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| D. Jesus at Capernaum | 4:31-43 |
| a) Devils reveal the identity of Christ | 4:34 / 4:41 |
| b) Jesus refuses evidence from demons | 4:35, 41 |
| c) A question of Authority | 4:36 |

General Note in Luke 4:44 “Jesus continued his preaching in the synagogues of Judea”

Initially Luke continues his comparison between Jesus and John the Baptist to make sure that the people knew which was the Messiah!

- Many thought John the Baptist had to be the Messiah... even after Pentecost: Acts 19:1-7

So, in the first two movements of Luke 3 we have the final comparison given...

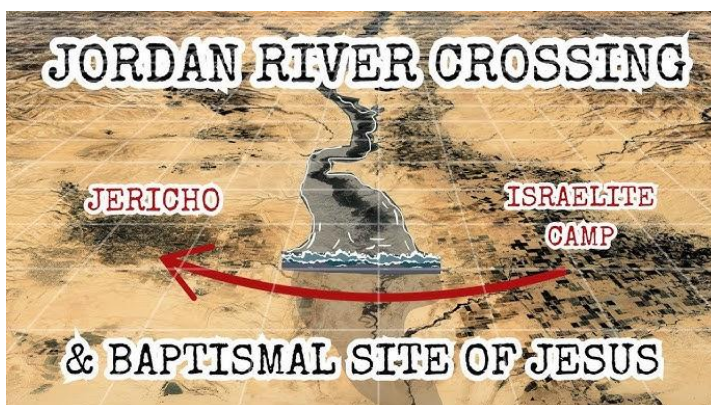
Note **the Place** of Action – 3:2-3

John the Baptist went to the River Jordan, and in 4:1 Jesus left the River Jordan to go to the wilderness...

- it was at Bethabara or “Bethany Beyond the Jordan”
- one day’s walk from Qumran
- the place of Entry to Promised Land



- Joshua (4:9) left 12 standing stones to witness to the miracle of the entrance to the promised land:
- **these** stones would “cry out” – i.e. bear witness against the people if they refuse the grace God offers now in Redemption.
- Gentiles were often referred to as “STONES” – meaning they were spiritually dead – yet the Gentiles accepted Jesus and Redemption... ∴ have “cried out” for the past 2,000 years!



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| A. ① JOHN IN THE DESERT AND AT THE JORDAN: | 3:1-20 |
| • “the word of God came to John... in the wilderness” | 3:2 |
| • John obeyed God’s Word... no consideration of personal convenience: just obedience | 3:3-18 |

- John the Baptist was foretold in Isaiah 40. He was to be part of the Consolation of Israel... announcing the Forgiveness of sins.
- John the Baptist demanded change of lifestyle and total consecration to God. Otherwise they reminded him of snakes trying to escape a bush fire by slithering away...
- They could not hide behind national or religious heritage because God can raise up children from the stones (dead Gentiles, atheists, unbelievers)

What must we do? Micah 6:8 Justice! Humility! Love!
John the Baptist demanded **actual** spirituality, not theoretical religion.

Evidence of Repentance... of lives really changed...
to allow the entrance of God's action in their lives through The Redeemer...

- John the Baptist prepares the Way for Christ: 3:15
Christ is all that John the Baptist is **NOT** : Jesus is the Messiah / Son of God / Saviour
Giver of Holy Spirit / Final Judge
 - John the Baptist is prophet/ Holy Man / Forerunner / Baptiser / Preacher of Truth...
The last and greatest of the prophets before Christ.
- 3:18 John the Baptist preached "the Good News" (i.e.) Gospel to Israel.
Jesus is the gospel, the Good News of God, the revealed Presence of the God of Israel!
- 3:17 John the Baptist warned the people that there would be **eternal** consequences to their acceptance or rejection of Salvation through Christ.

(NB) 3:7-8,15 John the Baptist was **not** impressed by popular enthusiasm. He wanted REAL change.

IDENTITY: WHO IS THIS JESUS OF NAZARETH?

- A. (2) 1) Jesus' Baptism **3:21-22** The "New Exodus" or way of Salvation begins **now**
Jesus is baptised in water and The Holy Spirit.

THE HEAVENS OPENED:

- cf. Genesis 1:1 Holy Spirit hovered over the Dawn of Creation
Holy Spirit here hovers over the Dawn of Redemption
 - there the Word went forth to bring all things into being
 - here the Word has become flesh and is going to the whole world to redeem it.
- Prayer is the KEY to open the Heavens and have the Presence of God come down upon us
- fulfillment of **Is 64:1-2**. Acts 2... on the Church
- Only the God-man could **hold** the whole of God's Presence
(i.e.) Father-Son-Spirit = ONE GOD
- This is the first time in History that the Spirit of God could in-dwell a man fully
∴ Jesus is THE TEMPLE of God on Earth.

