



TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS

1. Details of this event are found in the gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke so it seems to have been a well known story in the early Christian Church that was responsible for putting the gospels together.
2. Mark's account is very short with no details. Mark 1:12-13.
3. Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13 record the traditional story.
4. The details, although not the order, are the same in Matthew and Luke, three temptations -
to turn stones into bread
to jump off the top of the temple
having viewed all the kingdoms of the world from a mountain, to fall down and worship Satan.
5. Notice how Jesus' refusal to comply is always based on a scriptural quotation.
"Man shall not live by bread alone" Deut 4:4
"You shall not tempt the Lord your God" Deut 6:16.
"You shall worship the Lord your God..." Deut 6:13
6. Consider what we understand by the term "Devil" do you think devils exist or not?
7. Why do you think Jesus undertook this experience before he began his work?
Was he testing himself?
Seeing if he could resist evil?
Working out what being a Messiah would mean and avoiding obvious pitfalls?
8. The "wilderness" would refer to the desert region to the south east of Jerusalem in the direction of the Dead Sea.

