

Guided by a cloud 48 (Exodus 13:21-22)

After His baptism in the River Jordan, Jesus did not start His public ministry by teaching in the synagogue or preaching in the streets. He did not begin by performing miracles or walking on the water. Instead, the first thing Jesus chose to do was to confront the devil. He travelled out into the desert to fast and pray for 40 days, and there He was tempted three times by Satan. **Matthew 4:1-11**

Worship time

[All my days](#)

[Here I am, I surrender](#)

[UK Blessing](#)

THIS IS MY
BELOVED
SON, IN WHOM
I AM WELL PLEASED.



MATTHEW 3:17

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert links to the story of Israel's 40 years in the wilderness during the exodus.

Israel's first test. After Moses parted the Red Sea and led the Israelites out of Egypt and into the desert, the people celebrated. However, their rejoicing quickly turned into panic about how to find food. Instead of

trusting in God to provide, the people turned against Moses, saying, "You have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (Ex. 16:3).

Jesus' first test. Similarly, Jesus faced hunger. Unlike Israel, who doubted that God would provide for their needs in the wilderness, Jesus does not waver from trusting the Father. He quotes Deut. 8:3 saying, "man does not live by bread alone".

Israel's second test. After God provided for Israel by sending them bread from heaven (manna), they soon wondered how they were going to find water to drink. Once again, instead of putting their trust in God to provide for their needs, they doubted Him and accused Moses: "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?" (Ex. 17:3). God responded by giving them water from a rock, and He named the place "Massah" which means "place of testing." The people had unjustly tested God's trustworthiness.

Jesus' second test. Satan said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, He will give his angels charge of you" (Mt. 4:6). Unlike the Israelites at Massah, Jesus refused to test God. He responds to the devil by quoting part of Deut. 6:16. "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah".

Israel's third test. After Moses left the people to go up the mountain for 40 days and receive the Ten Commandments, the people did not know what happened to their leader and feared he had died. Failing to trust God yet again, they built an idol in the shape of a golden calf, putting their trust in an Egyptian pagan deity.

Jesus' third test. Similarly, Satan tempted Jesus to worship him in exchange for all the kingdoms of the world. Jesus refused to worship a false god and responded by alluding to Deut. 6:14, saying "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve" (Mt. 4:10).

The Victory of Jesus

Jesus' victory over the devil sets the tone for the rest of His public ministry. He will go from town to town carrying out His victory in the lives of the people He meets. Jesus frees people from the power and effects of sin, so that they may experience God's victory in their own lives. This all leads to Jesus' work on the Cross, where He conquers the devil once and for all and wins salvation for everyone.