

Posse non Peccare: For Adam before the Fall and Jesus, All Temptations Were External; the Great Power Experiment: Jesus Had the Ability to Sin but the Prototype Divine Dynasphere Enabled Him to Remain Perfect; Church Age Believers Have This Same System; Lucifer's 3 Assaults, Matt 4:1-10;

5. Adam's loss of original perfection was due to an external challenge to his free will which he failed to withstand. If Jesus Christ, the last Adam, were to sin it would of necessity also be from an external challenge.
6. To enable the Lord's true humanity to move from infancy, to adolescence, to adulthood, and into His public ministry free of personal sin, He needed a system within which He could maintain perfection.
7. God the Father invented that system, the Divine Dynasphere, a perfect environment whose power source is the indwelling and filling of the Holy Spirit. The omnipotence of the Spirit provided the Lord's true humanity with the power to withstand temptations and trials that He otherwise would not have been able to do.
8. Yet the issue in the angelic conflict is volition and how mankind utilizes that asset will determine the outcome of the appeal trial of Lucifer. Therefore, if the human race can be salvaged from genetic, imputed, and volitional sin, there must be a Mediator to intervene with an acceptable solution.
9. The Mediator must be equal with both parties in the dispute: equal with God possessing the same essence or "nature," and equal with man possessing the same essence or "nature." The Father's plan for salvation was the provision of this Mediator in the person of Jesus the Christ.
10. Although the Lord's divine perfection is immutable, His true humanity had the ability to sin due to the presence of volition. This latter fact is what made Jesus equal with the other members of the human race for with free will He would be "able to sin" in the face of external temptations and trials.
11. Therefore, the Incarnation may be described as an experiment: Will a perfect person, born as Adam was created, be able to utilize the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to endure systematic temptations from physical birth to physical death without a single occasion of volitional failure?
12. In eternity past, Jesus Christ willingly agreed to conduct such an experiment. It would require that He allow His undiminished deity to become inseparably united with true humanity, a union that would become an eternal circumstance were He successful in carrying out the experiment.
13. The experiment was scheduled to commence at what Paul referred to as the "fullness of time." The surrounding events that must have been coordinated by His deity stagger the imagination, some of which have been discussed in the Intermezzo portion of our current study.
14. The major set of challenges to the Lord's volition occurred early in His public ministry and detailed accounts are recorded in two of the Gospels, Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13.
15. These two passages document how the Lord was tempted by Lucifer on three occasions to act:



- (1) independently of the Holy Spirit: Matthew 4:3–4, (2) independently of the Word of God, vv. 5–7, and (3) independently of the plan of God, vv. 9–10.
16. “And the tempter came and said to Him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God”’ (vv. 3–4, NASB).
 17. This is an attack on *kenōsis*, the doctrine that the Lord would not use the attributes of His divine essence to resolve personal challenges during the Incarnation but would rather rely on the doctrine in His soul under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. The option to abate His hunger by performing a miracle was real and could have been chosen. But maintaining residence in the divine dynasphere enabled the Lord to withstand the temptation.
 18. The challenge was intended to entice the Lord to move out of the divine dynasphere and utilize His omnipotence to provide Himself with much needed food. It would have been at the expense of the great power experiment for Him to have done so.
 19. His doctrinal rationale was confidence that the Father did not desire for him to starve to death in the Jornada. Therefore, he relied on the doctrine of logistical grace support and remained inside the system.
 20. The Lord was tempted to use His divine power rather than the delegated power of the Holy Spirit. He refused the temptation relying totally on the prototype divine dynasphere with its power and doctrine to resolve the problem from resources available in His soul.
 21. The second temptation tempted the Lord to function in opposition to the Word of God, “Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, “He will command His angels concerning You”; and “On their hands they will bear You up, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.” Jesus said to him, ‘On the other hand, it is written, “You shall not put the Lord Your God to the test.”’ (vv. 5–7, NASB).
 22. This was a challenge to act independently of the doctrine the Lord knew. The objective of the Incarnation was to demonstrate that a human being could withstand the challenges of the *cosmos* without use of miracles. Priority One is doctrine and when applied under the power of the Holy Spirit problems will be resolved.
 23. Lucifer’s temptation was for Jesus to demonstrate to the people of Jerusalem that He was the Messiah by performing an obvious miracle, a 500-foot drop into the Kidron River valley. But the salvation plan of God required Him to use doctrine, not miracles, to execute the spiritual life. To have followed Lucifer’s suggestion would have been arrogant, it would not have resulted in angelic rescue because such a thing was not allowable in the great power experiment.
 24. The final test was one that challenged the plan of God: “Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.”’ (vv. 8–10, NASB).



25. This was a legitimate offer made by Lucifer. One cannot give what he doesn't already possess. This is the devil's world and he was free from his volition to transfer ownership to Jesus in exchange for Jesus' return veneration.
26. The plan of God will result in Jesus possessing the kingdoms of this world during His millennial reign and afterward in the eternal state. To have accepted Lucifer's offer would have canceled the mission of providing salvation for the human race. To accomplish His objective, Jesus had to remain loyal to the plan of God that required Him to endure the cross before receiving the crown.

