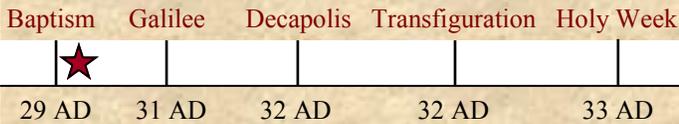
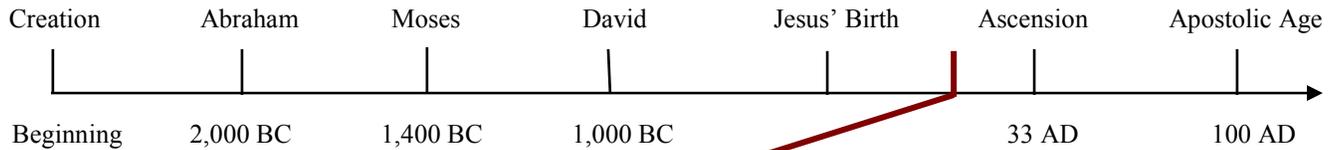


# Across the Generations

## Learning from God's Word and from Each Other

Sunday, February 25, 2007  
 "The Truth about Temptations"

### Context and Time Frame



### Overview: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished all his tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

### Review

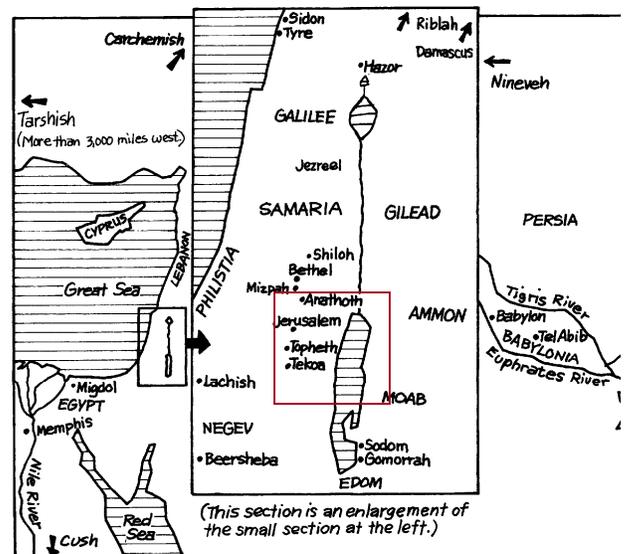
This is the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry. He had previously been baptized by John, now full of the Spirit he was led into the desert. It was at this time he was tempted by the devil.

What is the purpose of the devil's temptations?

For how many days was he tempted?

Besides being tempted, why other activity did Jesus undertake?

What was the end result for Jesus?



What was the devil challenging when he said, “if you are the Son of God?”

Why were each of the temptations very real for Jesus —

stones to bread

kingdoms of the world

jumping off the temple

What was Jesus’ response to each of Satan’s temptations?

What does verse 13 help us understand about Satan and Jesus, particularly in the light of Genesis 3:15?

### My View

What could we substitute for Jesus’ temptations in our own life —

the mountain top

the tip of Herod’s temple

the challenge to make bread

What does this lesson teach me about the enemy of my faith?

Why is it important to know how Jesus answered the devil and his temptations?

Evaluate: Living our faith is more difficult while living like the world is more attractive.

### Closing View

What do we need to understand about ourselves?

What do we need to understand about our enemy?

What do we need to understand about our Savior?

**Devotional Thoughts - Luke 4:1-13**  
*Monday, February 26th—Saturday, March 3rd*

**Monday**

*Read the Lutheran Hymnal, 449*

My soul be on thy guard; ten thousand foes arise,  
And hosts of sin are pressing hard to draw thee from the skies.

Ne'er think the victr'y won nor lay thine armor down;  
Thine arduous work will not be done till thou obtain thy crown.

Fight on, my soul, till death shall bring thee to thy God;  
He'll take thee at thy parting breath to his divine abode.

*Prayer Thoughts:*

O gracious Lord, keep me on my guard. By means of your Holy Word help me to recognize the many enemies I have to endure, and by means of your Holy Word equip me to stand strong throughout every temptation, and throughout my life. Amen!

**Tuesday**

*Read: Ephesians 6:12*

“For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

In which battle are we daily engaged?  
What happens if we lose a battle, or lose the war?  
Who alone provides us with the strength and the weapons we need to win?

*Prayer Thoughts*

O gracious Savior, I thank you for opening my eyes to clearly see the battle in which I am engaged. Give me the courage, the strength, and the encouragement to keep fighting every day until you bring me to yourself in heaven. Amen!

**Wednesday**

*Read: Ephesians 6:10-11, 13*

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.  
Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand  
against the devil's schemes . . . Therefore put on the full armor of God,  
so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground.”

Why is the Lord the only place to look for strength to stand against the devil?  
What is the “full armor of God?”  
Why does “when” the day of evil comes give a more sobering understanding  
than “if” the day of evil comes?

*Prayer Thoughts*

O gracious heavenly Father, I know the devil seeks to overthrow me and my faith. Provide me with the trustworthy equipment you alone can provide, and provide me with the diligence to use these means. Amen!

### **Thursday**

*Read 1 Peter 5:8-9*

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”

What warning call does the Lord issue through Peter?  
What confidence does the Lord give us through a solid faith, and through the example of Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world?  
Will the Christian life always be completely trouble free?

#### *Prayer Thoughts*

O precious Jesus, you have called me to be alert. You have also equipped me to be strong. Help me use both of these gifts to the glory and praise of your holy name. Amen!

### **Friday**

*Read Christian Worship 457 st. 1 & 4*

Fight the good fight with all your might;  
Christ is your strength and Christ your light.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

Faint not nor fear; his arms are near.  
He changes not, and you are dear.  
Only believe, and you will see that Christ is Lord eternally.

#### *Prayer Thoughts*

O gracious Lord, you have called us to fight, but we are weak. You have set us apart to be valiant warriors, but we become afraid. Give us the boldness we need to fight for the glory of your name, and give us the strength we need to win every battle and overcome the devil's wicked and deceptive ways.

### **Saturday**

*Read Jeremiah 26:8-15 and Luke 13:31-35*

What brought sorrow to Jeremiah?

What brought sorrow to Jesus?

What can we do to stop people's rebellion against the Lord, as well as our rebellion?