron Valley, approximately 450 feet above the valley floor. This was a public place where a miraculous sign would gain maximum attention and validate messianic claims.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Satan's tactic of questioning God's word parallel his temptation of Eve in the garden?

2. Why was trusting the Father's providence rather than demanding miraculous proof crucial to Christ's obedience?

Interlinear Text

Τότε παραλαμβάνει αὐτὸν ὁ διάβολος εἰς τὴν ἁγίαν
Then taketh him the devil into the holy
G5119 G3880 G846 G3588 G1228 G1519 G3588 G40

πόλιν καὶ ἴστησιν αὐτὸν ἐπὶ τῷ πτερύγιον τοῦ
city and setteth him on a pinnacle G3588
G4172 G2532 G2476 G846 G1909 G4419 G3588

ἰεροῦ
of the temple
G2411

Additional Cross-References

Luke 4:9 (Temple): And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

Revelation 11:2 (Holy): But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

Matthew 27:53 (Holy): And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Isaiah 48:2 (Holy): For they call themselves of the holy city, and stay themselves upon the God of Israel; The LORD of hosts is his name.