

Eight Essential Elements of the Biblical Christian Gospel Series
Element 5: Jesus Christ the Only Mediator / Introduction to Christology

Element 5H: The Wilderness Temptation of Jesus

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I. Eight Essential Elements: Outline & Overview

0. Intro: Proclamation / Pre-Evangelism / Disciples / Pole Fishing / Diagnostic Tools / 7 Missing Elements
1. God: Essential Biblical Attributes: (Non-Communicable & Communicable)
2. Man: Essential Biblical Attributes: (3 Issues / Culpability / Empowerment)
3. The 10 Commandments: (Exodus 20:1-17) & (Deuteronomy 5:1-21)
4. Historical Narrative of Israel & Warning(s) of Eternal Judgment Day: Gospel Presentations in Acts
5. **Jesus Christ: Only Mediator: Intro to Christology**: Bridge / Solution / Ministry / Atonement / Reign
6. Receiving Jesus Christ: (John 1:12-13) Responding: Key Components & Exchanges of Soteriology
7. The First 5 Steps Into the Kingdom of Christ: Acts 2:37-47 (See Pt. I, E, 3 Above)
8. Maturing in Jesus Christ: 3 Tools of Grace - Vital Growth Ingredients / Necessity of Discipleship

II. Messages 1 - 20: Elements 1 - 4: Defining Bad News (Gap): God, Man, Decalogue & Christ as Israel (Telos)

III. Last 7 Weeks: Element 5: Bridging the Gap: Christology / Jesus, The Only Solution, Bridge, Mediator

(1 Tim. 2:3-6) ³ ... God our Savior,⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,⁶ who gave Himself ...

IV. Last 7 Weeks - Element 5: Introduction to Christology / Parts 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F & 5G

5A & 5B: "I am" Statements in John as Archetypical & Quintessential "Logos" (Ex. 3:13-15) (Jn. 1:1-14)

5C: The Crucial Role of Christology: Why Our Understanding of Who Jesus is - is Critical or Vital.

(Matthew 16:13-18) ¹³ Now ... Jesus ... was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ And they said, "Some say ..., and others" ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Key Issues: All Pseudo Christian Cults & All False Religions are Anti-Christ (**1 Jn 5:12**) (Jn 8:24, 28) (1 Jn 4:2-3)

5D & 5E: Deity & Humanity of Jesus Christ in Didactic Biblical Perspective:

Didactic Defined: In Scriptural usage, straightforward or plain language teachings (doctrines / statements) that contain Theological, moral or exhortative instruction to which aesthetic & literary considerations are subordinated.

5F: Conceived by the Holy Spirit & Born of the Virgin Mary: Explanation & Vital Importance

5G: Life Pattern, Growth in Grace & Baptisms of Christ: (Jn 13:12-17) (Lk 2:52) (Hebs. 5:7-10) (Matt. 3:13-17)

V. Today: Element 5H: Wilderness Temptation of Jesus:

A. Temptability vs. Impeccability:

1. Temptable: Real Temptations – Real Possibility of Sin

(Hebrews 4:15-16) For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw ... to... find grace to help...

(Luke 4:1-2a) Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

(Hebrews 5: 7-10a) In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. ⁸ Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, ¹⁰ being designated by God as a high priest ...

2. Impeccable: Incapable of Sin / Not Able to Sin

(Hebrews 13:20) Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

(Acts 4:27-28) ... whatever your hand and your plan (purpose) had predestined to take place.

