


## Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

### *Jesus Uses Scripture to Refute Temptation*

Q1. What glorious event just occurred (see Mathew 3:16-17 ↓)?

  B                P       T                         M  

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Q2. Did anyone praise Jesus at His baptism? If yes, what was said?

Praise? Yes? No?

.....  
If yes, what was said?  
.....

#### **Mathew 3:13-17** [NIV-1984]

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Q3. What might Jesus be feeling?

Elated? Just a normal day? Downcast? Super happy? Other?

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<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

<sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Q4. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil: Does Satan exist?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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.....

## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

Q5. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil: Why was Jesus tempted? (What purpose did it serve?)

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Q6. *After fasting forty days and forty nights*: Was Jesus hungry after nearly six weeks without food? Is this a significant fact?

Hungry? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Significant? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)


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Q7. *After fasting forty days and forty nights*: Is there any significance to the number “forty”?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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 While scholars do not know the precise meaning behind the number “40”, we can identify that “forty” occurs a number of times in Scripture and generally symbolizes a period of testing or trial.

Examples include:

Genesis 7:4 (Noah: rained for forty days and nights)

Numbers 32:13 (Israel: the people of Israel wandered in the desert forty years)

Exodus 34:28 (Moses: recorded the Ten Commandments over forty days)


Ezekiel 4:6 (Ezekiel: laid on his side for forty days)

Jonah 3:4 (Jonah: prophesied in Nineveh forty days)

Acts 1:3 (Jesus: after His crucifixion, Jesus appeared over forty days).

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## Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Q8. *The tempter came to him*: Who is the “tempter”?

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## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

Q9. “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread:” What was the “tempter” really suggesting to Jesus??

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Basically, Satan was implying, “**IF** you are the Son of God, why don’t you prove it? It isn’t a big deal. You’re starving and you can turn that stone into bread... can’t you? Come on, satisfy your hunger!”

Satan was using the temptation of self or selfish desires (“Hey, if it feels good, it must be good!” or “I’m not hurting anyone and it makes me happy!”) to cause Jesus to sin against His Father. Bread would never have tasted so good to a man who had been without food for forty days/nights.

Jesus taught this point (food to eat versus spiritual food) to His disciples. After a long walk through Samaria on His way to Galilee, Jesus stopped at Jacob’s well. His disciples went into town to get food — some bread. When they returned, Jesus’ disciples encouraged Him to eat. He replied, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about [John 4:32].” Jesus proclaimed that as much as a body needs food, our souls also need spiritual nourishment.

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. [Deuteronomy 8:3]’ "

Q10. *Every Word . . . from the mouth of God:* Where do we find the Word of God?

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Q11. *Every Word . . . from the mouth of God:* As Believers in the Lord Jesus, how often should we read the Word of God? Why?

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Q12. *Every Word . . . from the mouth of God:* Is reading and studying God’s Word important to our faith and to our life in this world?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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Q13. *Every Word . . . from the mouth of God:* Is the Bible just another book? Or is there a spiritual power within the printed Word?

Bible: just another book? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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Bible: spiritual power? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.


Q14. What do you think Jesus saw as “[He stood] on the highest point of the temple”?

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### Day 3

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<sup>6</sup> "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. [Psalm 91:11&12]' "

Q15. Who is quoting Scripture to prove his point? Is there a lesson in this to us?

Who quotes Scripture?

Lesson?

**1 Peter 5:8** [English Standard Version (ESV)]

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**Job 1:6-7** [NIV-2011]

<sup>6</sup> One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

Q16. When Satan quotes Scripture, does he quote Scripture that is true? And within context? Or does he provide quotes that are out of context? Or half-true? Or it ‘sounds Scriptural’ (but isn’t)? (See the example of Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-6: Satan twisted God’s command so that Satan’s restatement sounded plausible, but it was inaccurate; Satan inferred that God was selfish not caring; that God kept Adam and Eve subservient while they were actually equal to God.)

Scripture: True? Contextual? Out-of-context? Half-true? Sounds Scriptural? Other?

Thoughts?

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## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

### Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-6 [NIV-1984]

<sup>2:16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." . . .

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

<sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Q17. *If you are the Son of God:* What is the critical word in Satan's comment to the Son of God? What human emotion is Satan trying to provoke?


If? You? Are? the? Son? Of? God? (Why did you circle that word?)

Emotion?

P

E

Q18. How is pride sinful?

 pride (prīd) n.

