

Jesus' Plan of Attack

Matthew 4:1-11: ¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. ⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ⁸ 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; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."

I. Verse 1—"Then"

- A. In our last study, we saw how the Lord started His public ministry with His baptism in Matthew 3.
- B. Even though there is a chapter break there with the sound of the voice of God the Father, there were no chapter breaks in Matthew (as there were no chapter breaks in any of the books of the Bible).
- C. "Then" in verse 1 of chapter 4 is important.
 1. The verse says, "**Then** was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."
- D. The heavens have opened before the Lord Jesus. God the Father descends on the Lord Jesus and announces that the Lord Jesus is God the Son. The trinity of the Godhead is there.
- E. Right after that God the Spirit leads Jesus up into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.
- F. That word "then" has a lesson for us. First, there will be a great blessing, and then a great battle may follow. This lesson is expressed by a famous saying of the Samurai Tokugawa which is "After victory, tighten the straps on your helmet."
- G. Here was a joyful time when the Lord was baptized, but that time was followed by a great battle of temptations. Now was the time to tighten the helmet straps.
 1. We think when we have had a season of blessing and happiness that all will be clear sailing all the way into the harbor of Heaven.
 2. Just as we saw with the Lord following His baptism, after a time of blessing, we need to tighten the straps of our helmet and prepare for the coming battle.
 3. It is just like the hymn, "My Soul Be on Thy Guard."

*My soul, be on thy **guard**,
Ten thousand foes **arise**,
And hosts of sin are **pressing hard**
To **draw thee** from the skies.
Oh, watch, **and fight**, and pray,
The **battle** ne'er give o'er,
Renew it boldly every day,
And help divine implore.*

***Ne'er think the vict'ry won,
Nor once at ease sit down;
Thine arduous work will not be done
Till thou hast got the crown.***

- H. The biblical equivalent of “After victory, tighten the straps of your helmet” is what God told Israel in **Deuteronomy 8:10-11**.
1. The verses say, “¹⁰ *When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.* ¹¹ *Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day.*”
 2. Israel was in the greatest danger of the temptation to forget the Lord their God when they had eaten and were full.
- II. Verse 1—“*Jesus Led up of the Spirit...to be tempted*”
- A. Normally, we think that we just wander on our own into dangerous territory, and we are tempted.
1. **Matthew 4:1** says, “*Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*”
- B. The Lord was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. This was a purposeful action of the Holy Spirit. He led Jesus to be tempted.
1. Why do you think that the Holy Spirit intentionally led the Lord Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted?
- C. This was the first operation of the Spirit after the Lord Jesus was baptized. The Lord came to save the world from sin, and the first thing that the Spirit of God does is to drive the Lord out of the world.
- D. We can think of several reasons, and they all remind us of the Lord’s mission as the Messiah.
1. **Matthew 1:21** says, “*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*”
- E. The Lord was sent into the world with a commission of **1 John 4:14**.
1. The verse states, “*And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.*”
- F. He was sent to be the Savior of the world, and that means that He was sent to free the world from their bondage.
- G. The world is in bondage to the devil as stated in **1 John 5:19**.
1. **1 John 5:19** says, “*And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*”
- H. The whole world is under the control of the devil. That control is in areas described in **1 John 2:16**.
1. **1 John 2:16** states, “*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*”
- I. The world is controlled by the power of the devil. The weapons that the devil uses to control the world are the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The world is controlled by those lusts and pride.
- J. In order to be the Savior of the world, the Lord needed to have personal victory over those three areas to show that He was not under the control of the devil.
1. He needed to have that personal victory before He entered into His public ministry of freeing souls from Satan’s power.
 2. By starting His ministry with these three temptations, the Lord became an example for us.

