

TEMPTED

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- This story must reconcile with James 1:13 somehow. Be careful to keep the blame for temptation where it belongs – we all have a common adversary.



OBSERVATIONS



- **Why these three temptations? It is speculated that each appealed to some core aspect of human life. First, the desire of the flesh for sustenance. Second, vulnerability of faith. And finally, pride and power. In all three, Jesus' determination was demonstrated – God alone stands above creation. HE is our sustenance, our defense, and the center of our world.**

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- Remember that Satan can quote scripture, too!
- Whose idea was this whole thing? Many assume it was Satan, but it appears to be quite intentional by the Spirit of God. Satan was the one backed into the corner!

“Temptation here is in the Divine plan and purpose. Jesus went into the wilderness under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to find the devil. My own conviction is that if the devil could have escaped that day, he would have done so. It is a very popular fallacy that the enemy drove Christ into a corner and tempted Him. But the whole Divine story reveals that the facts were quite otherwise. God's perfect Man, led by the Spirit - or as Mark in his own characteristic and forceful way expresses it, driven by the Spirit - passes down into the wilderness, and compels the adversary to stand out clear from all secondary causes, and to enter into direct combat...”

“...This is not the devil's method. He ever puts something between himself and the man he would tempt. He hides his own personality wherever possible. To our first parents he did not suggest that they should serve him, but that they should please themselves. Jesus dragged him from behind everything, and put him in front, that for once, not through the subtlety of a second cause, but directly, he might do his worst against a pure soul.”

Adapted from *The Crisis Of The Christ*

G. Campbell Morgan

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TEMPTED
but why?





- ***To reverse the precedent set by the first Adam*** – We see this explained in Romans 5:14-19. Adam was tempted and cast out into the wilderness. Jesus went to the wilderness to show us the way back to God. We can resist temptation (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:9, Colossians 3:5-10).



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- ***To be fully sympathetic to our weaknesses*** – Hebrews 2:14-18 & Hebrews 4:15-16. The text says He “had to be made” like us in order to show utmost sympathy. There is nothing I can say that He hasn’t fundamentally heard, seen, and lived through. There is no weakness of mine that He cannot strengthen. Thus we draw near with confidence to receive grace.