

# Matthew 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

## Analysis

This climactic temptation offers Christ all earthly kingdoms without the suffering of the cross, presenting a shortcut to dominion without substitutionary atonement. Satan's claim to give these kingdoms reveals his current role as 'god of this world' (2 Corinthians 4:4), though his authority is delegated and temporary. The temptation mirrors Satan's original rebellion—grasping equality with God through autonomous means rather than submissive obedience.

## Historical Context

The 'exceeding high mountain' may be literal or visionary. The kingdoms shown represent Satan's temporary dominion over fallen creation, which he received through Adam's fall and which Christ came to reclaim through the cross and resurrection.

## Related Passages

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does this temptation offer Christ glory without suffering, and why must He reject this shortcut?
2. What does Satan's temporary authority over earthly kingdoms teach about the present evil age and Christ's redemptive work?

## Interlinear Text

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Πάλιν παραλαμβάνει αὐτῶν ὁ διάβολος εἰς ὅρος  
Again taketh him G3588 the devil into mountain  
G3825 G3880 G846 G1228 G1519 G3735

ὑψηλὸν λίαν καὶ δείκνυσιν αὐτῶν πάσας τὰς  
high an exceeding and sheweth him all G3588  
G5308 G3029 G2532 G1166 G846 G3956 G3588

βασιλείας τοῦ κόσμου καὶ τὴν δόξαν αὐτῶν  
the kingdoms of the world and the glory him  
G3588 G2889 G2532 G1391 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 16:26** (Parallel theme): For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

**Revelation 11:15** (Kingdom): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

**1 Peter 1:24** (Glory): For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

**Daniel 4:30** (Kingdom): The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

**Esther 5:11** (Kingdom): And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.

**Esther 1:4** (Kingdom): When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.

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