3. Just as the Lord could not go on in His walk and ministry as a man of God until He overcame these three key temptations, every believer has to overcome these three key temptations.
 4. Just as the Lord chose God over satisfying the feeling of hunger by turning stones into bread, every believer has to renounce pleasure in order to go on with God.
 5. Just as the Lord chose God's way over His own way to prove He was the Messiah by jumping off the Temple, every believer has to renounce his own way in order to go on with God.
 6. Just as the Lord chose God over gaining the world which the devil offered to Him, every believer has to renounce the world in order to go on with God.
 7. In order for the Lord to go on with God in His ministry as the Messiah, it was important for the Lord in these three temptations for Him.
 - a. To renounce pleasure to choose God
 - b. To renounce His way to choose God's way
 - c. To renounce the world to choose God
- K. The second reason for the Lord to start His ministry with being tempted by the devil is because the Lord had to fight the devil as a man.
1. The Lord starts His work on earth as a man with a battle with the devil. He ended His work on earth as a man with the great final battle with the devil on the cross. There, He finally defeated the devil as a man.
- L. The third reason for the Lord to start His ministry with being by the devil is because it showed that the Lord could be tempted. That made the Lord a special High Priest for us.
1. **Hebrews 4:15** says, *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."*
- M. These three temptations in a general sense encompass all the temptations that you and I face in life. From the start, the Lord endured those temptations so that He could be touched with the feeling of their infirmities.
- N. What we see with these temptations is how these temptations increased in ferocity and drama.
1. Turning the desert into a bakery full of bread to
 2. Gaining the admiration of all in Jerusalem from casting Himself down from the Temple to
 3. Gaining the whole world
- O. It shows us how the devil increases the intensity of our temptations.
- P. The three temptations meant that when the Lord had overcome the first temptation, that did not protect the Lord from facing the second temptation. When He overcame the second temptation, that that did not protect the Lord from the third temptation.
1. If we win over one temptation, that does not guarantee that we will not face another temptation.
- Q. Looking at His temptations as one, then two, and then three temptations seems discouraging.
1. There was not a fourth temptation is encouraging for us. We can see from the fact that there was not a fourth temptation that our temptations are numbered and metered.
 2. They are not more than we can bear just as stated in **1 Corinthians 10:13**.
 - a. The verse says, *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

R. The Lord Jesus is our Shepherd. He knows what we suffer, and He says to the devil that the devil can go only so far in harming us and no farther. This is what we saw in the case of Job.

1. The devil asked God for permission to destroy Job, and God put a limitation on the harm that the devil could do to Job in **Job 1:12**.

a. **Job 1:12** states, *“And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.”*

2. That was the Lord saying to the devil that he could only go so far in harming Job.

III. Verse 1—*“Tempted of the devil”*

A. In verse 1, we see for the first time this new character with the name of the devil.

B. The devil is a real person who thinks and strategizes. He is a person who seeks to persuade and influence.

C. The devil is introduced to us in this fourth chapter of the New Testament just as he was introduced to us in the third chapter of the Old Testament.

D. The word “devil” in Greek means a slanderer. This is someone who speaks against like an accuser.

E. The devil is able to possess animals as we saw in the Old Testament in **Genesis 3:1-6**.

1. **Genesis 3:1-6** says, *“¹ Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”*

F. The devil is subtle and crafty. The devil tempts, but the devil does not force

1. If Eve said, “The devil made me do it,” that would have been false because the devil only tempted Eve to do it. The devil did not make Eve do it. Eve did it from her own free will. Eve did not have to do it.

G. The devil enticed Eve, and that is how the devil is described in **2 Corinthians 11:3**.

1. The verse says, *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”*

H. The Lord Jesus described the devil with two words in **John 8:44**.

1. **John 8:44** states, *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”*

2. The two words that the Lord Jesus used to describe the devil was “murderer” and “liar.”

I. The devil has a realm that he is the ruler over.

1. **Revelation 16:10** says, *“And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain.”*

2. The devil’s kingdom is a kingdom of darkness and of pain.

- J. Verse 1 is the first time this name “devil” is used in the Bible. In the Old Testament, he is only called by the name “Satan.”
 - 1. In the Old Testament, we learn what the word “Satan” means from what Solomon said to Hiram, the king of Tyre in 1 Kings.
 - a. **1 Kings 5:2-4** says, “² And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, ³ Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. ⁴ But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent.”
- K. Solomon was telling Hiram that his father David could not build the Temple because of all the wars that David fought. Then came Solomon who had no wars.
- L. There was peace during the time of Solomon.
 - 1. In fact, Solomon’s name means “peaceful.”
 - 2. Explaining to Hiram that there was peace and no war during his time, Solomon said to Hiram in **1 Kings 5:4**, “There is neither adversary.” The word that Solomon used that was translated to “adversary.” Solomon called a warring adversary a “Satan.”
 - 3. Satan is the warring enemy of God. Satan is the adversary of God. Satan opposes everything about God. When there is a person who stands for God, then Satan opposes that person.
- M. When the Lord Jesus starts His work in this chapter as God who has made Himself in the weakness of man, we see Satan step in to fight with the man, the Lord Jesus.
 - 1. We see the Lord Jesus in this chapter as the consummate fighter with Satan as He wins this battle with Satan.

