

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 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.” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Questions:

1. How was the experience of Christ's temptation in the above passage after 40 days in the wilderness similar to the experience of Israel during 40 years in the desert? [Deut. 8:2-3] What was the major difference?
2. I Peter 1:18-19 tells us that we are not redeemed by material purchase but "with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect". What is the connection between this verse and today's sermon passage?
3. If God were to ask you to give Him good reasons to let you into heaven and to spare you from hell, how would you answer?
4. With respect to salvation, what is more important: what we do or who we know? Why?
5. What makes our salvation entirely secure?
6. How is Jesus our righteous representative and our righteous substitute?