LUKE 4

The Spirit of the Lord Is upon Me

forty days with the devil, a sermon in Nazareth, a demon silenced, and a whole town at the door at sunset

> *"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,"*
> LUKE 4:18

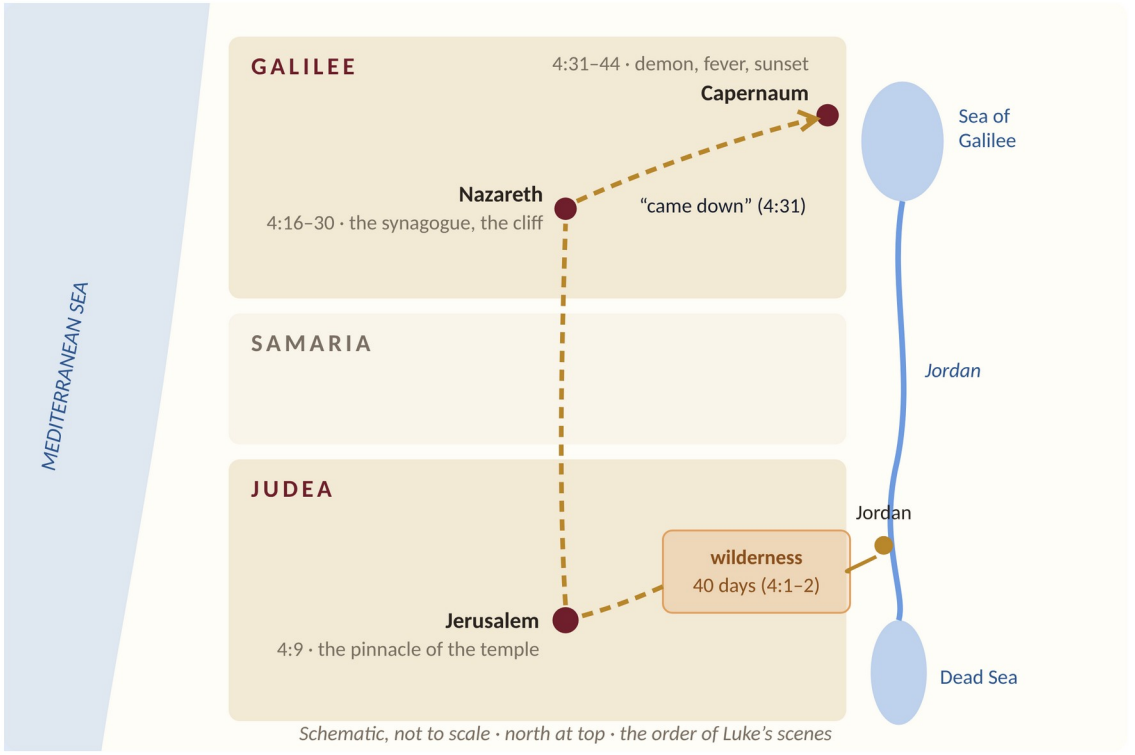
A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in Luke

1. Luke 3 ended with the Father's voice at the Jordan — "You are My beloved Son" (3:22) — and a genealogy that climbs to "Adam, the son of God" (3:38).

2. The forty days recall Israel's forty years in the wilderness, and all three of Jesus' answers come from Deuteronomy 6–8, Moses' sermon to that generation: "He humbled you and let you be hungry … that"…

3. Nazareth was a small hill town in lower Galilee where Jesus "had been brought up" (v. 16).



It Is Written

Full of the Spirit, hungry in the wilderness, and three answers from Deuteronomy

LUKE 4:1

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness

DAVID GUZIK

Real, heavier temptation; Scripture against a “Bible expert”; he comes back.

R.C. SPROUL

Adam on a full stomach, Jesus starving; He passed at every point.

C.H. SPURGEON

Christ’s sword drawn swiftly; never out of God’s hand; watch.