IV. Verse 1—“*The wilderness*”

- A. It is interesting that this first hand to hand battle between the Lord Jesus, and the devil took place in the wilderness.
- B. After a time of great blessing with His baptism, the Lord was led into the wilderness to be alone. That shows us how good it is to be alone.
 - 1. We spend so much time with people that it is a treat for us to just be alone with God.
- C. It is a tough struggle to first even have a quiet time with God. It is even tougher to make that quiet time a valuable quiet time.
- D. It is a tough struggle of choice, and the picture we have of that tough struggle is the person of Mary, the sister of Martha. Martha had succumbed to the pressure and had abandoned sitting at Jesus’ feet. Mary had struggled against the pressure and chose to sit at Jesus’ feet and hear His word in **Luke 10:38-42**.
 - 1. **Luke 10:38-42** says, “³⁸ Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. ⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: ⁴² But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”
 - 2. Mary struggled through with her choice. She might have thought, “No matter how much pressure is put on me to get involved with the list of urgencies. I have chosen to put everything aside and sit at Jesus’ feet and hear His word.”

- a. The Lord said that she had chosen the one needful thing, and that it was not going to be taken away from her.
 - E. It is a struggle to have a morning quiet time with God. It is a struggle to have a quality quiet time alone with God, but, it is the most valuable thing we do in the day.
 - 1. For the first 40 days when the Lord was in the wilderness, He was alone with God. It was a wonderful time.
 - F. After the 40 days when the Lord was alone, the devil came to fight against the Lord.
 - 1. Being alone does not mean we are protected from the attacks of the devil.
- V. Verse 2—*“Fasted 40 days...he was...an hungred”*
 - A. **Matthew 4:2** says, *“And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.”*
 - B. Verse 2 tells us that the Lord was hungry.
 - 1. **John 19:28** states, *“Jesus...saith, I thirst.”*
 - 2. That shows us how the Lord can have compassion on us when we are hungry and thirsty because the Lord suffered hunger and thirst.
 - C. Verse 2 tells us that the Lord Jesus was hungry after 40 days of not eating.
 - 1. I am hungry after 40 minutes of not eating.
 - D. At the 40 day mark is when starvation sets in. Verse 2 tells us the Lord started to feel the pains of starvation.
 - 1. That was the time when *“the tempter came to him.”*
 - E. The devil was watching the Lord to find the most opportune time to attack.
 - F. Notice the picture of the devil watching the Lord and not coming out in the open until the Lord was in His weakest state.
 - 1. This is the picture of the lion who stays in the long grass and follows a herd of water buffalo, or a herd of elephants, or an antelope and just watches them. He’s looking for the weakest one in the herd. It might be a young one who gets separated from its mother, an old one who can’t keep up with the herd, or a wounded one who drops behind.
 - 2. The lion targets that one and just waits for his opportunity of the greatest vulnerability. Then, he strikes.
 - 3. This is what the devil is doing here with the Lord. He is watching the Lord during those 40 days, patiently waiting for the opportunity of greatest vulnerability.
 - 4. It is important for us to realize that the devil is like a lurking lion who is waiting for the time of greatest vulnerability. We should heed the warning found in **1 Peter 5:8**.
 - a. **1 Peter 5:8** says, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”*
 - G. The devil is patient. If it takes waiting 40 days, the devil will wait 40 days before making his great assault on the Lord.
- VI. Verse 3—*“Tempter...said...stones be made bread”*
 - A. The devil said to the Lord in verse 3, *“If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.”*
 - B. The devil attacked the Lord at the point of his greatest vulnerability regarding His hunger.
 - 1. The devil is like a tailor with his temptations. Just like a tailor studies the person and cuts the cloth to make a jacket that fits perfectly, the devil studies us and cuts the cloth to make a temptation that fits our vulnerability perfectly.
 - C. The devil first comes like a friend saying to the Lord, “Hey pal, I see you are pretty hungry there. Let me give you some friendly advice. Why don’t you just use your power to turn these stones into nice hot, steaming, fresh bread?”