1. A sense of one's own proper dignity or value; self-respect.
2. Pleasure or satisfaction taken in an achievement, possession, or association: parental pride.
3. Arrogant or disdainful conduct or treatment; haughtiness.
4. a. A cause or source of pleasure or satisfaction; the best of a group or class: *These soldiers were their country's pride.*
4. b. The most successful or thriving condition; prime: *the pride of youth.*
5. An excessively high opinion of oneself; conceit.
6. Mettle or spirit in horses.
7. Zoology: A group of lions, usually consisting of several related females and their offspring and a small number of unrelated adult males.
8. A flamboyant or impressive group: *a pride of acrobats.*

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Satan basically said, "**IF** you are the Son of God, why don't you prove it? You're powerful, correct? And **IF** Scripture is true, then you will be saved by angels. . . What's the big deal? Is Scripture really true, or not? Are you afraid to trust your father to save your life? Come on, show me. Or are you really a fraud and you know that, if you fall, you'll die on the stones below? Are you God or a fraud? Show me!!!"

Satan was using the temptation of pride ("You say you are the Son of God, why don't you prove it?") to cause Jesus to sin against His Father. God loves His Son more than we can ever hope to comprehend (at least while we are alive in this world). And God loves us the same, because we are adopted sons and daughters! However, sin is the barrier between human beings and the Holy and pure and perfect Lord God Almighty. God gave us Christ Jesus,

## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

who is the bridge that enables us to pass over that barrier of sin to Him... the bridge is the Lord Christ Jesus and our belief in Him, His death, and His resurrection.



*Bridge Over the River Sin  
Heaven on one side & the world on the other.  
©2026, <https://tremain.us/Bridge.html>*

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " [Deuteronomy 6:16]

Q19. When we pray, do we sometimes “test” God with what we ask?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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Q20. Do we ever “test” God’s patience?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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**Numbers 14:21-23** [NIV-1984]

[The Lord replied to Moses,] <sup>21</sup> Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, <sup>22</sup> not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times — <sup>23</sup> not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

**Psalms 95:7b-11** [NIV-1984]

<sup>7b</sup> Today, if you hear his voice, <sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, <sup>9</sup> where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did. <sup>10</sup> For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways." <sup>11</sup> So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest."

Q21. If God answered every one of our prayers (a Heavenly vending machine), what would happen to our free will (or free choice)?


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## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

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### Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

Q22. What were some of the filthy-rich, morally-deficient enticements that Satan showed Jesus?

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Q23. What would you do for one-million dollars, or one-billion dollars? Would you like to be President of the United States of America, with all the power that goes along with the office?

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<sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Q24. ***All this I will give you:*** Did the devil have ownership rights to the world so that he could give it to Jesus?


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 Again, Satan basically said, "Look at all the splendor that is before you! I will give this to you, Jesus. All you have to do is bow down right here in front of me. Look at what I will give you. It is just a tiny, little thing that I ask from you in return."

Satan was using the temptation of lust to cause Jesus to sin against His Father.

Can you imagine the wisdom and power Jesus had at His 'fingertips'? In His breath? The first chapter of John's Gospel begins, "<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word [Jesus] and the Word [Jesus] was with God and the Word [Jesus] was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through Him all things were made..."

 There are three basic temptations: selfishness, pride, and lust. Jesus resisted each one! The way Satan presented those temptations to our Lord was more enticing than anything we might experience or that we can even imagine. Jesus knew His Scripture and He used passages from Deuteronomy to reject Satan's temptations.

Fortunately, God has given us these examples to use, plus the entirety of the Old and New Testaments. There is power in Scripture to repudiate the devil when we too are tempted.

## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ [Deuteronomy 6:13]” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Q25. How does the world (Satan) tempt us today?

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**Matthew 26:41** [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

“Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. Your spirit wants to do what is right. But your body is weak.”

Q26. The world is full of temptations. How do you resist temptation? Are you quick to pray?

How do you resist temptation?

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Are you quick to pray? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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If yes, for what do you pray?

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**Ephesians 6:10-18** [NIV-1984]

[The Armor of God]

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

<sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.



## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

- Q27. ① Is it a sin when we are tempted? (Thinking to myself: “Wow! S/He’s pretty/handsome!” or “This is a rich store; will they really miss this candy bar if I slip it into my pocket?”)  
② Or does it become a sin when we act upon a temptation?

① Is being tempted a sin? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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② Is it a sin when we give in? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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### Proverbs 5:3-12 [NIV-1984]

<sup>3</sup> For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; <sup>4</sup> but in the end, she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. <sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. <sup>6</sup> She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.

<sup>7</sup> Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. <sup>8</sup> Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, <sup>9</sup> lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel, <sup>10</sup> lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house. <sup>11</sup> At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. <sup>12</sup> You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!"

### 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 [NIV-1984]


<sup>18</sup> Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.

### James 1:12-15 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

<sup>13</sup> No one is to say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. <sup>14</sup> But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin [it is acted upon]; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death.

