



## The King In Battle

### Key idea:

As Jesus begins His public ministry, the Spirit propels Him into the wilderness for a time of testing and temptation from which He emerges victorious where Adam and Israel had failed.

### Key text:

Mark 1:12-13

At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert,<sup>13</sup> and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

### Key points:

1. Immediately after His water baptism and announcement as the Messiah-Son-King, the Spirit propels Jesus into the wilderness to do battle with Satan.
2. In the wilderness, Jesus does battle with Satan himself. This intense battle is repeated at three key moments during Jesus' public ministry:
  - a. Here at the beginning of His public ministry (Mark 1:12-13; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-3)
  - b. Immediately after Peter's confession that Jesus was the Christ (Mark 8:27-33; Matthew 16:13-23; Luke 9:18-22)
  - c. The night of His betrayal by Judas (Luke 22:3; John 13:27; Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11)
3. In the wilderness, Jesus undergoes the same testing and trial as that undergone by Israel and Adam before Him, but although they failed He is totally victorious.
4. The angels minister to Jesus in the wilderness so that the time of testing, temptation, and warfare strengthens Him for the ministry to come.
5. This account of Jesus' temptation and battle in the wilderness is primarily about the spiritual war between Jesus and Satan. The main point is to show that Jesus the Messiah-Son-King has met Satan in battle and triumphed! However, it does have a secondary application to my own spiritual warfare and temptations.

### Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. How is Mark's account of the temptation in the wilderness different from Matthew and Luke's account? Why does Mark not include all of the details they give?
3. What is the benefit of reading Mark's account of the temptation in the wilderness without reading the other two accounts? What benefit is gained by reading the accounts together?
4. Does it surprise me to see the Spirit propelling Jesus towards the place of temptation, testing, and spiritual warfare? Why is this necessary as part of Jesus' role as the Messiah-Son-King?
5. Have I ever experienced times of intense spiritual conflict following a season of great spiritual success and refreshment? Did it make me doubt my former spiritual experience? What does this event in the life of Jesus teach me about this?
6. What do I think about the reality of a personal Satan? What do most Americans today think about this? Do they believe Satan is real? What does the Scripture teach?
7. How is Jesus' experience in the wilderness similar to that of Israel? How is it different?
8. Why does Mark tell us that angels ministered to Jesus? What does this teach me about spiritual testing and trial in my own life?
9. What does Jesus' victory in this time of intense testing, temptation, and spiritual warfare tell me about His identity and His ability to save?
10. How does Jesus' victory in this time of intense testing, temptation, and spiritual warfare help me in my own times of testing, temptation, and spiritual warfare?
11. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? How will I work to share life with them this week?