B. Mystery of Divine Tensions: Seemingly Paradoxical but Not Antithetical / The Mystery of Faith

C. The Wilderness Temptation of Christ: (Luke 4:1-13) (Matthew 4:1-11) (Cf. Gen. 3:1-7 & 1 John 2:15-17)

Note: Luke has Order of 2nd & 3rd Test Reversed; Some Other Emphasis / Insights

1. Forty Days Fasting & Preparation for Ministry: (Many Examples of Biblical 40 Days of Preparation)
 - a. Moses Fasted 40 Days on Mt. Zion before Receiving Law (Exodus 34:28)
 - b. Israel Spent 40 Days Spying Out the Promise Land (Numbers 13:25)
 - c. Israel Spent 40 Years in Wilderness (Failed Temptations) - Entire Generation Died. (Num. 14:34)
 - d. Israel Given Final 40 Years by Jesus in Mt. Olivet Discourse (See Matthew 24-25) (Parallels "C")
2. Unlike Adam in Garden: The 2nd Adam Passed All Test in Wilderness: (Rom. 5:14) (1 Cor. 15:22, 45)
3. Unlike Israel in Wilderness: Jesus The True Israel Passed All Test in Wilderness (Matt. 5:17-19ff)
4. Jesus Adheres To & Fulfills the Law that Israel Repeatedly Breaks – Quotes Deuteronomy 3Xs.
Deuteronomy 2nd Giving of Law: Jesus the Final Giving of the Law (Rom. 10:4)
5. 1st Trial: Forbidden Food vs. Celebratory Sacred Food Received w/ Thanksgiving
 - a. 1st Adam Eats the Forbidden Food: 2nd Adam Refuses the Forbidden Food (Cf. 1 John 2:16)
 - b. Israel Rebels Against Moses (God): Jesus Rebuffs Satan w/ Rebuke Used by Moses. (Deut. 8:3) (Matthew 4:4) But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" (Cf. Luke 4:4)
6. 2nd Trial (Luke's Order): False Worship / Satan offers Jesus shortcut to what he was about to lose. Jesus was about to take it back. Restoration. (See Acts 3:19, Etc.) (Cf. Deut. 6:13) (Luke 4:8) Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" (Deut. 5:9)
 - a. Jesus Refuses the False Geo-Political Conception of the Kingdom Popular at that Time & Now (John 18:36) Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm. (Revelation 11:15b) ... "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever." (Cf. Gen. 3: 5-6) (Cf. John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 / Cast Out; Nothing in Me & Judged)
 - b. Israel Guilty of False Worship w/ Golden Calf & Generally vs. Jesus the Faithful & True Israel. (Exodus 32:4) (Leviticus 17:7)
7. 3rd Trial (Luke's Order): Testing God (False Trust) vs. Trust / Satan Inverts Psalm 91:11-12 Meaning (Psalm 91:11-12) For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. ¹²They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone. (Testing is Actually Mistrust) (Deut. 6:16) "You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. (Moses's Rebuke)
8. Summary: Lessons From the Jesus's Three Temptations (Recapitulation)
 - a. The New (2nd) Adam Remains Obedient in Love of (Loyalty to) the Father: 1st Adam Failed
 - b. The New Israel Fulfills Israel's Vocation (Calling): Israel Failed in Wilderness & Ongoing to Christ
 - c. Jesus Revealed as God's True Servant – Totally Obedient to Father's Will vs. All Who Came Before
 - d. Defeats (Conquers / Crushes) Satan / Devil: Binds Strong Man / 1st of Several Victorious Blows (Gen. 3:15) (Matt. 12:29; Mark 3:27; Luke 10:18, 11:21) (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) (Rom. 16:20) (1 John 3:8)
 - e. Obedience in Wilderness Foreshadows Passion – Filial Love Obedient to Death
 - f. Jesus Obedient Refusal to Take Power by Shortcut Reveals a Different Kind of King & Messiah (Proverbs 27:2) (Luke 14:7-11) (John 18:36) (1 Peter 5:6-11)

VI. Next Week: Element 5I: Sinless Life: Tempted W/Out Sin / Merits Exchanged / Gospel / Merciful

VII. In Two Weeks: Ministry Models A (Discipleship, Community, Real Salvation)

VIII: Upcoming: Elements 5M? – 5?: Critical Christological Characteristics Continued in Didactic Perspective:

More Ministry Models: Prophetic Witness, Teaching & Miracles of Jesus Christ; Passion; Atoning Death; Resurrection; Ascension; Glorification; Present Reign & 2nd Coming