1. The whole strategy is for the devil to get the Lord to say, “That is a great idea to use my power turn these stones into bread. Why didn’t I think of that? Thanks, devil!”
 2. The devil would say, “Don’t mention it. Just trying to be helpful.”
- D. It all appeared so friendly as the devil just gave some friendly advice of what to do about this problem of being so hungry.
- E. That is how the devil first approached Eve. The devil did not first approach Eve saying, “Hi. I am the devil, God’s adversary. I am here to oppose God and you. I am your enemy.”
1. The devil came to Eve with some friendly advice in **Genesis 3:1-5**.
 - a. The verses say, “*1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*”
- F. All the devil was doing was just saying to Eve, “Let me give you some friendly advice. You will not really die if you eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. Let me tell you that God is jealous of you having your eyes opened and becoming greater than you are. My friendly advice is for you to just go for it and eat from that tree.”
1. Satan was wanting Eve to say, “Thanks for that good advice.”
- G. The devil always transforms himself into a friendly angel of light who gives good advice.
1. **2 Corinthians 11:14** says, “*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*”
- H. The first step of the devil with Eve was to get her to doubt when he said, “*Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*”
1. The devil started by trying to get Eve to doubt with the question.
 - a. “Did God really say that you should not eat from every tree in the garden?”
 - b. “Are you sure you heard God right?”
 - c. “Maybe you did not hear God right. Maybe God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden.”
 2. All that was designed to get Eve to doubt.
- I. This is what the devil did to the Lord when he said to the Lord in verse 3.
1. **Matthew 4:3** says, “*If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*”
 2. That was a statement to try and get the Lord to doubt as he said to Eve, “*Hath God said.*” He was saying to the Lord, “Are you sure you are the Son of God? Satisfy your hunger and prove you are really the Son of God.”
- J. Even still today, Satan’s first step is to get people to doubt.
1. “Are you sure that the Bible is completely true?”
 2. “How could it be true since it was copied so many times over thousands of years?”
 3. “And with so many translations, do you really know what the Bible says?”
 4. “Do you really want to trust the Bible?”
 5. “Don’t you know that scientists have proven that the Bible’s claim that the world is only 6000 years old is wrong? Don’t you know that scientists have proven that life and man just evolved over billions of years and that there was no special Creation like the Bible claims?”

6. "Are you really sure the Bible is accurate? I just want to give you some friendly advice. I think you should just take another look, pal."
- K. Doubt is Satan's first strategy.
- L. The deceiver's strategy is the idea of how incompatible it is for this situation to occur.
1. When the devil said in **Matthew 4:3**, "*If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread,*" the devil was saying to the Lord, "It's incompatible for the Son of God to be starving to death. Do something to stop this situation."
- M. That is the same thought that the devil comes to us with.
1. "Are you so unhappy in that marriage of yours? It is incompatible for a child of God to be so unhappy like that in life. God wants you to be happy. Get out of that marriage of sorrows."
 2. "Are you really a child of God and you are suffering like that? You are a child of God. You have to power to change the situation. Just go for it."
 3. That is all the strategy of, "It is incompatible for you to be suffering like you as a child of God" or as the devil said to the Lord, "It is incompatible for you to be suffering this hunger as the Son of God."

VII. Verse 3—"Command"

- A. The devil chose a very specific word to use in his temptation of the Lord when he said in verse 4.
1. **Matthew 4:4** says, "*If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*"
- B. It was the word "command" that was the word in Creation.
1. **Genesis 1:3**—"And God said, *Let there be light: and there was light.*"
 2. **2 Corinthians 4:6**—"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness."
 3. **John 1:1; John 1:3**—"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...¹ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."³
 4. **Hebrews 1:2-3**—"His Son...upholding all things by the word of his power."
- C. The devil was saying to the Lord, "If you are the Son of God, you have 'The Word of Power.' You **command**, and it is so. Just **command** that these stones be made bread and they will become bread."

VIII. Verse 4—"He answered...It is written"

- A. Those were the attacks that the devil mounted on the Lord, and now, it came time for the Lord to fight back which He did by responding in verse 4.
1. **Matthew 4:4** says, "*But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*"
- B. The Lord responded to this first temptation with the words, "*It is written.*" The Lord fought back with the same three words to the second temptation in **Matthew 4:7**.
1. In verse 7, it says, "*It is written again.*"
- C. The Lord fought back against the third temptation with the same three words in verse 10.
1. **Matthew 4:10** says, "*It is written.*"
- D. "It is written" are very powerful words.
1. That shows us how we are to fight back against the attacks of Satan. We have one weapon to use. That weapon is not our self-will or our strength to take on the devil. Our single weapon in fighting against the devil is the Bible.
 - a. **Ephesians 6:17** says, "*And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*"