- Q28. (Verse 11) *Then the devil left him*: Does the devil have power over Jesus?
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 Jesus said, “Away from me, Satan! . . .” and Satan immediately left Him. We shall see in later chapters of Matthew that Satan (or the devil or the tempter) and his demons do indeed know whom Jesus is and they have no recourse but to obey Jesus’ commands and prayers. Praise be to God! Amen.

### Luke 8:27-32 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

<sup>27</sup> When Jesus got out of the boat, a man from the town came to Jesus. This man had demons inside

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him. For a long time he had worn no clothes. He lived in the burial caves, not in a house.

<sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him. The man said with a loud voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? [The demons knew Jesus!] Please don’t punish me!” <sup>29</sup> He said this because Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of him.

Many times it had taken hold of him. He had been kept under guard and chained hand and foot. But he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon out into the desert.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

The man answered, “Legion.” (He said his name was “Legion” because many demons were in him.)

<sup>31</sup> The demons begged Jesus not to send them into eternal darkness [the abyss]. <sup>32</sup> On the hill there was a large herd of pigs eating. The demons begged Jesus to allow them to go into the pigs. So, Jesus allowed them to do this.

### Mark 1:32-34 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]


<sup>32</sup> Now when evening came, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city had gathered at the door. <sup>34</sup> And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

### 1 Corinthians 10:13 [NIV-1984]

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. [God “provides a way out”. This is not teleportation, in which God miraculously removes you from the scene of the sin. It is God-given, empowering wisdom for you to take action: to move your feet and flee, or to seek help, or to say, “No!”. Don’t squelch your conscience — if the thought is Scriptural, it is God guiding you toward the ‘door’ that He has provided to you as your “way out”. Take it. Don’t hesitate.]


## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

### Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

### Jesus Begins His Ministry

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee.

 In chapter 14 — one of our future Lessons/StudySheets — Matthew provides greater detail to verse 12 (↑) John's imprisonment.



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<https://www.jesuswalk.com/isaiah/maps/galilee-of-the-gentiles-936x1000x300.jpg>

<sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum [Küh-për-nūm], which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun [Zëb-you-lūn] and Naphtali [Năf-tă-lăē] — <sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — <sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. [Isaiah 9:1-2]"

Q29. (Verse 16) **People living in darkness:** To what people-group does Isaiah refer?

Believers? Nonbelievers? Jews? Gentiles? Other?

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Q30. (Verse 16) ***Have seen a great light***: To what event might the “great light” refer?



Commentators have provided us Bible students with an incredible wealth of scholarly insights and educated opinions regarding these verses. A person could develop a single study that exclusively examined these four verses and all that is implied.

Commenting on Isaiah 9:1: “[In] Isaiah [chapter] 8, Isaiah has been describing the gloom of anguish and thick darkness that will fall upon those who reject God's Word (Isaiah 8:20–22). No relief of morning's light will come for them.

“Now [in chapter 9], Isaiah speaks of a time to come, when that despair and darkness will lift. The anguish will end in Israel. Specially, he is speaking of the northern region of Israel that once belonged to the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali. That area was the first to be hit by the destructive power of the Assyrians as they swept through the land. The area around the Sea of Galilee was taken by Tiglath-Pileser, king of Assyria, around 733 BC. The Assyrian king repopulated it with Gentile settlers from other lands.

“Assyrian records from that time show that this conquered, occupied region was divided into three Assyrian districts. Isaiah mentions those same three districts in this passage. [1] ‘Galilee of the Gentiles’ was also known as the Megiddo province: from the Litani River in the north to the Valley of Jezreel. [2] ‘The way of the sea’ is the Dor province: along the Mediterranean from Joppa to Haifa. And [3] ‘along the Jordan’ or ‘beyond the Jordan’ is Gilead: territories east of the Jordan River from the Dead Sea to the Sea of Galilee.

“Isaiah speaks, though, of a time to come when this region will be made glorious once more. The darkness will be dispelled. The light will return in splendor in the form of a child who will become much more than just a king. He will be the Messiah.” [© Copyright 2002-2025 Got Questions Ministries, accessed 12/11/2025. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Isaiah/9/Isaiah-9-1.html>]



Commenting on Isaiah 9:2: “This famous verse [Isaiah 9:2] describes that future reversal. Isaiah speaks of these events in the past tense, although they will not take place until Jesus arrives on earth as the Messiah. The people of Israel who suffer under ignorance, unhappiness, and insecurity will be given a hopeful sign. That is like “light” shining into a dark place. It will be made obvious in the New Testament that the light is none other than Jesus the Messiah. Those living in Israel at the time will see Him cutting through the darkness with their own eyes.

