

THE MESSIAH AND THE TEMPTER  
(Matthew 4:1-11)

- I. The CONTEXT (Matt. 4:1-2)
  - A. Immediately followed Jesus' PUBLIC INTRODUCTION
    - 1. Presented by JOHN the BAPTIST (cf. 3:11-15)
    - 2. Anointed by the HOLY SPIRIT (cf. 3:16)
    - 3. Identified by GOD the FATHER (cf. 3:17)
  - B. Occurred under the CONTROL of the SPIRIT
  - C. Took place in the WILDERNESS
  - D. Occurred when He was PHYSICALLY WEAK
  - E. Involved being TEMPTED in person by "the DEVIL" (cf. James 1:14)
  
- II. The CONTEST (Matt. 4:3-10)
  - A. Temptation to DISTRUST GOD (4:3-4)
    - 1. Satan began with FLATTERY
    - 2. Satan implied that HUNGER was UNNECESSARY
    - 3. Satan suggested He should SERVE HIMSELF

4. Jesus affirmed the PRIORITY of the WILL of GOD (cf. Deut. 8:3)

B. Temptation to TEST GOD (4:5-7)

1. Satan began with FLATTERY

2. Satan quoted a PROMISE from GOD (cf. Ps. 91:11-12)

3. Satan suggested He provoke WORSHIP by IMPRESSING people (cf. Mal. 3:1)

4. Jesus REFUSED to put God “to the TEST” (cf. Deut. 6:16)

C. Temptation to DEFY GOD (4:8-10)

1. Satan showed Him the GLORY of the world’s KINGDOMS

2. Satan OFFERED them in exchange for Jesus’ WORSHIP

3. Jesus knew the PRICE demanded was much GREATER than implied and that the PRIZE offered was much LESS than promised

4. Jesus declared His LOYALTY to the Father

III. The CONQUEST (Matt. 4:11)

A. Forced the DEVIL’S DEPARTURE

B. Enabled the ANGELS’ MINISTRY