

put to the test. Christ was tempted in all points like as we are. Heb. iv, 15; Luke xxii, 28. (5) The "power of darkness." DEVIL. Greek, *diabolos*, accuser, calumniator, slanderer. Chief of the fallen angels. Jude. 6. He tempted Eve, Gen. iii; accused Job, Job i, 9-11; ii, 4, 5; continually seeks "whom he may devour." 1 Pet. v, 8. (6) *The physical aggravation.* FASTED. Ate nothing. Luke iv, 2. **FORTY DAYS AND NIGHTS.** Miraculously sustained, as were Moses and Elijah. Exod. xxxiv, 28; Deut. ix, 9; 1 Kings xix, 8. **AFTERWARD A HUNGERED.** Amid the terrors of the wilderness, with no companions save hungry wild beasts. Mark i, 13. What solitude was this! What scenes of horror! What a period of darkness and desolation! (See *Illus.* 1, 2.)

2. **THE WILES OF THE ADVERSARY**, vers. 3, 5, 6, 8, 9. (1) *The approach.* **THE TEMPTER.** The devil. **CAME.** In what form is not stated. To Eve he came as a "serpent." Gen. iii, 1. To Christ, perhaps as an angel of light. For forty days Satan had harassed the fasting Saviour, (Mark i, 13; Luke iv, 2.) but in what modes we are not informed. (2) *Three assaults.* Now he makes three special and powerful assaults. **FIRST SPECIAL TEMPTATION:** He tempts by an appeal to appetite. **COMMAND THAT THESE STONES BE...BREAD.** Thus also was Eve tempted through the "lust of the flesh," 1 John ii, 16. **SECOND SPECIAL TEMPTATION:** "The pride of life." Christ is taken to the HOLY CITY, Jerusalem. Neh. xi, 18; Isa. xlviii, 2. He is placed on the **PINNACLE OF THE TEMPLE**; a tower or a lofty portion of the roof. Pinnacle means a *little wing*. Herod built a magnificent portico, or tower, overhanging the Kedron, from whose dizzy height Josephus says one could not look to the bottom. Said to be seven hundred feet high. **CAST THYSELF DOWN.** God does not promise to save us when we tempt him. Rashness and foolhardiness are not faith. **IT IS WRITTEN.** Satan incorrectly quotes Ps. xci, 11, 12. "But what is this I see? Satan himself with a Bible under his arm and a text in his mouth."—*Bishop Hall.* We know infidels who pride themselves on their ability to quote Scripture. **ANGELS...SHALL BEAR THEE UP.** Yes, but not when the devil is the interpreter. Angels go not always with those "who are taken captive at his will." 2 Tim. ii, 26. **THIRD SPECIAL TEMPTATION:** "The lust of the eyes."

1 John ii, 16. Mount Quarantania, near Jericho, is the probable site whence Jesus was **SHOWN ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD**—"in a moment of time." Luke iv, 5. Perhaps a supernatural glance took in Persia and the Far East, Egypt, Rome, the land of the Jews, with all Gentile kingdoms. How mighty the vision! How full of splendor! The father of lies! (John viii, 44) says, **ALL THESE...WILL I GIVE THEE.** "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Ps. xxiv, 1. Many do now **FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP** the devil—and gain power and money! Behold how they revel in national and state legislatures! See their lordly equipages in avenue and park! Behold their palatial dwelling-places! Yet in *this* world how often "they are utterly consumed with terrors," Ps. lxxiii, 3-19,) and in *the world to come*, alas! how "the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever." Rev. xiv, 11. See in all these temptations how the adversary seeks to make it appear to be to the advantage of Jesus to do the devil's bidding. Thus always does the arch-fiend tempt. He is the enemy, the deceiver, the liar, the murderer from the beginning. Matt. xiii, 39; John viii, 44; 1 John ii, 4; Rev. xx, 2, 3, 8.

3. **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**, vers. 4, 7, 10. (1) *The sword in Satan's hands.* Thrice does Satan seek to strengthen his onset by words from Holy Writ. (2) *The sword in the Saviour's hands.* Thrice Jesus wrests God's word from the devil's profanation and thrusts it into the heart of his adversary. Jesus is hungry; he can turn every stone into a "loaf," [bread—literally, loaves;] but **MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE. EVERY WORD . . . OF THE MOUTH OF GOD** is bread to him that trusts in God. Deut. viii, 3. Again, the divine Jesus can leap into the abyss from Herod's mighty pinnacle and be safe; but not to gratify his pride, nor to please the devil, though he be as an angel of light. **IT IS WRITTEN, THOU SHALT NOT TEMPT THE LORD THY GOD.** Deut. vi, 16. Again, God must be SUPREME! Not for Persia, not for Egypt, nor Syria, nor Rome, nor for all the world must the soul take away its affections from our God for one single moment. Not to worship God is to worship Satan or some other soul-destroying power. Hence, **THOU SHALT WORSHIP . . . HIM ONLY.** Deut. vi, 13. Thus in the fearful conflict in the wilderness