



**BIBLE**  
HOMEWORK

## What Jesus Said

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### 2. Matthew 4:1-11. *Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness*

This story is found in the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 4, from the first verse through to the eleventh verse, – we write it like this: **Matthew 4:1-11**. *BibleHomework* uses this format throughout its website.

Following Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, he is led by the Spirit to the Wilderness ...

#### The Scripture:

**Matthew 4:1** - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

**4:2** - After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

**4:3** - The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

**4:4** - Jesus answered, "**It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'**"

**4:5** - Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

**4:6** - "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

**4:7** - "**Yes,**" Jesus answered him, "**It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'**"

**4:8** - Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour.

**4:9** - "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

**4:10** - Jesus said to him, **“Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”**

**4:11** - Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

## The Explanation:

Jesus’ integrity is shown early on in the New Testament both in the Gospel of St. Matthew and the Gospels of St. Mark and St. Luke.

Satan reveals his belief that he is the Master of the Universe, and that if Jesus bows to him all will be his, but Jesus holds fast to his faith in his Father. He declares that his determination not to tempt his father, that his strength comes from his Father and he dismisses Satan’s claims and stays faithful to God.

Jesus realises that all things come from God, and only from God.

## Places and People Mentioned:

**Satan:** A fallen angel or cherub who wanted the worship due to God for himself. He opposes Jesus in all things. Before the creation of man he convinced a third of the angels to follow him. They were defeated in a great battle by St. Michael the Archangel and he and his cohorts were exiled from heaven to earth. There are various descriptions of him – but although he takes the form of a man in ‘human form’, Cherubs themselves are without masculine or feminine form.

**Wilderness:** Is a setting where Jesus was contemplating and where Satan decided to tempt Jesus as Jesus was fasting – that is abstaining from food. Fasting is seen as a form of respectful prayer and contemplation. In this context we believe a wilderness would be hot, barren and designed to test your strength.

## Questions:

1. Why would Satan believe that the Wilderness would be a good place to confront Jesus?
2. Who has all the authority in the Universe? Where do all things come from?

3. Why would Jesus turn down such an offer to be 'King of the World'?
4. Why would Jesus dismiss Satan?
5. What would happen if Jesus gave in to Satan?
6. In **Matthew 4:7**, Jesus says "Yes", but then goes on to clarify his answer when Satan challenges him on summoning God's protection. Why would he have said "Yes"? What was he acknowledging?