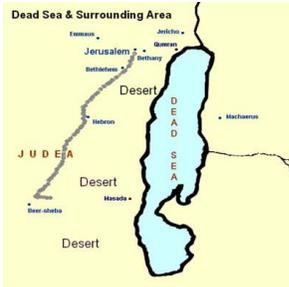


# The Ghost and the Darkness

## The Ghost and the Darkness Matthew 4:1-11



### Matthew 4:1-11

- 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.
- 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."
- 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Deut. 8:3)
- 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,
- 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" (Psalm 91:12)
- 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" (Deut. 6:16)
- 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
- 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."
- 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Deut. 6:13-14)
- 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. NKJV

### 1. Jesus believed in Satan.

In this story and many others, Jesus treated Satan as a very real personal spiritual being.

- Jesus called him a fallen angel. (Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:9)
- Jesus gave him personal attributes. Jesus said that Satan thinks, feels, schemes, speaks, and acts.
- Jesus identified a city where Satan was dwelling.

Satan was not a fictional character to Jesus. Satan was not a mythological figure to Jesus. Satan was not an idea to Jesus.

Jesus believed in Satan.

## 2. Jesus believed Satan was his adversary

In this story, Jesus called him both Satan and the devil. In Hebrew, the name Satan means enemy or adversary.

Jesus believed that everything He was for, Satan was against.

- Jesus said following Him leads to life. Jesus said following Satan leads to death.
- Jesus called himself the savior. Jesus called Satan a murderer.
- Jesus called Himself the light. Jesus called Satan the power of darkness.
- Jesus called Himself the truth. Jesus said Satan is the father of lies.
- Jesus called Himself the good shepherd. He called Satan a thief that kills, steals, and destroys.

Jesus believed everything He was sent to accomplish, Satan opposed.

Jesus believed Satan was his adversary.

## 3. Jesus believed He was tempted by Satan

Jesus was a human being with human desires. He was tempted to fulfill his desires in ways that God forbids.

Jesus believed Satan tempted Him to fulfill His desires in ways that God forbids. He blamed Satan for giving him ideas that were evil.

Jesus believed He was being tempted by Satan

## 4. Jesus believed Satan had power

In this story, Jesus never indicated that Satan was not able to do what He promised Jesus. Satan promised Jesus the kingdoms of this world and all their glory. Jesus did not say, "you cannot give what you do not have!"

Because Jesus was God and created all things, Jesus also understood the inherent power that was given to angels. They are not omnipresent but they are spiritual beings that can travel at warp speed. They are not all powerful but they have incredible strength and supernatural powers that surpasses any man's physical strength or abilities. They are not all knowing but they are super intelligent creatures that can invade the minds of men with their ideas.

Jesus was there when Satan rebelled and led a host of angels to rebel with him. Satan is the ruler of that army.

He understood Satan is a powerful spiritual being that received authority by default after Adam and Eve gave up their authority to rule the world. Jesus understood Satan had been successful in ruling over the kingdoms of this world. There have been very few governments in world history that Satan has not controlled.

From the fall of man until His incarnation, Jesus was a witness to every sin that Satan incited in the souls of men. Jesus understood that Satan is the ruler and source of evil in this world. Jesus had seen the powerful results of his work.

Jesus believed Satan had power.

#### 5. Jesus believed Satan had an agenda

In this story, attacked Jesus's faith when Jesus was suffering.

He questioned His identity.

He questioned His ability.

He questioned His relationship with God the Father.

He questioned His purpose.

He attacked his faith to fulfill his agenda. His end game was to get Jesus to join his team. His goal was for Jesus and all the rulers of this world to serve him.

In this story, Jesus demonstrated that he knew Satan's agenda when he said, "you shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only."

Jesus believed Satan had an agenda.

#### 6. Jesus believed Satan should be aggressively resisted

Satan's weapon to exercise power over men is deception.

John 8:44

44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

NKJV

Satan's weapon is deception. He calls God's Word into question. In this story, Jesus did not just ignore Satan and tolerate his ideas. He aggressively rebuked Him with God's Word.

Jesus prepared himself to resist and rebuke Satan. He memorized the truth of God's Word. The truth of God's Word is called the sword of the Spirit.

Jesus used the sword of the Spirit to rebuke and resist Satan. He believed the Word of God and He proclaimed it.

Jesus used this weapon knowing that Satan would flee from this weapon.

When Satan sees that men will not be deceived, he walks away. He does not flee until he hears a man who believes the Word of God proclaim the Word of God.

Jesus believed Satan should be aggressively resisted.

### Conclusion

What do you believe about Satan? Do you believe what Jesus believed?

- Do you believe in Satan?
- Do you believe Satan is your adversary?
- Do you believe Satan tempts you?
- Do you believe Satan has power?
- Do you believe Satan has an agenda?
- Do you believe Satan should be aggressively resisted?

All Satan needs to gain a foothold in your soul is unbelief. You need to fight for your faith! You need to take the fight to Satan. You need to become a warrior in the Kingdom of God! This a matter of life and death for you and for future generations.

How do you become a warrior in the Kingdom of God?

This year is the 500th anniversary of the Protestant reformation. On October 31, 1517, a Catholic priest named Martin Luther nailed a thesis on the door of the Roman catholic church in Wittenberg, Germany. In this thesis he listed 95 ways the church had forsaken the Word of God. Luther is credited with being the father of the protestant reformation.

Long before Luther himself came on the scene, there were pre-Reformation figures like John Wycliffe, Peter Waldo, John Hus, and Thomas Aquinas. They all studied the bible and realized how much the church had veered off in so many wrong directions.

They gave themselves to the study of God's Word. They believed that the Word of God was the final authority for what they should believe and how they should live. They believed that the way to hear God and know God personally is through his Word.

These men and many others were warriors. Many of them were martyred for being warriors.

To become a warrior, you must...

- Decide that the Word of God will be your final authority for what you believe and what you practice.
- Learn the Word of God.
- Resist Satan with the Word of God.

If you believe what Jesus believed and you are going to follow Jesus, what change do you need to make to become a warrior in God's Kingdom?

- Who is ruling your life? Who is your final authority for what you believe and practice? Is Jesus the ruler of your life?
- What are you doing to prepare yourself for Satan's attacks on your faith? Are you reading God's Word every day? Are you studying God's Word? Are you memorizing God's Word? Are you sharing life with those who are warriors in God's kingdom? Are you connected? Are you depending on others to help you defeat Satan? Are you connected? Are others praying for you?
- Are you resisting Satan with the Word of God? Are you exercising your authority? Are you confessing God's Word when you are tempted? Are you winning? Are you helping others defeat Satan? Are you connected? Are others being transparent with you? Are you praying for Others? Are you exercising your authority in praying for the lost?

After the fall of man, God promised that the offspring of woman would crush the head of Satan. (Genesis 3:15)

To fulfill this promise, Jesus, Son of God had to become the Son of Man.

The decisive blow to the head of Satan occurred when Jesus died on the cross.

In Col. 2:13-15 Paul described what God did for those who trust in Jesus.

#### Colossians 2:13-15

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

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When Christ died for our sins, Satan was disarmed and defeated. The one eternally destructive weapon that he had was stripped from his hand; his accusation before God that we are guilty and should perish with him. When Christ died that accusation was nullified. All those who entrust themselves to Christ will never perish. Satan cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:37-39)

If Jesus died to do this for us, should we not be a warrior for His Kingdom?

Will you receive Jesus?

Will you become a spiritual warrior for Jesus?

- Decide that the Word of God will be your final authority for what you believe and what you practice.
- Learn the Word of God.
- Resist Satan with the Word of God.