

***Matthew 4:1-11, New King James Version (NKJV)***

***4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. <sup>3</sup> Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these 1stones 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.’”<sup>[a]</sup>***

***5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> 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.’”<sup>[b]</sup>***

***7 Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’”<sup>[c]</sup>***

***8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> 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,<sup>[d]</sup> Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”<sup>[e]</sup>***

***11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.***

The main points of the sermon:

- 1- The time of the temptation of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- 2- The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Temptation.**
- 3- Why the Temptation?**
- 4- Place of the temptation.**
- 5- Who is the tempter?**
- 6- Why our Lord Jesus Christ fasted for forty days and forty nights in specific ?**
- 7- The kinds of the temptation which our Lord faced in His forty days fasting.**

**7-1: The stones became bread.**

**7-2: The wish of the devil of Throwing down our Lord Himself from the pinnacle of the temple.**

**7-3: the wish of the devil that Our Lord Jesus falling down and worshipping the him.**

**8- General remarks.**

## **Details of the sermon’s points:**

### **1- The time of the temptation of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

1-1: After any spiritual gift there is a spiritual war. St John Chrysostom said: *“Whenever Christ is there must be a Spiritual temptation”*. After all the glory of the Epiphany there must be the temptation of our Lord as we read in *Matthew 3:13-17, New King James Version (NKJV) ,13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He[a] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

1-2: our Lord Jesus Christ choose the right time to be tempted to give us His life as a model in the times of our lives, as we read in *Hebrews 2:17-18, New King James Version (NKJV) 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.* And the same was repeated in *Hebrews 4:15 ,New King James Version (NKJV) ,15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

### **2- The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Temptation:**

When the bible said in *Matthew 4:1”Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil”* this means that:

2-1: The Holy Spirit led our Lord Jesus Christ to the wilderness to be tempted not by chance , but to complete the divine plan to save us .

2-2: The Holy Spirit did not led our Lord Jesus Christ to the wilderness to be tempted without His will , as the will of the Holy Trinity is one.

The reason behind the temptation of our Lord Jesus Christ is to:

2-3: Teach us how to fight the devil? St Augustine<sup>1</sup> said:” *Our Leader Jesus Christ permit that He would be tempted to teach us how to fight the devil”* and St Gregarious<sup>2</sup> said:” *Indeed it was suitable for*

---

<sup>1</sup> - Ser. on N.T. home 1 ; On the Holy Trinity 4:13.

<sup>2</sup> - PL 76:1134 Ser . 16.

*Him who came to destroy the death by His death , to overcome our temptation by His victory of His temptation” .*

2-4: One of the main and powerful weapons that were set by our Lord Jesus Christ to face the temptation is to be able to answer the devil by verses from the Holy Bible as our Lord used to answer the devil, He said to him:” ***It is written*** “3 times in Verses 4, 7, and 10.

### **3- Why the Temptation?**

St John Chrysostom said: “God will not prevent the temptation from us but permit that we must be tempted” for the following reasons:

**3-1: to teach you that you became stronger.**

**3-2: to continue in your humility,** so that you cannot be proud of your great talents.

**3-3: To gain the promised treasures,** the devil will not tempt you unless he feels that you are going to gain these heavenly treasures.

Also our father Saint Tadros said many reasons for the temptations as follows:

**3-4: To test us,** as the Lord tested our fathers: Abraham, and the righteous Job.

**3-5: To correct us** , when our Lord Jesus Christ used to correct his righteous people He used to tempt them for the unseen sins as we read in ***Hebrews 12:5-8 ,New King James Version (NKJV) <sup>s</sup> And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>e</sup> For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>f</sup> If<sup>[b]</sup> you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?<sup>2</sup> But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.***

**3-6: One of the reasons of our temptation is to declare the glory of God** as we read in the story of the blind man who had been healed by our Lord Jesus Christ as we read in ***John 9:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.*** Also we find the same meaning when our Lord Jesus Christ raised Lazarus from the death as we read in ***John 11:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV) The Death of Lazarus 11 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. <sup>3</sup> Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying,***

This Sermon was prepared, designed and printed in the PC by: Bishop Daniel of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions on Wednesday, Friday March 5<sup>th</sup> , 7<sup>th</sup> , 2014, in the diocese head office in 14 Arthur St. Bexley, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

***“Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”<sup>4</sup> When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”.***

#### **4- Place of the temptation :**

The place of the temptation of our Lord Jesus Christ was in the Wilderness as we read in Matthew 4: 1 ***Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted*** and we have many lessons to learn as follows:

4-1: We can say the wilderness is representing the wilderness nature of human race<sup>3</sup> which was the place of the devil residence; the Lord was tempted in the wilderness to gain back this human nature to him as his beloved people. Each sinner must recognize that the spiritual battle is not his but it is between our Lord Jesus Christ and the devil and the sinner is just the place of the battle.