“Jesus will teach that even then, before He fully establishes His kingdom, not everyone will receive the light. Some will still choose darkness: ‘And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God’ (John 3:19–21).” [© Copyright 2002-2025 Got Questions Ministries, accessed 12/11/2025. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Isaiah/9/Isaiah-9-2.html>]

<sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Q31. ***Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near***: John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth both spoke the same words (the same message). In a word, what is John? What is Jesus?

John?   H            R     A            D   (e.g., Harbinger, Messenger, Proclaimer)

Jesus?   M            S     S                   H   (Hebrew)

OR   C            R                        (Greek)

**Matthew 3:1-3** [NIV-1984]

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

<sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "

Q32. ***Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near:*** The wording of Jesus' admonition is curious. Why didn't He just proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is here"?

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The Commentator Adam Clark observed:

***Kingdom of heaven is near:*** "The dispensation of the glorious Gospel was now about to be fully opened, and the Jews were to have the first offers of salvation. This kingdom is also at hand to us; and wherever Christ crucified is preached, there is salvation to be found. Jesus is proclaimed to thee, O man! as infinitely able and willing to save. Believe in his name — cast thy soul upon his atonement, and enter into rest!" [©Public Domain, *Commentary on the Bible* by Adam Clarke (b. 1760 or 1762, d. 1832). Published in 6 volumes during the period 1810-1826 in Liverpool. <https://sacred-texts.com/bib/cmt/clarke/mat003.htm>]



The commentator Albert Barnes wrote:

"The phrases kingdom of heaven, kingdom of Christ, kingdom of God, are of frequent occurrence in the Bible. They all refer to the same thing. The expectation of such a kingdom was taken from the Old Testament, and especially from Daniel, [Daniel 7:13-14](#). The prophets had told of a successor to David that should sit on his throne [1 Kings 2:4](#); [1 Kings 8:25](#); [Jeremiah 33:17](#). The Jews expected a great national deliverer. They supposed that when the Messiah should appear, all the dead would be raised; that the judgment would take place; and that the enemies of the Jews would be destroyed, and that they themselves would be advanced to great national dignity and honor.

"The language in which they were accustomed to describe this event was retained by our Saviour and his apostles. Yet they early attempted to correct the common notions respecting his reign. This was one design, doubtless, of John in preaching repentance. Instead of summoning them to military exercises, and collecting an army, which would have been in accordance with the expectations of the nation, he called them to a change of life; to the doctrine of repentance - a state of things far more accordant with the approach of a kingdom of purity." [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/matthew/3-2.htm>]

## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

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### *Jesus Begins to Call His Disciples*

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

Q33. ***They were fishermen:*** Why would the Lord Jesus select common fisherfolk to follow Him? (Wouldn't it make more sense to select highly educated scribes and orators? Would the greatly educated be effective in reaching the masses — the commoners? Was Jesus looking for 'head-knowledge', or changes in hearts?)

Thoughts?

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<sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

Q34. (Speculation) ***Come, follow me:*** Jesus made a bold request. Why might Peter and Andrew want to follow this stranger? (By so doing, they were giving-up their livelihoods, their friends, their families.)

Thoughts?

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Q35. (Speculation) ***At once they left their nets and followed him:*** There was no hesitation, no delay. Peter and Andrew immediately followed Jesus. Why?

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Q36. (Speculation) ***Come, follow me:*** At what point did Peter and Andrew understand that this stranger was inviting them join Him in a long-term career change instead of a rest-of-the-day 'luncheon event'? (Change is hard. It took immense courage to leave what they knew for something unknown.)

Thoughts?

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Q37. ***I will make you fishers of men:*** What might "fishers of men" mean?

Thoughts?

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## *Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25*


<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Q38. What was the vocation/profession of James and John?

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### *Day 6*

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

### *Jesus Teaches, Preaches, and Heals*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Q39. Where did Jesus find people already assembled, so that they could hear His preaching?

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Q40. How was the news of the day circulated or spread?

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Q41. When Jesus began to heal the people, do you think it took a long time for the miracles to be widely known?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

.....

Q42. Was Jesus' audience limited to only those people seeking healing? Or did the audience include spectators wanting to see a miracle?

Thoughts?

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## Lesson 4: Matthew 4:1-25

Q43. How might Jesus' words and miraculous healings affect His newly adopted disciples — the former fisherman?

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<sup>24</sup> News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them.

<sup>25</sup> Large crowds from Galilee [Gă-lī-lē], the Decapolis [Dē-că-pōh-liss], Jerusalem, Judea, and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Q44. Please try to describe the chaos that surrounded Jesus and His disciples?

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Q45. What was the attitude of those, who were ill? Was there joy, or great anticipation, or thankfulness? Did anyone recognize Jesus as the Son of God?

Attitude?

Was the Son of God recognized? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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### Matthew 16:16-18 [NIV-1984]

<sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

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