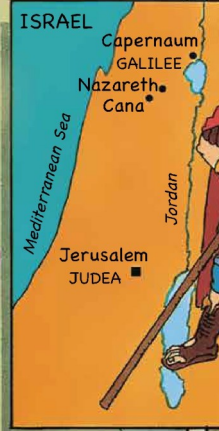


# THE INVISIBLE BATTLE

READ FOR YOURSELF: Matthew 4:1-12

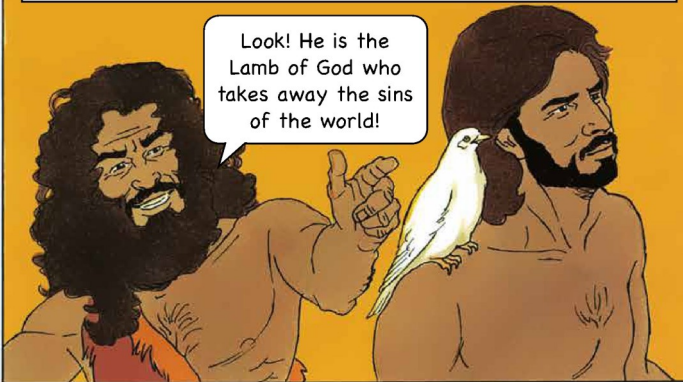
John the Baptist prepares the people of Israel for the coming of the messiah. At this time, Romans govern the largest part of the world. Israel is only a small part of the large Roman Empire...



The Jewish people long for the messiah. In their old books, his coming is predicted by the prophets. He will make Israel great...

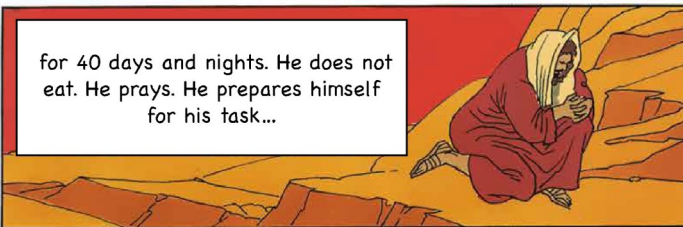
But at the river Jordan, John the Baptists points out Jesus as the sacrificial lamb...

Look! He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!



God's Spirit leads Jesus into the desert...

for 40 days and nights. He does not eat. He prays. He prepares himself for his task...



Jesus has to carry out God's plan. God wants people freed of their fear of condemnation and death...

Yes Father! I want to do what you want!

Jesus takes on Satan, the invisible ruler of darkness. This enemy of God and mankind rules the world with hatred, sickness and death...

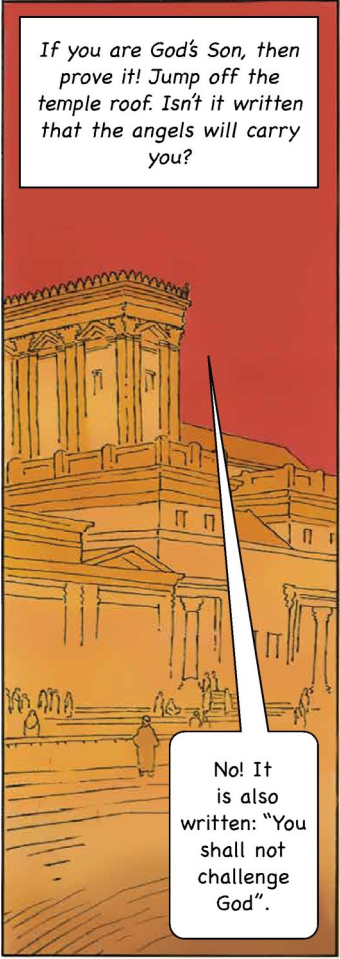




But Satan puts thoughts into Jesus' mind to lure him away from God's mission...

*If you are the Son of God, then turn these stones into bread!*

No! It is written in God's Book: 'One does not live by bread alone. One lives by every word God speaks'.



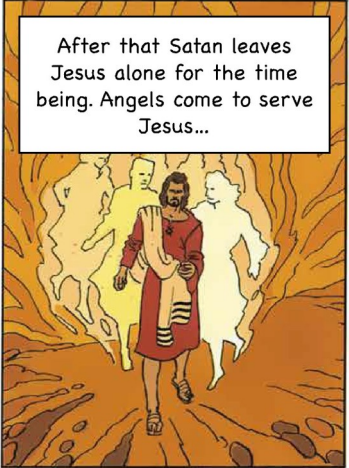
*If you are God's Son, then prove it! Jump off the temple roof. Isn't it written that the angels will carry you?*

No! It is also written: "You shall not challenge God".

