

- **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.

(NB) 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.

(NB)

- 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"

Reality: Jesus is God's Word Incarnate. He is the embodiment of God's Will on Earth...
so, he declares God's Will to the Adversary.

Reality: Jesus came on Earth to offer Himself as Food to Humanity
- Both Word and Bread – the Manna from Heaven (Jn 6)

Jesus' choice: to remain hungry, poor AND obedient to God's Word

(NB) Israel had been tested in the Wilderness and failed.
They had rebelled against God's Will and provisions: cf. Num 14:34

Israel was tempted by hunger in the wilderness... and failed to trust God: Deut 8:2-3.
She demanded a food miracle and God gave her the Manna and quails...

TEST II **The final test of the heart** is who or what one worships: cf. Jn 14:30 (12:31) cf. 2 Cor 4:4

- To worship is to declare that God alone is worthy.
- Israel had been tested and failed here too: cf. Ex 20:1-3

Satan's Arrogance : he claims to be the true ruler of the World: Cf. Jn 14:30
: he claims to be able to give "all this power" AND "the glory
of these Kingdoms" to anyone he likes

- So many foolish people have chosen power and glory over God's Will
– and over their eternal salvation!

→ but when their time on Earth is over they only have Satan's Kingdom to look forward to!
Why? Because they have rejected God and His Kingdom!

Test: You want to be famous? I'll help you! I'll give you fame!
You want to rule? No problem! Just do it my way!

- Satan doesn't care who rules the Earth so long as it is done under his authority
and by his power... for his glory!! "worship me, then...!!" Cf. the idols of the OT!
- Satan wants to rob God of His glory by getting us to work for him...
in his rebellion he wants to BE 'God'!

Jesus' reply: Deut 6:13 "You (creature!) must worship the Lord your God and serve Him alone"

Reality : Jesus has come to battle with Satan and rob his victims from him
(victims of sickness, sin, death, hell: freedom through exorcism/healing)

: Jesus came to set up the Kingdom of God on Earth – that involves putting Satan
in his place as a creature: cf. Phil 2:6-11 "Every KNEE shall bow in Heaven and
in the underworld and everyone confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..."

: Jesus came to turn us back to God from idols, etc.

So many kings – world leaders, have chosen Power and glory at the expense of their own souls.
Satan will give it to them, but at the end of their lives they have nowhere to go except into the KOD
they have chosen!

The choice to be made by everyone: Love of Power vs the Power to Love.

Jesus chose the power to love because God IS LOVE. It's His nature... Those who love choose His KOG

TEST III This is single combat between two rival Lords. Satan decides to fight Scripture **with** Scripture.
V.I.P. Not for novices! Improper use of Scripture has created heresies and false church's!

- Satan transported Jesus to the parapet of the Temple in Jerusalem and asked him to throw himself down – it would be suicidal.
- It is normal for Satan to **want to kill** one who resists him.

Satan's quote: Ps 91:11-12 he told Jesus that Angels would prevent his being hurt in the fall.

(NB) God holds **TO HIS WORD** and **TO** what **IT** says, not to a misquote or a mis-use of His Word!

- Ps 91 says that **if** a person lives in union with God's Will, that Angels will protect them from normal dangers. It **DOES NOT SAY** that the Angels will prevent an act of suicide!!

Reality : Satan asked Jesus to do the spectacular, the unnatural, the unusual, the unnecessary
: God does not act that way! He acts in quiet, simple, unobtrusive ways.

Example : When Jesus fed 5,000 people he did **NOT** turn stones into bread!
He used a child's loving gift...

Jesus' reply: Deut 6:16 "you (creature) must not put the Lord your God to the test"

- (i.e.) We are not allowed to demand a miracle when it is unnatural, unnecessary and just for show!
eg. you don't **need** a miracle to save you on the roads
– keeping the laws about driving will do it.

Israel often tempted God by demanding unnecessary miracles! Examples are Gideon: Judges 6:36-40.
Hezekiah: 2 Kgs 20:1-11. In each case they demanded a sign to confirm another sign! No trust in God!

Jesus also warned the future Church, and all followers:

- 1) The abuse of God-given power will destroy it.
- 2) to refuse worldly power and glory 3) to be careful to quote scripture correctly.
It was Satan himself who first queried the veracity of God's word: "Did God really say....?" Gen 3:1
- 3) not to demand unnecessary signs and wonders from God.
All of this puts man before God; time before eternity; self before love: Not GOD'S Kingdom!

Jesus' choices / our model:

- a) He is the Word Incarnate. He expresses God's word correctly to solve the problems confronting him.
- b) As is the Son of God, he will only **do** the Will of God, regardless of circumstances or challenges of creatures – either human or demonic – at the cost of his life, as we will see the passion.
- c) Jesus chose to be poor, lonely, hungry, but obedient to his Father... the Father then made Jesus the Food of the poor, hungry people of God forever. He became the bread from heaven (Manna) for all of God's starving people going through their own wilderness experience

- (NB) 4:1 The devil is **temporarily** defeated. This will be clear in the exorcisms, but he has not given up!
There will be a **final confrontation** between him and Jesus in Gethsemane and the Salvation of Humanity will be at stake.