MATTHEW HENRY

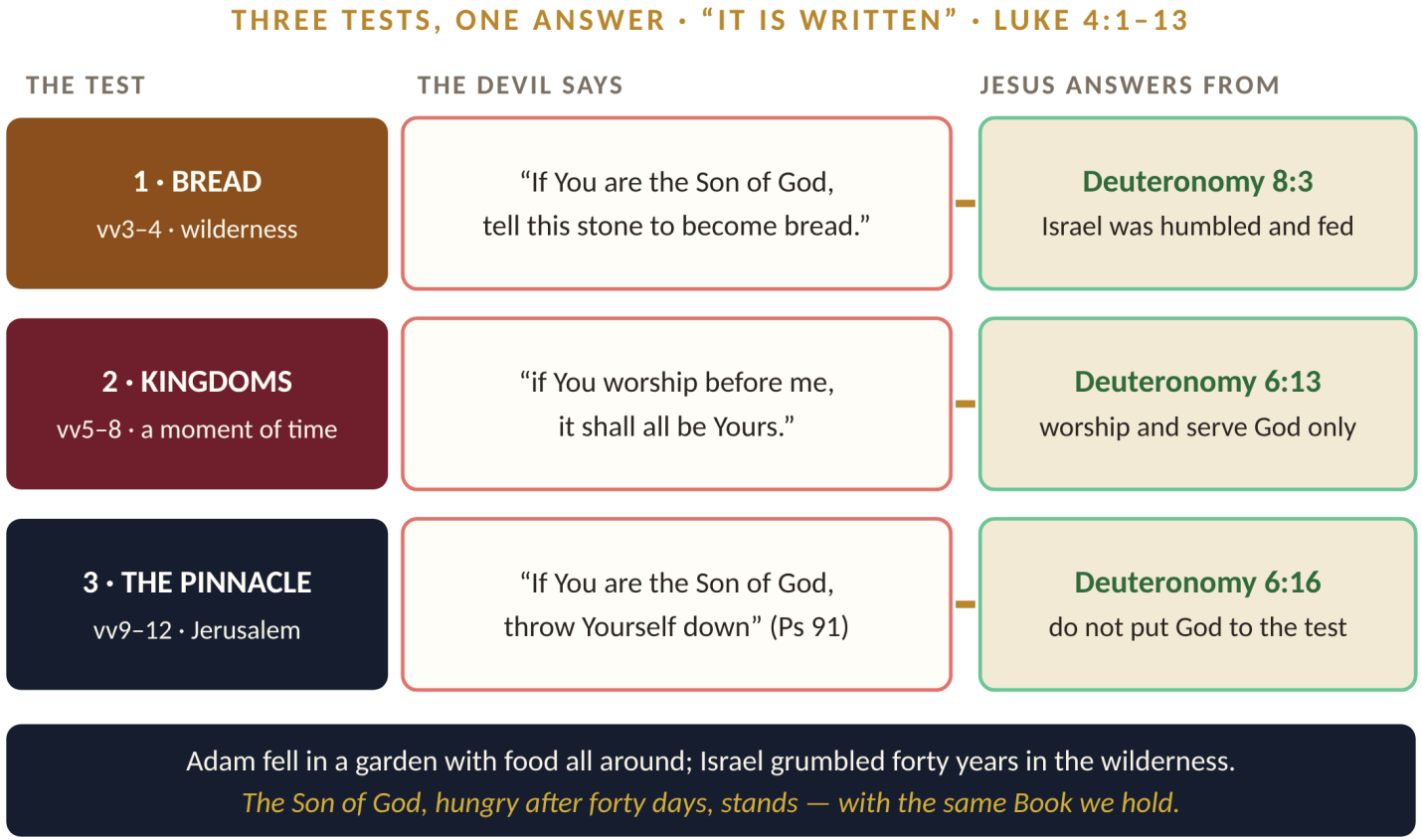
Full of the Spirit, well armed; resist the devil and he flees.

πειράζω

PEIRAZŌ · “TEMPT, TEST”

The same word means “test” and “tempt”; context decides.

Three tests, one answer



Read across each row: the devil's offer, and the line from Deuteronomy Jesus answered with — every answer from the book about Israel in the wilderness.

Today This Scripture Has Been Fulfilled

Isaiah 61 in Nazareth, gracious words, and a hometown that reaches for a cliff

LUKE 4:18

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,

DAVID GUZIK

A 2,000-year-old comma; their rejection said more about them.

