

The Life of Christ in Stereo

By Johnston Cheney and Stan Ellisen^{a b}

(Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-38)

Setting: The Judean wilderness, approximately 28 A.D.

Jesus' Baptism and Physical Lineage

1 Then 2 it came to pass in those days, 3 when all the people had been baptized, 2 that Jesus came from Nazareth 1 to the Jordan unto John to be baptized by him. Now John would have stopped him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and are you coming to me?" But Jesus answering said to him, "Grant that it be so now; for it is fitting that we thus should fulfill all righteousness." Then he yielded, and Jesus was 2 baptized by John in the Jordan.

And coming up immediately out of the water, and 3 praying, 1 behold, 2 he saw the heavens opened 1 unto him, 3 and the Holy Spirit 1 of God descending 3 upon him in bodily form as a dove, 1 and resting on him; an lo 2 a Voice from out of the heavens, 1 saying 2 "YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON, 1 IN WHOM I HAVE DELIGHTED."

3 Now Jesus, making his appearance at about age 30, being a son, as was supposed of Joseph was himself descended from Heli . . . (*here Dr. Luke does not say that Jesus descended from Joseph, since he didn't but from Heli, Mary's father and then Luke follows the genealogy of Mary all the way back to Adam, the son of God. For the full reading of the genealogy you can find it in Luke 3:23-38*).

Tempted in Body, Soul and Spirit

(Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)

1 Then 3 Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan; 2 and immediately the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness, where he remained for forty days and was with the wild beasts. 3 And he was led by the Spirit in the wilderness; 1 he was led up to be tested by the Devil.

3 Now during those forty days he ate nothing, and when 1 he had fasted forty days and forty nights he at length became hungry. So the tempter, 2 Satan, 1 came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." But 3 Jesus

^a The numbers 1-4 in the text above indicate the respective Gospel writers, 1 being Matthew, 2 being Mark, 3 being Luke and 4 being John.

^b This Harmony is a one of a kind harmony of the four gospels and goes by the title above and is published by Western Baptist Seminary Press in 1969, 1971, and 1973

answered him, saying, *“It is written, ‘man shall not live by bread alone, 1 but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”*

Then the Devil took him into the holy city, 3 Jerusalem, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, *“If you are the Son of God, cast yourself down from here; for it is written that ‘He will command His angels concerning you, that they will guard you . . .’ and, ‘upon their hands they will bear you up lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”* And Jesus answering said to him, 1 *“Again, it is written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”*

And again, the Devil 3 led him up 1 on an exceedingly high mountain, 3 and showed him in a moment of time 1 all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, *“All these things-3 all this power and their glory –will I give to you; for to me has it been delivered, and to whomever I will give it. If therefore you 1 will fall down and make obeisance 3 to me, it shall all be yours.”* Then Jesus answered and said to him, 1 *“Go away Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.’”*

So the Devil, 3 having finished every kind of testing, departed from him for a time; 1 and behold, 2 the angels 1 came and ministered to him.