

The Inscrutable Question: Evidence Testing of Christ: Background: Messianic Title, “Son of God”; Evidence Test #1: 40-Day Fast, Matt 4:1-2

- 43. The titles “Messiah” and “Christ” are synonymous. Messiah comes from the Hebrew word, **מָשִׁיחַ Mashiach** and means the “Anointed One,” an Old Testament title for rulers, such as a kings, who were believed to be appointed by God. The term came to be applied to a future King who would come at the end of the age and, following the Davidic Covenant, was assigned to the Son of David.
- 44. Thus, when God the Father refers to Jesus as “My beloved Son” it was divine confirmation that Jesus was the Messiah.
- 45. The Greek equivalent of the Hebrew title **מָשִׁיחַ Mashiach** is **Χριστός, Christos**. The former is translated into English as “Messiah” while the latter is translated as “Christ.”
- 46. Jesus has now been affirmed as the long-awaited fulfillment of the Old Testament’s Messianic prophecies. He has now been publicly identified as the Messiah of Israel and has been invested with the power to carry out His commission.
- 47. After 30 years of preparation, our Lord is now called before the courtroom of the appeal trial to testify under evidence testing. If He is Messiah, He must demonstrate His ability to manage the ultimate tests associated with the Invisible War. Thus the first order of business in the Lord’s public ministry is to confront, endure, and pass evidence testing.
- 48. Category one is testing with regard to life. He has just been proclaimed as God’s Anointed One, the Son of God, and the King of the Jews. This implies sinless perfection.
- 49. The Lord is now going to be put to the test to demonstrate His capacity to remain impeccable in the face of maximum testing. His testimony will also confirm the capacity of the prototype spiritual life as effectual in managing the temptations and testings of Satan’s world system.
- 50. The test regarding the Lord’s relationship to life involved the sufferings associated with a 40-day fast in the *Jornada*. The test regarding His relationship with God followed immediately after the fortieth day. We will examine both from the Gospel of Matthew.

2) Evidence Test #1.

- 1. It was the Holy Spirit who led the Lord to the geographic location in which the evidence testings would occur. It is described as the “wilderness” and is thought to be a barren mountain plateau between the Jordan River and Jerusalem.

Matthew 4:1 - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:2 - And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.

- 2. For the first forty days Lucifer does not cross examine the Lord verbally but simply allows Him to remain in a status of fasting with the attendant problems that are associated with mounting hunger.
- 3. We have noted how Job went from a status of personal prosperity to being deprived suddenly of family, friends, livelihood, and health.

4. In evidence test # 1, Jesus was subjected to total withdrawal of nutrition. It was the directive will of God that Lucifer cross examine the Lord in order for Him to qualify as “One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).