4-2: **Wilderness means being alone, and if you are going to be alone , or separated from the love of God and the fellowship with the church of God , yes you will be tempted , however, you will conquer the devil as our Lord Jesus Christ conquered him. St John Chrysostom<sup>4</sup> said:” when the devil saw that our mother Eve was alone, away from her husband, he tempted her, it the need that we meet together most of the times so that we cannot be subjected to the attacks of the devil. Being alone here means the selfishness of him who cannot bear the others inside him , the man who seeks his own desires like what mentioned in *Proverbs 18:1 ,New King James Version (NKJV) ,18 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.* St Judas mentioned the same meaning in *Jude 1:16-19 New King James Version (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> these are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. <sup>17</sup> But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>18</sup> how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. <sup>19</sup> These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.***

4-3: **The wilderness is the place of worship and present sacrifice to the our Lord as we read in *Exodus 3:15-18 ,New King James Version (NKJV) ,<sup>12</sup> Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My***

---

<sup>3</sup> - Explanation of the Gospel according to St Matthew; Fr Tadros Malaty , page 82.

<sup>4</sup> In Matt. Hom 13:1.

*name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’<sup>16</sup> Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, “The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, “I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt;<sup>17</sup> and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.”<sup>18</sup> Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, “The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.*

**4-4: The wilderness is the place in which we can meet the men of God** as we read in *Exodus 4:27 ,New King James Version (NKJV) ,<sup>27</sup> And the LORD said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him.*

**4-5: The wilderness is the place of seeing the care of our Lord as we read in** *Nehemiah 9:19-21 ,New King James Version (NKJV) ,<sup>19</sup> Yet in Your manifold mercies ,You did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, To lead them on the road; ,Nor the pillar of fire by night, To show them light, And the way they should go.<sup>20</sup> You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst.<sup>21</sup> Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out<sup>22</sup> And their feet did not swell.*

**4-6: The wilderness is the place in which we can meet the Lord our God as we read in** *Acts 7:30 “And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.*

**4-7: The wilderness is the place of prayers as our Lord Himself taught us , let us read this beautiful story in** *Luke 5:11-16 New King James Version (NKJV) <sup>11</sup> So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.*

*<sup>12</sup> And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”*

*<sup>13</sup> Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately the leprosy left him.<sup>14</sup> And He charged him to tell no one, “But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded.”*

*<sup>15</sup> However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. <sup>16</sup> So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.*

4-8: The wilderness is the place in which the Lord can humbles, and tests us as we read in *Deuteronomy 8:1-2, New King James Version (NKJV) ,8 “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers. <sup>2</sup> And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.*

4-9: The wilderness is the place in which we remember the rebellions of the Jews against God and the place also to know the compassionate of the Lord as we read in *Psalms 78:35-43 New King James Version (NKJV) ,<sup>35</sup> Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer.<sup>36</sup> Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue,<sup>37</sup> For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.<sup>38</sup> But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, And did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, And did not stir up all His wrath;<sup>39</sup> For He remembered that they were but flesh, A breath that passes away and does not come again.<sup>40</sup> How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert!<sup>41</sup> Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel.<sup>42</sup> They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy, <sup>43</sup> When He worked His signs in Egypt, And His wonders in the field of Zoan;*

4-10: The wilderness is place in which David learned to be brave as we read the story of David and Goliath as we read in *1 Samuel 17:33-37, New King James Version (NKJV) <sup>33</sup> And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.”*

*<sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both lion and*

**bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.”<sup>27</sup> Moreover David said, “The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”**

***And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!”***

## **5- Who is the tempter?**

The tempter was the devil as we read in Matthew **4: 1** ***Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.***

**5-1: The devil in Greek is:” Diavlos “which means:” Whom he complains to God against us” as we read in *Job 1:6-12, New King James Version (NKJV)***

***“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan<sup>6</sup> also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?”***

***So Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”***

***8 Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”***

***9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”***

***12 And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.”***

***So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.***

**5-2: The devil is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour as we read in *1 Peter 5:8* ,New King James Version (NKJV) ,<sup>8</sup> *Be sober, be vigilant; because<sup>8</sup> your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.***

## **6- Why our Lord Jesus Christ fasted for forty days and forty nights in specific ?**

6-1: To ensure His humanity, so if He fasted more than Moses as mentioned in *Exodus 24:18, New King James Version (NKJV), 18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.* Or Elijah the prophet as we read in *1 Kings 19:8 ,New King James Version (NKJV) ,<sup>s</sup> So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.* Then the people will consider His body is not like our bodies.

