Matthew 4

* In Matthew 3, as the Father revealed the identity of His Son, there was someone else listening on that day, someone else who heard the Father’s words
  + He is a powerful and important character in the story of Jesus, and he too, desperately desired to know the identity of the Messiah…
  + His name was Lucifer, otherwise known as
    - He had been waiting for the Father to reveal the Messiah so he could destroy that Promised One
    - Satan knew this Messiah was coming to destroy him

**Ezekiel 28:12-19**

**12***“Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says:*

*“‘You were the seal of perfection,  
    full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.***13***You were in Eden,  
    the garden of God;  
every precious stone adorned you:  
    carnelian, chrysolite and emerald,  
    topaz, onyx and jasper,  
    lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.   
Your settings and mountingswere made of gold;  
    on the day you were created they were prepared.***14***You were anointed as a guardian cherub,  
    for so I ordained you.  
You were on the holy mount of God;  
    you walked among the fiery stones.***15***You were blameless in your ways  
    from the day you were created  
    till wickedness was found in you.***16***Through your widespread trade  
    you were filled with violence,  
    and you sinned.  
So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,  
    and I expelled you, guardian cherub,  
    from among the fiery stones.***17***Your heart became proud  
    on account of your beauty,  
and you corrupted your wisdom  
    because of your splendor.  
So I threw you to the earth;  
    I made a spectacle of you before kings.***18***By your many sins and dishonest trade  
    you have desecrated your sanctuaries.  
So I made a fire come out from you,  
    and it consumed you,  
and I reduced you to ashes on the ground  
    in the sight of all who were watching.***19***All the nations who knew you  
    are appalled at you;  
you have come to a horrible end  
    and will be no more.’”*

* + Ezekiel says Satan was created full of and perfect in

.

* + - The word “full” in Hebrew carries the sense of completeness or an abundance
    - And “perfect” can mean entirely consumed
    - So Satan was complete in wisdom and consumed in beauty
  + The Lord testifies in v.15 that Satan was in his ways from the day of his creation
    - Satan was without sin, perfectly obedient to the Father from the beginning of his existence
    - Which confirms that God did not establish sin – neither the sin of mankind, nor the sin of Satan
* In v.14, notice what job God assigned Satan as his service in Heaven…
  + The text says Satan was the *"guardian ”*
    - Cherubim are the highest order of heavenly beings, and Satan was the wisest and most beautiful of these angelic creatures
    - Scripture says Satan is one of these creatures
    - Satan held the most coveted position in creation

The phrase cherub may ring a bell, because it comes from the instructions given to Moses on how to build the tabernacle:

**Exodus 37:6-9**

**6***He made the atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide.*

**7***Then he made two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover.*

**8***He made one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; at the two ends he made them of one piece with the cover.*

**9***The cherubim had their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim faced each other, looking toward the cover.*

* Ezekiel 28:16-18, the Lord describes the moment of Satan’s fall into sin
  + Scripture says the first sin happened because of the abundance of Satan’s trade
    - Because of Satan’s lofty position, he was filled internally with

and then he sinned

* + - Satan was personally covering the glory of God in the heavenly tabernacle
    - No created thing was closer to God’s presence than Satan
    - Satan knew he was special, beautiful and more powerful than anything else in Creation
  + One day, Satan’s special qualities and his unique place near the glory of God caused his heart became proud and filled with violence
    - Violence is a physical act of force intended to kill, steal or destroy
    - What violent physical act is Satan responsible for?
    - He tried to take the mercy seat by force, seating himself in the place of God
    - In v.18, we’re told Satan’s attempted coup profaned the heavenly sanctuary, leaving it defiled
  + At that point, the Lord rejected Satan, casting him from the heavenly tabernacle to earth, where he later corrupted mankind
    - In v.19, the Lord also declared that Satan would one day be

for his sin

* + - He would cease to be forever
    - Later, after the fall in the Garden, the Lord clarified that Satan’s defeat would come at the hands of the
    - The Son of God would personally defeat and condemn Satan for his rebellion
    - Under the Law of Moses, the mercy seat in the tabernacle was the place of

* It’s called the “mercy” seat because it was the place Israel received mercy from God for their sin
  + - Before Satan fell, there was no need for a mercy seat because there was no to forgive
* Having fallen, Satan goes on the prowl over the whole earth like a lion, full of pride and violence, opposing God and God’s people
  + At the time period we are studying in Matthew, Satan still desired to take God’s place, but now, he also has a new goal:
    - He intends to the Promised One coming to defeat him
    - At this point, he didn’t know it will be or he would arrive
    - But Satan knew that if he could destroy the one who was coming or if he could Him into sin, then the Messiah would fail
  + When the Lord revealed that the Promised Messiah would come through the descendants of Jacob, Satan began to focus his hatred against
    - He tried to use Pharaoh to destroy all the male children of Israel but God granted Moses an escape
    - Over the centuries, Satan continued battling Israel, either to destroy them or corrupt their line to stop the coming of Messiah
    - But each time, the Lord has protected His Son to ensure He could arrive as promised

