

**THE SON BEGINS THE  
INVASION OF SATAN'S DOMAIN!  
MATTHEW CH4:1-11**

**RE-CAP**

- Ch1:1-17 - JESUS is the fulfilment of God's promises to both Abraham and David!
- Ch1:18-27 - Joseph, the "RIGHTEOUS MAN!"
- Ch2:1-12 - Getting JESUS' identity leads to worship!
- Ch3:1-17 - JESUS needed to be baptised by John to fulfil all righteousness!

Matthew uses the term "fulfil/fulfilled" which occurs 18 times in the Gospel – Ch1:22, Ch2:15, Ch2:17, Ch2:23, Ch3:15, Ch4:14, Ch5:17, Ch5:18, Ch8:17, Ch12:17, Ch13:14, Ch13:35, Ch21:4, Ch24:34, Ch26:54, Ch26:56, Ch27:9 and Ch27:35.

**ILLUSTRATION**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> March this year Anthony Joshua (WBA+IBF World Champion) and Joseph Parker (WBO World Champion) fought each other. It was estimated that over a 100,000,000 bets were placed on the fight! It was meant to be "the boxing showdown" of the year!

However, about 2000 years ago, there was another "showdown" between two kingdoms, one that had reigned for over 4000 years! The ruler of that kingdom was Satan (Ephesians Ch2:2) because he had defeated all previous contenders! Here is some of the list - Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, King David, King Solomon, Ezra, and Nehemiah just to name a few.

Now it's the turn of JESUS, fully man, yet fully God! What's gonna happen?

**TEMPTATIONS ORIGIN!**

- V1 – The devil
- V3 – The tempter
- V5 – The devil
- V8 – The devil
- V10 – Satan
- V11 – The devil

Satan according to JESUS is "a murderer and the father of all lies" (John Ch8:44), John says that "... the devil has been sinning from the beginning" (1 John Ch3:8), he is described by Peter as "... Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter Ch5:8). He is always looking, as a thief, to steal, kill and destroy (John Ch10:10). He is God's enemy (Matt Ch13:39) and has been the undefeated "sinner of the world" for 4000 years and now he comes to take on JESUS!

### **TEMPTATIONS ORDER!**

JESUS at the start of his ministry is led into the desert by the Holy Spirit, and he fasts for those 40 days, Luke records "... that he ate nothing during those days ...." (Luke Ch4:2), so he is hungry! JESUS has spent time fasting, going without food in preparation to face the devil, where every man had failed previously and sinned, where Adam failed in the best conditions, the garden of Eden, JESUS, in the worst conditions, alone, wild animals, hungry and in Satan's domain (Mark Ch1:13) must now face God's enemy!

The three temptations are all about JESUS misusing the prerogatives he has as the Son of God (Matthew Ch3:17). Will he misuse them, and sin, and so follow the long line of previous failed contenders?

V3 – If you are the Son of God .... ( a personal attack)

V6 – If you are the Son of God .... (a national attack)

V9 – All this I will give you .... (a universal attack)

The issue at stake, is will Jesus sin and misuse the prerogatives that are His, because He is the Son of God, and use them for His own needs rather than for the will of the Father. *This is what temptation involves, the twisting of reality. Temptation is used by Satan to get a person to act outside of God's revealed will for our lives!*

Will Jesus, continue to be hungry and face Satan, or turn the stones into bread and relieve his hunger? Will Jesus test God's love for him (Matt Ch3:17) and throw Himself off the highest point of the Temple, to see if God will rescue Him? Will Jesus not go to the cross to save the very nations that Satan is showing Him, or worship Satan and be given the nations and all their splendour?

### **TEMPTATIONS OVERRULING!**

V4 – It is written .... V6 – It is written .... V7 – It is also written .... V10 – For it is written ....

How does Jesus defeat Satan's temptations? With God's written revealed Word! Even though Satan distorts God's Word, just like in Genesis Ch3:4, here in v6 when quoting Psalm 91:11-12, Satan deliberately leaves out "to guard you in all your ways", which is what the angels do in verses 11!

### **APPLICATION**

JESUS provides a way, by overcoming the temptations, through using God's Word! This means, that for those of us who trust in the redeeming work of JESUS, that is, His death on the cross, we can by putting our trust and faith in Him, overcome any and all temptations, through our understanding and applying of God's Word!