

Luke 4: The Second Adam



Exodus Motif?

Based on Romans 5:12-21, Christ has been called the second Adam. Where the first Adam fell through disobedience to God's will, and all of his posterity by natural generation with him, the second Adam was victorious in every way; resisting temptation, fulfilling the Law, becoming a sacrifice for His people. Some have proposed that Jesus' baptism and temptation in the desert are a type of Israel's crossing the Red Sea and facing temptation in the desert but with a much different outcome. Read Luke 3:21-23 and 4:1-12. Look at the evidence and see if you agree.

1. Christ's baptism and the Red Sea. Cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-5
2. Israel's 40 years in the desert. Cf. Deut. 8:1-5. Christ's 40 days in the desert.
3. Satan's temptations of bread, power and worship.

Do you agree with the hypothesis? If so, why might it be necessary for Jesus to undergo these two events?

Showdown

Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." 4 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" 5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8 And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

Luke 4:9 And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,"

Luke 4:11 and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."

Luke 4:12 And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13 And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Implications

1. Does anything seem odd to you in verse 1?
2. If Jesus is being led by the Holy Spirit, what does that tell you about the temptations?
3. What about the person of Christ is revealed in the first two verses?
4. How does Jesus respond to each temptation?
5. If we take verse 5 literally, what does that tell us about the Devil's power?
6. Where in Scripture would you lead someone for a discussion of Satan's authority?
7. What tactic does the devil use against Jesus in verse 10?
8. Do you think Satan could deliver on his promises?
9. Ultimately what is the Devil trying to get Jesus to do? Not do?
10. Verse 13 makes it clear that Satan is not done yet. Where else in the Gospels might you find him still up to his tricks?

Reflection

The Bible makes it clear that we will face temptation as followers of Christ. Although Christ's method of resisting temptation is a great example to us, we can't miss the purpose of this battle. The obedience of Christ is essential to our salvation and is often categorized as both active and passive. In the active obedience of Christ, He fulfilled all the Law of God on behalf of His people. This positive righteousness is credited to us as a gift through faith in Christ. It secures our right standing before God. In His passive obedience Christ paid the penalty for sin on the cross taking on Himself the punishment we deserved (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 4:10), called propitiation. The process has been called the 2 fold imputation of Christ: His righteousness imputed to us and our sin imputed to Him.

1. How does knowing your standing with God in Christ help you in the midst of temptation?
2. Think about some of the temptations you face in your life. What truth from the Scriptures help you in facing those temptations (i.e. 1 Cor. 10:13)?

Galilee

Jewish historian Josephus claims there were thousands of villages in the area of Galilee with no less than 15k each, calculating into the millions. This is not literally true, but it indicates it was still a bustling place. Jesus remained outside the main political areas and no doubt Galileans would be considered “bumpkins” compared to Jerusalemites, but their place was not insignificant. Nazareth was probably larger than one might think having 1-2k people with a complex system of relationships and people who would have known Jesus.



Food for Thought

It has been said “expectations are planned resentments. Do you agree or disagree? Are expectations good or bad?”

Rejection

Luke 4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. 15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

Luke 4:19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Luke 4:20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” 22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” 23 And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself.’ What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” 24 And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” 28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.

The Implications

1. As Jesus begins His ministry in the region, Luke emphasizes Jesus' connection with the Holy Spirit. Why would that be important?
2. Jesus reads from Is. 61. What might the year of the Lord's favor be referring to? Of what other NT passage does it remind you?
3. According to the prophesy what would this year look like? In what ways could that text be interpreted given the original context?
4. Could social justice be a part of that favorable year?
5. Is social justice something that Christians should be involved in? If so, how?
6. Verses 22 and 29 seems puzzling. How can they seemingly speak well of him and then want to kill him?

Two Options:

7. What point is Jesus trying to get across by quoting a contemporary proverb?
8. When the people's expectations of the identity of Jesus is challenged, they react negatively. Why would they want to kill him?
9. Compare their response with Mary's in chapter 2? What is the difference and why?

Personal Reflection

When you talk to people in our culture about the Lord, what are their expectations of His work in this world?

Think about a time in your life when the Lord did not do what you had hoped or expected. How did you work out the personal conflict? Did you question the Lord? Did you determine that you didn't have enough faith? Ask the Lord to be able to accept Him for who he really is and not who we want to make Him out to be.