

THE KING BINDS THE STRONG MAN

Matthew 3:16-4:11

Theme of Matthew: "Behold your King is coming to you" (Zech.9:9 with Matt.21:4-5)

I. FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS (Matthew 4:2)

- A. When biblical events of great importance happen, they are often associated with the number "forty."
1. The rains of the Flood lasted forty days (**Gen.7:4,12,17**; 8:6).
 2. Moses and Elijah fasted forty days (Exod.24:18; 34:28; **Deut.9:9,11,25**; 10:10; 1 Kings 19:8).
 3. Meribah [water from the rock] happened about 40 days after Israel had left Egypt (Ex.17:7; Psalm 95:8; Heb.3:8,15).
 4. Massah happened about 40 years after Meribah (Num.20:13).
 5. Israel wandered in the *wilderness forty years* (Deut.8:2-3; cf. Ex.16:35; Num.14:33; Deut.2:7; 8:2,4; 29:5; Josh.5:6; Neh.9:21; Psalm 95:10; Amos 2:10; Acts 7:36)
 6. Israel was in the hands of the Philistines forty years before Samson delivered them (Judges 13:1).
 7. Ezekiel lay on his side forty days to symbolize Israel's judgment (Ezek.4:6)
 8. Jonah preached to the Ninevites, "Forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4)
 9. Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3)
 10. The challenge of the Philistine champion _____ lasted forty days (1 Samuel 17:16).
- B. The importance of Jesus' temptation was that Jesus was tempted so that He might be able to identify with us, be tempted as we are tempted, overcome the tempter, and die for the sins of His people.
- C. That Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights is an indication that His temptation was one of the greatest and most important historical events ever.

II. THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS IS EPOCHAL FOR AT LEAST THREE REASONS.

- A. The temptation of Jesus was epochal because Jesus was tempted as the Second Adam (cf. Matthew 1:1 with Genesis 5:1).
1. Adam was placed in Paradise. Jesus came from Paradise to be tempted in the wilderness.
 2. Adam had all the food that he wanted. Jesus was hungry.
 3. Mark's Gospel brings out two more parallels between the temptation of Jesus and Adam in the Garden of Eden.
 - a. Adam was among unfallen beasts. Jesus was among wild beasts (Mark 1:13).
 - b. The Spirit **drove/impelled** Jesus into the wilderness (Mark 1:12 with Genesis 3:24).

Genesis 3:24 (cf. Gen.4:14)

So He **drove** (*ekballo*) the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

Mark 1:12

Immediately the Spirit **impelled** (*ekballo*) Him to go out into the wilderness.

Mark 1:34 (Mark 3:15,22,23; 9:38 cf. Matthew 8:16; 12:28)

34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and **cast out** (*ekballo*) many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

- B. The temptation of Jesus was epochal for a second reason: It parallels Israel's forty years in the wilderness.
1. Like Israel, Jesus is tempted by hunger//manna (Ex 16:1–8 with Matthew 4:3-4),
 2. Like Israel, Jesus is tempted to put God to the test (Ex 17:1–3 with Matthew 4:5-7)
 3. Like Israel, Jesus is tempted to idolatry (Ex 32 with Matthew 4:8-10).
 - a. In the OT, the nation of Israel is called God's *son* (Exodus 4:22).
 - b. There is a great emphasis on "Sonship" in the temptations of Christ (Matthew 3:17; 4:3,6).

- C. The temptation of Jesus is epochal for a third reason: Jesus the faithful Son of God ***binds up the strong man*** (Matthew 8:29; 12:22-29; Mark 3:21-27//Luke 11:14-22; cf. Luke 10:17,18; John 12:31,32; Jude 6; Rev.20:1-3).
1. Jesus' victory over the devil is an exercise of authority and is foundational for His miracles and His casting out of demons (**Matthew 12:22-29**).
 2. Christ's overcoming of Satan in Matthew 4 and His later miracles were a wholesale looting of Satan's kingdom.

“Perhaps the devil might permit a few exorcisms to bring fame to a sorcerer and gain ground in the long run; Jesus' widespread expulsion of demons, however, constitutes no minor strategic retreat, but a wholesale assault on Satan's kingdom on earth” (Craig Keener, *A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew* 363).

Matthew 8:29

And they cried out, saying, “What business do we have with each other, **Son of God**? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

Isaiah 24:21-23

So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth.

22 They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished.

23 Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders.

Acts 10:38

“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

III. WHICH KINGDOM DO YOU BELONG TO?

- A. The life of the Christian is literally a supernatural life.
- B. The good news of the Gospel and the good news of Jesus overcoming Satan's temptations is that He came to destroy the devils works.
- C. If you've been saved from your sins, then you've also been saved from the *power* of sin.

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Are you living a life in the power of the Holy Spirit or are you living a life overpowered by sin? Are you living a life in service to Jesus Christ or in service of your own flesh?

What is the biblical significance of the number forty? What does Jesus' fasting forty days and forty nights teach us about the temptation?

Why was the temptation of Jesus “epochal”; one of the greatest of all historical events?

Explain the following statement, “If you've been saved from your sins, then you've also been saved from the power of sin.”