

NORTH LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Lenten Soup & Study #1
Ash Wednesday, 2 March 2022

SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

Deuteronomy 2:1 -11

¹“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³ And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴ Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵ “And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶ And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷ Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹ And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. ¹¹ And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

Luke 4:1 -13

¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, He was hungry. ³ The devil said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ And the devil took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to Him, “To You I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If You, then, will worship me, it will all be Yours.” ⁹ And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God,
and Him only shall you serve.”

⁹ And he took Him to Jerusalem and set Him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here, [10] for it is written,

“He will command His angels concerning You,
to guard You,’

¹¹ and

“On their hands they will bear You up,
lest you strike Your foot against a stone.”

¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

STUDY NOTES & QUESTIONS:

Deuteronomy 26 Notes:

- Vv. 1 - 4: The Promised Land that Yahweh promised to the Israelites was real, physical, historical and geographical. It was that land that would become the nation Israel. It was also a promised Type & Shadow of the Kingdom of God on Earth. In other words, it was a pre-vision and a down-payment upon the eventual Full Delivery of the Divine Covenant promises made by Yahweh to His Covenant People.
- Vv. 5 - 8: The People recognize what it is that Yahweh has given them as a result of their solemn plea and petition. They have cried out to Him in their distress — even if they have not fully remembered Him until Moses’ coming. They are now in a position of understanding such that, they are able to respond to God’s handiwork and are bidden to respond with gratitude as they liturgically cry out in worship: “A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.”
- Vv 9 - 11: This is the fullness of their thanksgiving. It is THE REASON for their liturgy. Yahweh has heard their plea AND He has answered them! They offer their Full Thanks & Praise in worship and sacrifice. It has been set down as a statute forever. AND in the midst of this, there was an eternal embedded command to be aware of their former status: “And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

Luke 4 Notes:

- Vv. 1 - 2: Jesus fasts and prays for 40 days up in the mountains of the wilderness after His Baptism by John. He is “Led by the Spirit” and Filled with the Holy Spirit”. He is

“God’s Man” first and foremost. He will do nothing without being led in that Spirit. In opposition to prophets and priests who have come before Him as “Types & Shadows” by aggrandizing themselves, Jesus instead shows that He will go where He’s sent.

- Vv. 3 - 13: Satan now enters the fray. Effectively, having been thwarted from the fullness of victory at the 1st Temptation at The Fall, he is trying again with the Remedy for the Fall. He tries to divert and deflect Jesus from His Call and mission. Jesus’ mission is to “bind the strongman and steal his possessions” (cf. 11:21-2 || which, by the way, aren’t really his to begin with.). Additionally, there is the obvious parallel between Israel’s 40 years and Jesus’ 40 Days. Israel flailed around wandering for 40 years. Jesus is purposeful in His 40 Days.
- Vv. 3 - 11: The first temptation is the one covering comfort & needs (think: Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs). Turn these stones into bread. Jesus turns this one on its head effectively by telling Satan, “Hey, God’s word is food enough for me, and the Spirit is my water.”
 - Satan then challenges Jesus’ own mission and authority by trying to get Him to acknowledge Satan as the lord of the earth by right of war and pillage. This doesn’t go according to spec as Jesus turns to the Father’s univocal and unequivocal headship and authority as God, Creator, Judge and Redeemer.
 - Satan then tries to appeal to Jesus’ sense of self-worth and vanity by getting Him to assert His authority before His obedience.
- Vv 12 - 13: “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.” The answer to and commentary upon The Shema (“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord with all your heart, soul and might”).

He is preparing Himself to master the challenges that will come to Him. The Promised Land that Yahweh promised to the Israelites was real, physical, historical and geographical. It was that land that would become the nation Israel. It was also a promised Type & Shadow of the Kingdom of God on Earth. In other words, it was a pre-vision and a down-payment upon the eventual Full Delivery of the Divine Covenant promises made by Yahweh to His Covenant People.

Questions:

Who is Represented by the “Wandering Aramean”?

What does it mean to leave your offering at the altar?

How do you see the three temptations/offerings in your own life?

What does it mean to worship & serve the Lord Alone — especially in today's climate?