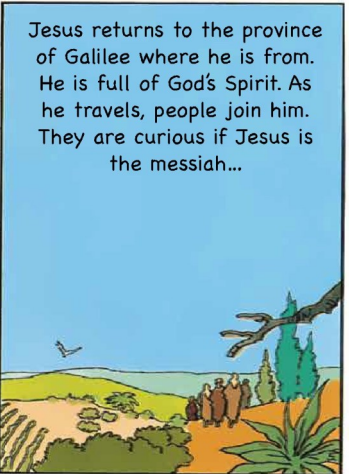


*Look! I will give you all the power on earth. But you have to kneel down before me.*

Leave me Satan! For it is written: "God alone is the One we are to worship and serve."



After that Satan leaves Jesus alone for the time being. Angels come to serve Jesus...



Jesus returns to the province of Galilee where he is from. He is full of God's Spirit. As he travels, people join him. They are curious if Jesus is the messiah...

## THE INVISIBLE BATTLE

An occupation is never good. Somebody else is the boss. He can just do as he pleases with you and your country. Israel is occupied by the Romans during the time of Jesus. But for Jesus that is not the main issue. The whole world is occupied territory. It is invisible, but nevertheless very noticeable. That's where the battle is.

The Lord God should be ruling the world with love and righteousness. After all, He is the Creator of everything. But Satan holds the world in his grasp. That is why the world is not what it should be.

Satan means "opponent". He is the enemy of God and man. Satan is a fallen angel who actually wants to be like God. Satan is also called "devil". That means "accuser": someone who falsely accuses someone. He uses a clever trick to become the boss of the world: People are listening and obeying Him! They do! That's why the world is occupied territory.

Satan is an invisible enemy. He carries out his battle in our thoughts. God wants us to listen to Him. Every time we trust in God's Word Satan loses territory. The battle is to get peace and trust in God's Word. That's what Jesus is doing in the desert.

## MEMORY VERSE

*"So then, submit to God. Resist the Devil, and He will run away from you."  
(James 4:7)*

## WHO IS JESUS?

### Son of God

*"Jesus Christ is the one who came with the water of his baptism and the blood of his death. He came not only with the water, but with both the water and the blood. And the Spirit Himself testifies that this is true, because the Spirit is truth."  
(1 John 5:6)*

Jesus does not have to prove that He is the Son of God. Satan is tempting Him, "If you are God's Son, do this or do that". But Jesus is not fooled. God had spoken in the Bible and that is enough. Jesus doesn't need to earn God's love. He is the beloved Son of God because God Himself said so. God has the final word!

# 2



## OLD TREASURES

The earth is occupied territory, because people have listened to Satan. This is something you can read in the first chapters of the Bible. In these chapters, you can also read the first reference to the Messiah and His victory. The seed of the woman (Jesus, who was born of the Virgin Mary) shall crush the head of the snake (Satan).

*"I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel." (Genesis 3:15)*



## EXTRA INFORMATION

### What is sin?

1. Missing your goal.
2. Not needing God.
3. Doing or thinking opposite to what God has revealed in His Word.

Sin keeps you away from God. That's why sin brings death. But God wants us to live in eternity with Him. Listen and trust that He tells you about all these things.

## SAY NO TO WRONG THOUGHTS!

Do you understand it?  
The invisible battle?  
It is within your thoughts.  
It is about Whom you trust.

Say no to wrong thoughts.  
Think rather of what God wants.

Say no to hate.  
Say no to lies.  
Say no to jealousy.  
Say no to pride.  
Say no to greed.  
Say no to impurity.

Say yes to the Lord Jesus.  
Say yes to God's great love for you.  
Say yes to all the praise God praises you.  
Say yes to all the things God loves to bless you.

## TIP

God's Word, the Bible, helps you to say no to wrong thoughts. And God's Spirit, who gives you power, will also help you. Jesus, who is in you, is stronger than the one that occupies this world!



**DO YOU KNOW...?**

1. Who owns the world?

\_\_\_\_\_

But who occupies the world?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does "Satan" mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

What does "devil" mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is sin?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where do we fight the "invisible battle"?

- a) In the desert
- b) In the army
- c) In our thoughts

5. When does Satan flee from us?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. The first prophecy about the Messiah in the Bible (Genesis 3:15) says?

- a) The Messiah is an enemy of the woman
- b) The Messiah gains victory over the snake by crushing its head
- c) The Messiah won't come for a long time.

7. How do you know Jesus is the Son of God?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**BIBLE READING**

Sun	James 4:7
Mon	Matthew 4:1-4
Tue	Matthew 4:5-7
Wed	Matthew 4:8-11
Thu	Genesis 3:1-6
Fri	Genesis 4:3-7
Sat	1 John 3:7-8



**ACTION POINT!**

Fill in your own name in this Bible verse:

*"For God loved*

\_\_\_\_\_

*that He gave His only Son: so that*

\_\_\_\_\_

*who believes in Him, not die but have eternal life." (John 3:16).*