6-2: If Moses who represents the Law fasted for forty days, and Elijah who represents the prophets fasted for forty days, then our Lord Jesus Christ fasted for forty days also to teach us the importance of the fasting in the New Testament.

## **7- The kinds of the temptation which our Lord faced in His forty days fasting:**

### **7-1: The stones became bread:**

<sup>3</sup> *Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”*

<sup>4</sup> *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.’”<sup>[a]</sup>*

7-1-1: The devil doubted in the sonship of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Father, so because of this the devil said to Him:” *“If You are the Son of God’*, St Jerome<sup>5</sup> said: *“our Lord Jesus Christ was very accurate in His answers to the devil and He left him in his doubt”*.

7-1-2: The answers of our Lord Jesus Christ started in all the temptation with the statement:” *It is written*” this statement was mentioned in verses 4, 7, and 10, as a significant sign for the importance of the Holy Bible in our lives.

7-1-3: Our Lord Jesus Christ intended not to conquer the devil by His divine power; yes the Lord can command the stone become not only bread but also to:

7-1-3-1: Be children as well as we read in *Matthew 3:9 and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones,*

---

<sup>5</sup> - In Matt 4:6.

7-3-1-2: Talk as we read in **Luke 19:40** ,*But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”*

However the Lord did not use His divine power but used His humility to conquer the devil; it is a great lesson for every one of us in not using His authority but practicing humility.

7-1-4: Our Lord Jesus Christ chose the hard way of life not the easy one, it was so easy for Him who fed the five thousands from the two fishes and five loaves to change the stones to bread , He is the creator of the universe with all its substance.

7-1-5: Our Lord Jesus Christ did not obey the desire of the devil despite that He was hungry. It is so important to resist and think any thoughts come to us from the devil.

7-1-6: When the Lord answered the devil and said: ***‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’***, we can understand from the word:” alone” that: yes we do need to eat to live, however we need to know the importance of the spiritual food: as we read in **John 6:27** ,***Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.*** This food includes:

7-1-6-1: Partaking of the Holy Eucharist as we read in **John 6:55** ,***For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed’***.

7-1-6-2: To do the will of God as we read in **John 4:34** ,***Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.***

7-1-6-3: ***every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*** means to listen to the stewards of the Lord and implement their teaching about the word of God and the Patriarchs, Bishops, Priests and deacons as we read in **Malachi 2:7** ,***“For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.***

### **7-2: The wish of the devil of Throwing down our Lord Himself from the pinnacle of the temple:**

***<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> 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.’”<sup>[b]</sup>*

*7 Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’”<sup>[c]</sup>*

7-2-1: The devil here used the verse in a wrong way , the original of the verse was mentioned in *Psalm 91:11-12 ,New King James Version (NKJV) ,<sup>11</sup> For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.<sup>12</sup> In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.* The meaning of the verse is to show the continues care of God to us *To keep you in all your ways* , the devil used this verse to destroy the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ be putting Him away from the way of carrying the Cross looking for the show off of power. It is so important not to misunderstand the verses of the Bible, we need to read all the verses which related to the topic and also we need to read the explanation of our holy fathers.

St. Jerome<sup>6</sup> said:” it was necessary for the devil to complete the verses which he quoted as the rest of the verses are saying in *Psalm 91:13-14, New King James Version (NKJV),<sup>13</sup> You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.<sup>14</sup> “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.* These verses are talking about the care of the angels to a weak man who needs help, the devil is tricky, and he did not mentioned that he will be trampled underfoot.

7-2-2: The sad thing in this temptation that the devil can attack us anywhere as he can inter not only the Holy city but also to the pinnacle of the temple , so we need to be very careful. I would like to mention this story which mentioned in *Numbers 25:1-15 ,New King James Version (NKJV)*

*25 Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove,<sup>a</sup> and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. <sup>b</sup> They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. <sup>c</sup> So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.*

---

<sup>6</sup> - In Matt, 4:6.

<sup>4</sup> *Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel.”*

<sup>5</sup> *So Moses said to the judges of Israel, “Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.”*

<sup>6</sup> *And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. <sup>7</sup> Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; <sup>8</sup> and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. <sup>9</sup> And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.*

<sup>10</sup> *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>11</sup> “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. <sup>12</sup> Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; <sup>13</sup> and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’”*

<sup>14</sup> *Now the name of the Israelite who was killed, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father’s house among the Simeonites. <sup>15</sup> And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur; he was head of the people of a father’s house in Midian.*

7-2-3: The words of the devil: **throw Yourself down** is always expresses his wish to make everybody throw down and perish.