- **THE DOVE** : symbolises THE MAN OF PEACE
: points to Jesus as the Mediator between God and man

cf. Noah: **Gen 8:8-12** **Symbol of Hope / New Life / New Era**

The Dove points to Jesus as:

- Hope of the World
- The Anointed Messiah
- God's Chosen One

- (NB) The Father reveals His Son – again! The first time was on Christmas Night: 2:9-14
The 3rd time is on Mount Tabor: 9:35

Where did he come from?

A2. 2) **Genealogy**: Luke reveals the human identity of the Son of Man. He begins with his legal Father, Joseph, and goes back to Adam, the first son of man on the Earth.

- Jesus belongs to the whole of Humanity – not just to Israel
 - he is the Saviour of **all** the world
 - he is fully human and fully divine: the **Unique One**

- (NB) • Luke associates the Genealogy with Jesus' Ministry (3:23)
- not with his Birth – thus placing it within the broad sweep of History...

Jesus is THE Son of Man... THE Son of Adam

- to limit Jesus' ministry to his relationship to the Jews would narrow the focus to make Jesus only the Messiah of Israel.
- A **truly universal history** could not begin with Abraham, since the Kingdom of God reached out to all Humanity, so Luke brings it back to Adam.
- Luke wants us to see History leading up to the arrival of the Son of God.

3) **JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS**: 4:1-13

- Since Luke has identified Jesus with all of Humanity he now shows him participating in Humanity's struggle against sin, evil and Satan.
- Cf. Sir 2:5 "chosen men are tested in the furnace of humiliation"
- We face the enigma of being filled with the Spirit **and** tempted by the devil! Every true child of God must endure the spiritual warfare between Good/Evil; Light/Darkness; Life/Death. Our choices determine who we are and what we want to become.
- In this struggle Luke prepares his readers "to know the truth concerning the things which they had been informed": Lk 1:4

- (NB) Each episode of the Gospel has its own message, and also helps to unfold the totality of the revelation given.

- Jesus' response to the 3-fold temptation **sensitises** the reader to a VIP aspect of the total message... enabling us to see each episode as an expression of Jesus' victory over evil – thus we never lose sight of what is ultimately at stake.
- **Matthew 4 and Luke 4** should be studied together. They show that Jesus' life was a recapitulation of that of Israel – BUT his response to temptation was different to theirs

- In each case he chose God's Will and guided his life by God's revealed Word – thus fulfilling Israel's vocation: Deut 8:3, 6:13, 16.

Ⓝ There is a 'backward redemption' as Jesus' decisions redeemed Israel's failures. There is also a 'forward redemption' as his decisions prepared for the Church's life.

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- Luke emphasises the role of the Holy Spirit leading Jesus **to** the place of conflict, and empowering him **in** the continuous conflict which follows: Lk 4:14...
- Therefore, it is the Holy Spirit of God, in Jesus, who battles the evil spirit...
- This same battle is fought and won in each person who accepts to walk in Jesus' footsteps... Cf. Gal 5:19-22; Rom 7:14-24.

- In this scene we see two opposing kingdoms seeking the souls of humanity.
- We see two leaders who claim that they have the right to rule the earth

- a) **Jesus** inaugurates the Kingdom of God, God's Rule of Grace, Mercy and Salvation
 - b) **Satan**, "prince of this world" (Jn 14:30) rules a kingdom of sin, evil, darkness and destruction
 - b) **Jesus** has authority over the KOG – Satan has authority over the KO Darkness
 - c) **Jesus** does the works of God – **Satan** counterfeits & parodies the works of God to deceive souls.
 - e) There is implacable enmity between the two realms **and** their leaders. In fact, the whole ministry of Jesus is a struggle between Heaven and Hell... and Jesus pays for the victory with his life.
- The devil's reaction to Jesus changes radically after the encounter in the wilderness.
 - At first he was suave and sure of victory – since he had conquered heroes before!
 - Afterwards, he and his demons were terrified of him!

Before we begin, here are some interesting Parallels:

- 3-fold temptation of Jesus in the wilderness – ch. 4
- 3-fold denials of Peter in ch. 22:54-62
- 3-fold taunting of Jesus on the Cross in ch. 23;35,37,39

The 40 Days: Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness was 40 days

- Moses spent 40 years in wilderness of Midian
- The Exodus took 40 years in total: Deut 8:2
- Elijah spent 40 days in the wilderness: 1 Kgs 19:8

Jesus did 1 day for every year of the Wilderness experience: Ezek 4:6 and Num 14:34

- Satan demands evidence from Christ that he **is** the Son of God... he is not yet sure of this. So, Jesus is tested and tried to see if this claim is true. The test will show the quality of Jesus' Sonship... after the wilderness experience God's loving mercy will flow like rivers to Israel

TEST I "Turn this stone into a loaf"

Presumption: the Son of God has **Power** from God.

Test: Use it for your **own** benefit – **not** God's plan for Redemption... outside of God's Will!

Test: **Hypocrisy:** people **think** you are fasting when you work miracles to feed **yourself!**

Jesus' reply: Deut 8:3 "Humanity does not **live** on bread **alone** but on every Word that comes from the Most High"

