

"Then *was* Jesus *led* up of the Spirit into the wilderness *to be tempted* of the devil." *Matthew 4:1 KJV*



God gave Satan full reign on Job with the exception of his life, because He knew Job. God used Job's faith to utterly crush Satan's lies and bring glory to Himself. God knew Job would say, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him. Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." Job's trials glorified the trustworthiness of Jehovah. Yes, Job's trials seemed unbearable, but God knew the temper of Job's faith and used it to magnify His omnipotence. I'm sure Satan tried to kill Job, but each and every attempt was thwarted by The Almighty. How do I know? Satan is a liar, always breaks the rules, and Job lived. Christ, our example, was "led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." Alone and weak after forty days and nights of fasting, Satan came to Him. Satan is a coward. He waits until you're weak and alone to attack. We think of lions as king of the beasts, but they never hunt alone nor do they attack the herd or the strong. It's the lone straggler, the young, and the wounded that draw their gaze. Satan will tempt you with "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" until you are weakened thereby and then he will suddenly attack you with a flood of doubt and fear! The Spirit may lead you into a wilderness of trial by Satan, but remember, "It is written, when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God." If you know what God's Word says, all you need do is trust it in spite of circumstance and God Himself will fight your battle! Trials purify faith and glorify God. God knows you and "will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." You can trust God's wisdom and say with Job, "He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Satan has no power but what God allows. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." Others may mock at you, but your distress is of God for the purification of your faith and the glory of Jesus Christ. "Therefore, endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Not one soldier ever wanted to be in the foxhole. The warrior is seasoned, not in training, but in battle. Trust your Captain.

When God leads into wilderness,
And we encounter dire distress,
Our faith will surely stand the test,
And come forth pure in righteousness. -CGP

You are where you are, because God wants you there. The Red Sea seemed an impassable barrier to Israel, but it not only parted, but it also swallowed their foes!

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." *Romans 8:14-18 KJV*