Scripture says this about God:

**James 1:13**

*When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;*

* God in His heavenly form, His full and true form, cannot be tempted by

**Hebrews 2:17-18**

**17***For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*

**18***Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

* Jesus was made like us, that is, He became a man no different than we are so He could take our place in death as a propitiation
* And along the way to the cross, Hebrews says Jesus was tempted in the things He

* Obviously, that refers to the temptation to avoid the pain of the cross
* We can understand Jesus’ feeling that way, because that’s the way any one of us would feel if we were in His shoes
  + But that’s the point:
  + Jesus was just like us…feeling the temptation to do the wrong things, except He never succumbed to that temptation

**Hebrews 4:15**

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.*

* If God in His heavenly form cannot be tempted, yet Jesus in His human form was tempted, then clearly Jesus was not superman, He was just man.
* His identity was , but his form was
  + He did not have superpowers, which is why the Holy Spirit came on Him at His baptism
    - That also means Satan’s attacks had real effect
    - Jesus was placed in jeopardy
    - Had he succumbed to Satan’s attacks, He could have died or been led into sin
    - He didn’t have any special ability you don’t have – He had His and the
* These temptations were absolutely necessary for Jesus to accomplish His mission
* Adam chose to believe in Satan’s instead of heeding God’s
  + - When he did this, Adam single-handedly handed Satan dominion over his soul and those of his offspring
    - And by his failure to resist Satan’s temptation, Adam put all of us under bondage to sin
* Jesus came to fix that problem, to redeem us from that bondage
  + - To do that, Jesus had to become our representative—in place of Adam
    - Which is why He had to take the form of man…not merely the appearance of man—an actual
    - And then Jesus had to face the tempter, as Adam did
    - Only this time, Jesus would make different choices, which qualified Him to be our sinless representative, beyond Satan’s reach

**Matthew 4:1-2**

**1***Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be temptedby the devil.*

**2***After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.*

**Mark 1:12** - *At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness.*

* According to Mark, the Spirit Jesus into the wilderness
* Jesus in the form of man is dependent on the Spirit to understand the will of the Father
* To make sure that we have no doubt concerning Jesus’ worthiness, the Father stacked the deck against Jesus.  In fact, it’s interesting to compare Him to Adam
  + When Adam fell into sin and brought the rest of us with him, he had everything going his way
    - He lived in literally circumstances
    - He lived in a cool and pleasant Garden, specially designed for Adam, well-watered and full of food
    - Adam was not , since he had his wife to help him
    - And most importantly, he walked with God in fellowship
  + The deck was stacked against the enemy
    - Man lived in paradise, he had an infinite number of ways to remain obedient and only one way he could fail
    - Satan had the most minimal of temptations to offer and had to find a way to make Adam resent the one and only rule God gave him
    - Despite having all the advantages Adam and Eve fell into disobedience
    - The Lord couldn’t have made Adam’s test any easier, and still, Adam fell
  + Now, as Jesus sets out to prove Himself as our Second Adam, the circumstances will be quite different
    - The odds are stacked against Jesus
    - Jesus will be in a harsh desert, hungry and without friends
    - He will face an enemy who has already won and is fighting to keep what he has gained
    - And Satan will be allowed to tempt Jesus not once, but times, while He’s in a weakened state
    - And Jesus will face these attacks as Adam did, as a mere man, without the Father’s or the Spirit’s supernatural power
    - He doesn’t even have the ministry of angels until the temptations are over – He’s by Himself
* V.2, even the temptations begin, Jesus fasts for forty days

Satan’s goal and methods in these temptations:

Satan’s goal is to make Jesus Himself

* + To do this, Satan relies on two key tactics
    - First, he depends on the strength of his
    - Secondly, he exploits the weaknesses of our

The apostle John offers a summary of the three ways we can be tempted to sin:

**1 John 2:16 (NIV)**

*For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.*

A. We can be tempted by the lusts of our physical body, our

B. We can tempted by the lust of our eyes, which refers to that captivate us and distract us from following God

C. And the boastful or vain glory of life, which is anything that appeals to our or sense of self-worth apart from God

* Every temptation we can name fits into one of these three categories, and Jesus was tempted by all three methods:
  + Tempted to give in to His body’s demand for
  + Tempted by a vision of what He could gain without the need to experience the

of the cross

* + Tempted by His pride to His honor and reputation as the Son of God
* Jesus didn’t just save us by His death
  + - He saved us by His perfect, sinless life given in place of our worthless, sinful, rebellious life