

## LESSON III. THE BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF JESUS Jan. 17, 1904

Matt. 3: 13 to 4: 11. Com. 4: 3, 4. Comp. Mark 1: 9-13; Luke 3: 21; 4: 13. Read Luke 3: 1-20.

G. TEXT—And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.—Matt. 3: 17.

13 Then cometh Je'sus from Gal'ilee to 1 Jor'dan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John <sup>2</sup>forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?15 <sup>2</sup>And Je'sus answering said unto him, <sup>4</sup>Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he <sup>5</sup>suffered him.16 And Je'sus, when he was baptized, went up straightway <sup>6</sup>out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:17 And lo a voice <sup>8</sup>from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.Ch. 4: 1 Then was Je'sus led up of the <sup>9</sup>spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, <sup>10</sup>he was afterward an hungred.8 11 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou <sup>12</sup>be the Son of God, command that these stones <sup>13</sup>be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man

shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him <sup>14</sup>up into the holy city and <sup>15</sup>setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple.

6 And saith unto him, If thou <sup>12</sup>be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: <sup>16</sup>and in their hands they shall bear thee up, <sup>17</sup>lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7 Je'sus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

8 Again, the devil <sup>18</sup>taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And <sup>19</sup>saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Je'sus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

11 Then the devil leaveth him, and behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Revised Version—1 the Jordan; 2 would have hindered; 3 But; 4 Suffer it now; 5 suffereth; 6 from the water; 7 as a dove, and coming; 8 out of the heavens; 9 Spirit; 10 he afterward hungered; 11 And the tempter came and said unto him; 12 art; 13 become; 14 Omit up; 15 he set him on the pinnacle; 16 and on their; 17 lest haply thou; 18 taketh him unto an; 19 he said.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—Jan. 27 A.D.; river Jordan and the Desert of Judaea.

Connection—The incidents of this lesson follow immediately upon those of the last.

I. THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.—13-15. Then. John had been preaching and baptizing for some months. Luke (3: 21) says, after all the other applicants had been baptized, Jesus was now about thirty years old (Luke 3: 23), the age when priests entered on their ministry, Num. 4: 3. From Galilee; in which was Nazareth, his home. Galilee was the most northerly of the three provinces of Palestine. To Jordan; probably at a ford of the river near Jericho. Forbad; protested. He shrank from baptizing One so much greater than himself. I have need, etc. Jesus' mother and John's were near relatives, Luke 1: 36. John knew of the wonderful story of Jesus' birth, and of his blameless life at Nazareth. He had thoughts and hopes as to who He might be, though he did not yet clearly know Him as the promised Saviour. Suffer; permit. Becometh us (we ought) to fulfil all righteousness; in the case of John, to obey every command of God, who had sent him to baptize (John 1: 33); in the case of Jesus, although without sin (1 Pet. 2: 22), to take His place along with sinners, whom He had come to earth to save.

II. THE DESCENT OF THE SPIRIT.—16, 17. Straightway; immediately. Heavens opened.

(Compare Ezek. 1: 1; Acts 7: 56.) Luke tells us (ch. 3: 21) that Jesus was praying at the time, "a grand piece of information." He (Jesus) saw. John also saw, John 1: 32, 33. Like a dove; the symbol of gentleness and purity, Heb. 7: 26. John says it remained upon Him, and that by this sign he knew Him, John 1: 32, 33. The Spirit of God; the Holy Ghost or Spirit (see S. Catechism, Ques. 6).

A voice from heaven. Compare Mark 9: 7; John 12: 28. My beloved Son; the son of Mary, but the Son of God. I am well pleased; or "I delight," Isa. 42: 1. Thus God set His seal on Jesus and His mission to men.

III. THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS—Ch. 4: 1, 2. Then; after His baptism. Of the Spirit; the Holy Spirit, who had just descended upon Him. Wilderness; probably the wild Judæan desert; "with the wild beasts," Mark adds, ch. 1: 13. Tempted;

tried, or put to the test. So God proved Abraham, Gen. 22: 1. Devil; slanderer, false accuser. The Hebrew "Satan" (Mark 1: 13) means adversary. Forty days and forty nights; like Moses, Ex. 34: 28, and Elijah, 1 Kgs. 19: 8. Hungred; therefore weak.

3, 4. The tempter came to him; probably in some false appearance, 2 Cor. 11: 14. If thou be the Son of God. Satan wanted to shake Him in His confidence that He was indeed the Son of God. Command . . . stones be made bread. This would have been an act of selfishness, and have shown want of trust in God's care. It is written; Deut.



River Jordan—Pilgrim Bathing Place