R.C. SPROUL

The great Emancipation Proclamation; never neutrality with Jesus.

C.H. SPURGEON

He ceased reading wisely; God holds the keys of grace.

MATTHEW HENRY

Liberty for debtors; familiarity breeds contempt.

ἔχρισεν
ECHRISEN · "HE ANOINTED"

From chriō, to anoint — the root of Christos, "Christ," the Anointed One, Hebrew Messiah.

Where Jesus closed the book

WHERE JESUS CLOSED THE BOOK · ISAIAH 61:1–2 IN LUKE 4:18–20

READ ALOUD — "TODAY … FULFILLED" (v21)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me … anointed Me
· to preach the gospel to the poor
· to proclaim release to the captives, sight to the blind
· to set free those who are oppressed
· to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD

His first coming — the year of favor, now

,

NOT READ

"And the day of vengeance of our God" (Isa 61:2b)

His return — judgment

He "closed the book" in the middle of a sentence; the comma between the two lines has lasted two thousand years.

Jesus read Isaiah 61 up to "the favorable year of the LORD" and stopped; the day of vengeance waits for His return.

With Authority and Power

A Sabbath in Capernaum, a shrieking demon, and a word that commands

LUKE 4:32

and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority.

DAVID GUZIK

Authority in teaching and in life; hell admits He was not corrupted.

R.C. SPROUL

Demons know the truth and hate it; the unholy knows the holy.

C.H. SPURGEON

An old trick — praising the Preacher; the power is in the truth.

MATTHEW HENRY

A confession on the rack; the prince of the air trembles.

ἐξουσία

EXOUSIA · "AUTHORITY"

The right and power to act — delegated authority, the kind a king gives his officer.

I Must Preach the Kingdom

A fever rebuked, a town at the door at sunset, and a Savior who will not be kept

LUKE 4:39

And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them.

DAVID GUZIK

Healed and serving; worked hard; solitude; preaching first.

R.C. SPROUL

Miracles attest the messenger; compassion moved Him.

C.H. SPURGEON

Tell Him of her; soul-fever cured by unselfish service.

MATTHEW HENRY

A guest who pays well; a remedy for every malady.

δεῖ

DEI · "I MUST"

The divine "must" that runs through Luke: the boy Jesus "had to be" in His Father's house (2:49); here He "must" preach the kingdom to other cities (v. 43); later the Son of Man "must suffer many"…

What to carry from this chapter

1

The second Adam wins.

Sproul: “Adam was tempted on a full stomach.”

2

Every answer from Deuteronomy.

Jesus answers with Deut 8:3, 6:13 and 6:16 — Moses’ lessons for Israel in the wilderness.

3

“It is written” still stands.

Gegraptai is perfect tense — written and still in force.

4

The devil can quote the Bible.

Satan cited Psalm 91 (vv10–11).

More to carry

5

He leaves for a season.

“Until an opportune time” (v13).

6

The comma that has lasted two thousand years.

Jesus stopped before “the day of vengeance” (Isa 61:2).

7

Release is forgiveness.

Aphesis means release and forgiveness.

8

Grace offends the proud.

Widow of Zarephath, Naaman the Syrian (vv25–27).

Talk it through

1. The devil attacked right after God said “You are My beloved Son.” When have I been hit hardest right after a spiritual high?

2. Which of the three tests do I fall to most often — bread (my appetites), kingdoms (power and shortcuts), or the pinnacle (testing God)?

3. What verse do I have ready, like a drawn sword, for the temptation I face most?

4. Jesus said He came to proclaim release to the captives. What am I captive to, and do I believe He has come to set me free?

5. The people of Nazareth were too familiar with Jesus to receive Him. Where has familiarity made me dull to Him?

CLOSING

Luke 4 opens with the Son alone and hungry and ends with Him walking away from a crowd that wanted to keep Him. In between, He beats the devil with the Book, reads His own job description from Isaiah, is nearly thrown off a cliff, and rules demons and fevers by a word. The favorable year is still open: take Him at His word, and let Him set you free.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Luke study page.