- b. **Hebrews 4:12** says, *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.”*
 - E. We are no match for the devil. He is more powerful than us, and if we go into the ring with him with the confidence that we are strong and we can take him on, we will fail.
 - 1. We need the one strong, effective weapon of the Word of God when fighting the devil. The Lord Jesus uses Scripture to fight against the devil.
 - 2. The devil succumbs to the Word of God.
 - F. It is the power of relying on the Bible and saying, “It is written” or “the Bible says.”
 - G. It is important to saturate ourselves in the Word of God.
 - 1. To be able to use the Word of God skillfully as we see the Lord doing is to choose the correct Scripture to meet each temptation.
 - 2. When the Lord chose those different Scripture to fight with the devil, we can see the Lord going into the armory of the Bible to choose the best weapon for each battle.
 - 3. We must choose the correct Scripture for each attack, and that is why we must know the Scriptures to know each weapon in the armory.
 - H. Verse 4 shows the victory over the devil comes from using the Word of God.
- IX. Verse 4—*“Not live by bread alone, but by”*
- A. A wonderful thing happens to us when we use the Word of God as our weapon.
 - 1. **Matthew 4:4** describes it as follows: *“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*
 - B. When we use the Word of God, the Word of God opens up for us to see the wonderful truths we’ve never seen before.
 - C. When the Lord said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by the Word of God,” that opened up the wonderful truth that there are two foods for man—the physical food of bread and the spiritual food of the Word of God.
 - D. When the Lord said that man should live by the Word of God, that opened up the wonderful truth of how privileged man is to be able to live by the Word of God. Man has a high calling that he lives by the Word of God.
 - E. When the Lord said that man should live by the Word of God, that opened up the wonderful truth of how totally dependent man is on God. Man is only happy in life when he accepts and embraces his total dependency on God.
 - 1. The picture in verse 4 of man living by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God sees man like the young baby bird in the nest.
 - a. All the baby bird can do is to cry to its mother for food.
 - b. The mother goes out and gets food in its mouth and carries it back to the baby bird. Then, the mother bird puts the food from her mouth into the mouth of the baby bird.
 - c. If you asked the baby bird how it lived, the baby bird would say, “I live by every piece of food that proceeds out of the mouth of my mother.”
 - d. That is how the Lord described man in verse 4.
 - F. The Lord was quoting from **Deuteronomy 8:3** which says, *“And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.”*
 - 1. That was a time when Israel had no way to generate food for themselves. They became hungry, and they cried out to God. God sent them manna—bread from the sky every day for 40 days.

- a. That humbled the people and taught the people to have their total dependency on God.
 - b. No one will depend on God unless they have been humbled.
- X. Verse 5—*“Then the devil taketh Him up”*
 - A. When the Lord used that Scripture from **Deuteronomy 8:3** to stop the devil’s “turn the stones into bread” attack, that went well. That was a victory for the Lord.
 - B. We would have thought, “Okay. The devil was put down, so now he will go away.”
 - C. Verse 5 starts with the word, *“Then.”*
 - 1. **Matthew 4:5** says, *“Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple.”*
 - D. That was just one victory, and now, the devil comes in for the second attack.
 - 1. Now came another moment of “After victory, tighten the straps on your helmet.”
 - E. The word “then” in verse 5 tells us that if the devil does not succeed one way, he will try another way.
 - F. The Lord wanted to accomplish the mission that the Father had sent Him to do.
 - 1. **Matthew 15:24** says, *“But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*
 - 2. **Isaiah 49:5** says, *“And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him.”*
 - G. The mission of the Lord was to bring Jacob back to God, so he could bring the people of Israel back to God.
 - 1. In order for that to happen, Israel had to recognize Him as the Messiah and let Him lead them back to God.
 - H. The Lord wanted Israel to follow Him.
 - I. The devil tempted the Lord by taking the Lord into Jerusalem and putting the Lord on a high point of the Temple. He was very visible to the people. The devil challenged him to jump and then land safely on the ground from the angels protecting Him.
 - 1. That would convince the people that He was the Messiah, and they should follow Him to be led back to God.
 - 2. That was the temptation.
 - J. This shows the power of the devil to be able to transport the Lord from the desert into the Temple and set Him on a high part of the Temple.
 - K. Since the Lord used a Scripture in the first temptation, the devil now uses a Scripture in support of his challenge when the devil said in verse 6.
 - 1. **Matthew 4:6** says, *“And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.”*
 - L. When we compare what the Scripture says compared to how the devil quoted it, there is a difference.
 - 1. The devil said, *“He shall give his angels charge concerning thee.”*
 - 2. But, the verse in Psalms reads as follows:
 - a. **Psalm 91:11** states, *“For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”*
 - M. The devil left out that part about *“to keep thee in all thy ways”* where the implication is as the Amplified version puts it—*“to preserve you in all your ways of obedience.”*
 - N. The concept is that the Lord keeps a believer in all his ways of obedience—not in all the ways of disobedience.
 - 1. The devil conveniently just eliminated that part of the verse to not raise the issue of whether or not casting down would be in obedience to God.