

Kids' Chronicle

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BY CINDY BASSETT

Satan comes to tempt Jesus in the desert

Jesus shielded his eyes from the glaring sun and looked out over the vast, empty desert that had been his home for 40 days. His lips cracked with thirst and hunger gnawed at his stomach. Loneliness had coiled around his heart nearly strangling Him.

Suddenly, a wild beast's howl shattered the silence. Despite the intense heat, the sound sent a shiver up Jesus' spine. The howling stopped abruptly just as a serpent emerged with its flicking tongue from under a nearby rock.

Before the snake even reached Jesus, it transformed into a tall, handsome man and cast a dark shadow over Jesus.

Jesus looked the man straight in the eye and said, "I've been expecting you, Satan."

The Master of Deception grinned and picked up the rock that had been his hiding place. "There's no need to be hungry, friend," he said. "If you really are the Son of God, command this rock to become bread."

"There is much more to life than food," Jesus replied. "It says in the Scriptures that the most important thing is obedience to God."



Illustrations by Kathy Walsh

The devil chuckled, "I've a simply splendid idea!" He snapped his long fingers and in an instant, Jesus stood with him on the pinnacle of the Temple in Jerusalem.

"Jump!" Satan shouted. "Your Father will send his angels to save you."

"It is also written in the Scriptures," Jesus said, "that you should not test God."

Next Satan blinked his eyes and they came to the ceiling of the entire universe. The Prince of the World pointed out every kingdom that had ever existed.

"Impressed?" The Father of Evil asked. "This is my realm. But, if you just bow to me, I'll hand it over to you. Well?"

"Away with you, Satan!" Jesus shouted. "It is written that we should worship and serve God alone!"

Just before the Great Liar vanished, he shrieked, "You'll never get these people back! They belong to me!"

Nothing remained of the devil but a low and menacing growl, which quickly grew to the shrill howling of the beast in the desert again.

Jesus wasn't afraid. He closed his eyes and prayed, "Father, I am ready to claim these people as my own."

Silence. When Jesus looked up this time, he saw angels coming with food and water.

"Thank you, Father," Jesus said. "It is time to begin the work you sent me to do."

Read More About It: Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13.



1. What three temptations did Satan offer Jesus?
2. What things does Satan tempt you with in your life?

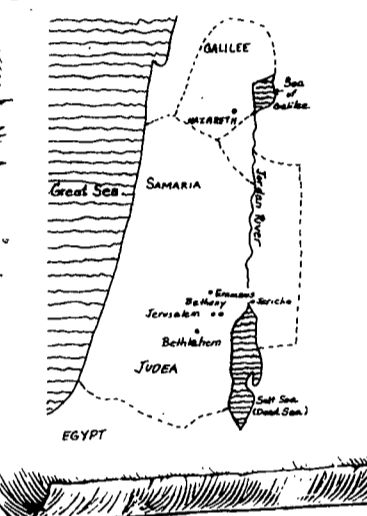
The Bible Times

30 A.D.

Jerusalem — A riot broke out today when John the Baptist was arrested near the Jordan River. King Herod charged him with disturbing the peace.

The angry crowd insisted that the charge was trumped up, citing John the Baptist's public criticism of the king's marriage to his brother's wife as the real reason behind the arrest.

The Baptist's followers claim that he is the Messiah or a reborn Elijah, the prophet who lived a similar stark existence in the wilderness. When questioned, the Baptist said, "I have come only to prepare the way for someone much greater than me."



King Solomon's Wisdom



"Above everything else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life.

Make level paths for your feet and stick to the straight path."

Proverbs 4:23:26

Talking to God

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes I get confused because the wrong things seem right. You know all about temptations. Help me to remember to call on you when I am tempted.



ANGELIC CROSSWORD PUZZLE

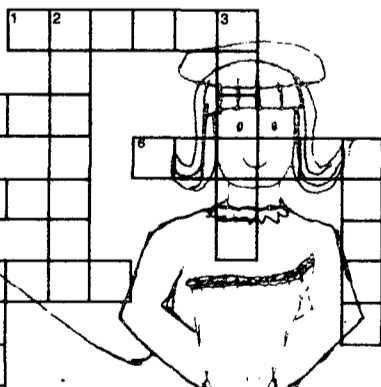
God sent angels to guide, warn and protect His people. Use the Bible clues listed to help you fill in the crossword of people who were visited by angels. Answers found on page 16.

Across

1. This king placed Daniel in a den of lions, but an angel prevented the lions from devouring him. (Daniel 6)
4. An angel came and released this man from prison. (Acts 12:6-10.)
6. An angel spoke to this man in a dream about Jesus Christ's birth. (Matthew 1:20-21)
8. This man was serving in the temple when an angel promised him that he and his wife would have a son. (Luke 1:11-13)
9. An angel told Mary Magdalene, Mary, James' mother, and this woman that Jesus had risen from the dead. (Mark 16)
11. God promised this man that an angel would show him the way to a new home. (Exodus 32:34)

Down

2. Three angels visited this man with news that his wife would soon have a son. (Genesis 18:10)
3. An angel foretold the birth of this strong man. (Judges 13:3)
5. While he was praying, an angel came and helped him. (Luke 22:43)
7. An angel warned Joseph about this king's cruel plans. (Matthew 2:13)
10. Two angels came to warn this man that God would destroy the city where he lived. (Genesis 19:12-13)



Essay Winner

Congratulations to Nathan Gutt, age 9, a student at Mendon Center Elementary, for winning the \$50 Savings Bond for the best essay in the February Kids' Club contest! His essay is reprinted below.

February question:

How have your friends influenced you in your life?

Good friends are probably one of the best gifts God ever gave to people. I enjoy my friends for their gifts of laughter, curiosity, physical strengths and knowledge. Whenever I am with my friends, I gain just for having spent time with them. Friends help when you are sad, angry, sick or lonely. When I think of my friends, I realize how important they are in helping me to be a better person going through life. They make me understand how necessary it is to be a friend to others, too. Without friends, my life wouldn't be nearly as complete.

Kids' Club

Win a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond!

Do you believe in angels? Why or why not?

Write your answer in 100 words or less. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winning essay will earn a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond (the winner will be notified by phone) and be printed in the April 9, 1992, edition of Kids' Chronicle. Send your entry to: Cindy Bassett, c/o Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline: March 27, 1992



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