

עֵקֵב

**Eqev**

(because)

**D'varim [Deuteronomy] 7:12-11:25**

הַבְּרִית הַחֲדָשָׁה

**HaB'rit HaChadashah**

(the new covenant)

**Matithyah [Matthew] 4:1-11**

**Led Into the Wilderness**

***Matithyah (Matthew) 4:1***

***Then Yeshua was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.***

As it often happens with those who follow YHWH, He leads them into the wilderness at some point in the journey.

***Matithyah (Matthew) 4:2***

***And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.***

It is interesting to note that the text indicates to us that Yeshua did not become hungry until after His fast was over. This is actually not unusual. I have done long periods of fasting throughout my life and oftentimes such is the case that during the fast itself I am not hungry; but when the fast is done, then I become hungry again. Apparently this was the case here. Notice that this confrontation from Satan does not happen until after the fast has ended at the end of the forty days.

***Matithyah (Matthew) 4:3***

***And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of Elohim, command that these stones become bread."***

In verse one he is referred to as המְקַטְרֵגַהּ – “ham-qat-reg” which means “the sifter”, but here he is referred to as המְנַסֶּה – “ham-nas-seh” which means “the one who tempts”. He begins by calling into question the true identity of Mashiach Yeshua. He knew full well who he was talking to, but he was attempting to goad Him into rash action. This is often the way of Satan.

These three temptations from Satan fall in line with the following passage.

***Yochanan Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> John) 2:16***

***For all that is in the world, the <sup>1</sup>lust of the flesh and the <sup>2</sup>lust of the eyes and the <sup>3</sup>boastful pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.***

These three temptations fall in line with these three things mentioned in the above verse respectively. In this first temptation it is the temptation of the lust of the flesh. There are certain things that we need to live in this world. One of those things is food. Here Satan is tempting Yeshua to obtain a legitimate need through an unlawful means. This is why we need YHWH’s Torah so that we know how to lawfully obtain those things that we need to live.

***Matithyah (Matthew) 4:4***

***But He answered and said, “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Elohim.”***

Here Yeshua quotes Devarim 8:3. Yeshua is showing us by example how it is that we are to overcome temptation from the tempter. Notice that Yeshua did not argue with Satan. There is no point in arguing with Satan. He knows, but he chooses to rebel. Such is the case with those who are his unknowing minions. There is no point in arguing with them. Show them the Scripture and then leave it in the hands of the Spirit!

***Matithyah (Matthew) 4:5-6***

***5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,  
6 and says to Him, “If You are the Son of Elohim, cast Yourself down; for it is written, ‘He shall give His malakim charge concerning You; and, on their hands they shall bear You up, lest You dash Your foot against a stone.’ ”***

This temptation is the lust of the eyes. Why? Notice that the place was in a public place, not out in the wilderness where Yeshua had been. This was to tempt Yeshua to astonish the crowds into following Him through a miraculous feat of salvation to put credibility upon His words and ministry.

But this is not what gives credibility to a ministry. What gives credibility to a ministry or a minister or a prophet is YHWH Himself because such a one is living in obedience to Him. Miracles do not lend credibility to anything. After all, even Satan can do miracles!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:9**

***whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,***

Do not follow after crowds who seek after signs and wonders. Rather follow Mashiach Yeshua whose way is humble and for those who are willing to humble themselves.

***Matityah (Matthew) 4:7***

***Yeshua said to him, "Again it is written, you shall not test YHWH your Elohim."***

Once again Yeshua quotes the Torah, from Devarim 6:16. What does it mean to test YHWH? It has to do with presuming upon Him and His grace and compassion. We are the servant and He is the Master. We are to do what He says. We cannot act like the master and order Him around like some genii in a bottle to do our every bidding.

***Matityah (Matthew) 4:8-9***

***8 Again, the devil took Him to an exceeding high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;***

***9 and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You will fall down and worship me."***

This is the third temptation, but certainly not the last one that Yeshua would face from the tempter. This temptation corresponds to the boastful pride of life. Just think, Yeshua was being offered all the kingdoms of the world to sit at the head of them. But this is not the point of the temptation, for He was already going to do that. What the real crux of this temptation involves is that Satan was offering these kingdoms to Him without having to go through the suffering that He was manifested in the flesh to do.

Often times this type of temptation from Satan is that he offers something to us that we are going to get anyway, but he offers it to us in an unlawful manner. We must know and live Torah every day if we are going to guard against this temptation effectively.

***Matityah (Matthew) 4:10***

***Then says Yeshua to him, "Go for yourself, Satan; for it is written, you shall worship YHWH your Elohim, and Him only shall you serve."***

The first part of what Yeshua says to Satan is לֵךְ לְךָ הַשָּׂטָן – "lek l'ka hasatan". The first word לֵךְ means to "go". The next word לְךָ is made up of two parts. לְ means "to, for, towards" and כָּ means "you, your, yourself". So whether we have "to", "for" or "towards", Yeshua is basically telling Satan that He is not going to do it and that he should go do it himself.

Yeshua then refers to another passage from Devarim (6:13-14). Yeshua effectively combats each one of these three temptations with Scripture, specifically with Torah.

**Matithyah (Matthew) 4:11**

***Then the devil left Him; and behold, malakim came and ministered to him.***

Now here is a question for you to ponder deeply, if the Torah was done away with as so many teach then what do they have to combat Satan with? I'll tell you what, nothing! Therefore, if one does not have Torah to combat Satan with, then he cannot overcome him. Satan will win. Now I ask you, whose idea is it to do away with the Torah? If you come up with any answer other than Satan, then you simply are not paying attention.

**Qorintyah Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians) 10:13**

***There is no temptation overtaken you but such as is common to man; but Elohim is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able to bear; but with the temptation has also made the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.***

Notice that YHWH has already made a way of escape for us through any and all temptations. That way is Mashiach Yeshua. Why?

**Ivrim (Hebrews) 4:15**

***For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that has been in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin.***

The three recorded temptations in this passage from Matithyah cover all temptations possible. However, unlike you and I who do not always overcome our temptations, Yeshua overcame every one of the temptations that He faced and did not give in and sin. Therefore, He knows full well how to deliver those who seek Him in their hour of need.

ABBA YHWH, teach us to be overcomers in Mashiach Yeshua for it is in His name we ask. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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