

Exposition of Matthew
Jesus' Testing in the Wilderness
(Matt. 4:1-11)

Introduction

- I. Jesus, the Spirit and the wilderness (4:1-2)**
 - A. The Spirit leads Jesus after the baptism
 - 1. The Spirit
 - 2. The background to the test: Deut. 8:2
The references will be from Deut. 6-8
 - B. 40 days of fasting
 - 1. Moses fasted for that amount of time (Ex 24:18;
34:28; Deut. 9:9; Cf Elijah)
 - 2. Israel was tested for 40 years (Deut. 8:2a)

- II. The Tempter and Jesus: Round One (4:3-4)**
 - A. The temptation: If you are the Son of God
Command stones to become bread
 - B. Jesus' response: Deut. 8:3

- III. The Tempter and Jesus: Round Two (4:5-7)**
 - A. The temptation: If you are the Son of God
Throw Yourself down
 - B. Jesus' response: Deut. 6:16

- IV. The Tempter and Jesus: Round Three (4:8-10)**
 - A. The temptation: I will give all this to you
 - B. Jesus' response: Deut. 6:13

V. The Devil Departs and Angels Minister (4:11)

A. The Devil left Him

B. Angels were ministering to Him

Application

1. The point of the text: The testing in the wilderness presents Jesus as the true Israel who trusted God in the wilderness, further preparing Him for His redemptive work.
2. Christ, in this combat in the wilderness, defeats Satan.
3. Could Christ have failed/sinned?
4. Jesus testing in the wilderness proved His obedience as God's Son and demonstrated His power over Satan.
 1. His obedience is my righteousness.
 2. He can help me when I am tempted.