

# ישוע במדבר

## *Yeshua in the Desert*

Matthew records the story of Yeshua's testing in the desert. Just like Moses who was in the desert, and who was called by God at the burning bush to be the one to lead Israel out of her bondage in Egypt, so Yeshua was tested in order to prove that God was with him. And like Moses, who fasted forty days and nights upon Mt. Sinai before receiving the Torah from the Almighty, so Yeshua fasted forty days and nights in the desert. Matthew makes these parallels, not to discount Moses. Rather, Matthew wants us to understand that Moses was a foreshadow of the Messiah. Moses acted as the mediator between Israel and God, and in the same way, Yeshua became the mediator between God and man: "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Messiah Yeshua" (1Tim. 2:5).



The evil one came to Yeshua after He had fasted for forty days and night. This meant that Yeshua was physically very weak. The first temptation related to food. The evil one told Yeshua to perform a miracle for His own comforts—to turn rocks into bread. But Yeshua did not perform miracles for His own comfort. He did miracles as a sign to the people to prove that He was the promised Messiah. So Yeshua quoted the Torah to combat the evil one. He said: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Deut 8:3). Then the evil one took Him to the high point of the Temple mount, and told Him to jump down—to do something foolish to test if God would protect Him or not. Yeshua again combats the evil one by quoting the Torah: "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test" (Deut 6:16). In the third temptation, the evil one took Yeshua to a high mountain, and promised to give Yeshua all the kingdoms He could see, if He would just bow down and worship the evil one. Guess what? All the kingdoms of the earth already belonged to Yeshua, because He is the Creator! So once again Yeshua quoted Torah to defeat the evil one: "You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only" (Deut 6:13).

The evil one realized he had been defeated. Even when Yeshua was very weak physically, He was strong spiritually, because He had hidden God's Torah in His heart, and was able to use it against the temptations that the evil one used against Him. The Psalmist tells us the same thing: "Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You" (Ps 119:11).

Seeing that he could not defeat Yeshua, the evil one left Him. James tells us that the same will happen if we resist the evil one's temptations: "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). The way that we can resist the devil is by having the Torah written on our hearts, and living by its eternal precepts.

After the evil one left Yeshua, the angels of God came and helped Yeshua. Matthew doesn't tell us exactly how they helped Him, but perhaps they gave Him food so that He could gain back His physical strength after He had fasted for so long. No doubt they also encouraged Him. In the same way, the ministering angels of the Lord are always ready to help us as we seek to obey God and walk in His ways.