7-2-4: The dealing of our Lord Jesus Christ with the devil was absolutely amazing , st John Chrysostom<sup>7</sup> said :” **our Lord Jesus Christ experienced the virtue of patient with the devil , and He did not again did anything with the purpose of proud and the vain glory**”.

7-2-5: The devil continued in his doubt in our Lord Jesus Christ and he said for second time to Him:” **If You are the Son of God**”.

7-2-6: It is very important to understand the answer of our Lord Jesus Christ to the devil in this temptation, He said to him:” <sup>7</sup> **Jesus said to him, “It is written again, You**

---

<sup>7</sup> - In Matt, Hom,13:4.

***shall not tempt the LORD your God.”*** This verse was mentioned in *Deuteronomy 6:16* ***“You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah.*** And in Massah we knew that the people of Israel contended against the Lord because there was no water for them to drink. Let us read *Exodus 17:1-7 ,New King James Version (NKJV)*

***17 Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. 1 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, “Give us water that we may drink.”***

***So Moses said to them, “Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?”***

***2 And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, “Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”***

***3 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!”***

***4 And the LORD said to Moses, “Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. 5 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.”***

***And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 So he called the name of the place Massah<sup>8</sup> and Meribah<sup>9</sup> because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”***

### **7-3: The wish of the devil that Our Lord Jesus fall down and worshipping the him:**

***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,<sup>[d]</sup> Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”<sup>[e]</sup>***

7-3-1: The devil is not saying the truth here, he does not own all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, yes he owns some of these kingdoms as he owned the two cities Sodom and

Gomorrhah in which the Lord destroyed because of their sins as we read in **Genesis 19:23-25 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>23</sup> The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. <sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrhah, from the LORD out of the heavens. <sup>25</sup> So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.*

However the city in Nineveh was saved from the hands of the devil as they repented and the Lord accepted them as we read in **Jonah 3, New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>3</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup> So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey<sup>in extent</sup>. <sup>4</sup> And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”*

*<sup>5</sup> So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. <sup>6</sup> Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup> And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying,*

*Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. <sup>8</sup> But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. <sup>9</sup> Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?*

*<sup>10</sup> Then God saw their works that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it*

7-3-2: This temptation is the most difficult one, as it symbolises the easy way of gaining anything, the devil assume that this man who is in front of him is the Son of God and he will reign over all the world by His blessed death on the Cross, the devil mentioned this temptation to prevent the Lord from the Cross and the price is simple: Just to worship the devil!

7-3-3: The devil is still live in his lust to be like God and to be worshiped, we read in **Ezekiel 28:15, New King James Version (NKJV), 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.**

7-3-4: we need to worship the Lord our God, and Him only we should server, we should not be slaves to the love of anything from this world as what happened to Achan as we read in ***Joshua 7:10-26, New King James Version (NKJV)***

***<sup>10</sup>So the LORD said to Joshua: “Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? <sup>11</sup>Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff. <sup>12</sup>Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you. <sup>13</sup>Get up, sanctify the people, and say, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: “There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you.” <sup>14</sup>In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD takes shall come according to families; and the family which the LORD takes shall come by households; and the household which the LORD takes shall come man by man. <sup>15</sup>Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.”***

***<sup>16</sup>So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken. <sup>17</sup>He brought the clan of Judah, and he took the family of the Zarhites; and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. <sup>18</sup>Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.***

***<sup>19</sup>Now Joshua said to Achan, “My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.”***

***<sup>20</sup>And Achan answered Joshua and said, “Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: <sup>21</sup>When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.”***

***<sup>22</sup>So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it. <sup>23</sup>And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. <sup>24</sup>Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. <sup>25</sup>And Joshua said, “Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this***

*day.” So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.*

*<sup>26</sup> Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor<sup>27</sup> to this day.*

7-3-5: we are not from this world as St Paul said in **Philippians 3:20** ,New King James Version (NKJV) <sup>20</sup>For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

## **8- General remarks.**

These three temptations were the same temptations that our father Adam and our mother Eve were subjected to while being in the paradise, they were subjected to:

8-1: The lust of eat from which is not permitted.

8-2: The lust of being gods.

8-3: The lust of owning the tree of the knowledge.

And all our for fathers fall in , our Lord Jesus Christ was able to conquer , so as we perished by our for fathers , we had been saved by our Lord Jesus Christ for the everlasting life.

