

Phase Two: The Rebuttal Phase: Arguments for the Prosecution:

1. This phase introduces rebuttal arguments by the Prosecution which are presented in two phases: **(1)** The physical birth of Jesus Christ in hypostatic union which initiates the strategic victory in the angelic conflict, and **(2)** the introduction of the mystery dispensation of the Church and the tactical victories of believers who advance to spiritual maturity.
2. The rebuttal includes two categories of witnesses in the the two dispensations of the Incarnation and the Church.
3. The dispensation of the Hypostatic Union only presents one Witness: Jesus Christ in hypostatic union. The dispensation of the Church presents those believers who advance in the plan of God to spiritual maturity.
4. Characteristics of mature believers include the acquisition of wisdom, occupation with Christ, invisible historical impact, and the royal law.
5. The Lord's First Advent establishes the Prosecution's strategic victory in the rebuttal phase of the Appeal and interestingly brings the Lord's Old Testament theophanies to an end.
6. The Church Age amounts to a tactical victory by believers who make the spiritual advance all the way to spiritual maturity logging maximum time inside the divine dynasphere or the evanescent bubble containing divine power from maximum doctrine.
7. Within systems of royalty are those who are members of the royal family. The sovereign rules his domain by means of his inherent power while his royal family possesses certain benefits common to the standards of their peerage.
8. Standards regarding the royalty of Jesus Christ are contained in Scripture which are revealed in two verses:

John 1:1 In the beginning [**eternity past**] **was the Word, and the Word was with God the Father, and the Word was God.**

John 1:14 And the Word [**Jesus Christ**] became flesh [**the virgin birth**], and dwelt among us [**First Advent replaces the Shekinah Glory**], and we beheld His glory [**deity**], the uniquely born [**true humanity**] of the Father, and full of grace [**divine wisdom**] and truth [**ἀλήθεια (alētheia): immutable and absolute**]. (EXT)

9. The humanity of Jesus Christ entered time as royalty: undiminished deity and true humanity in one Person forever— King of kings and Lord of lords.
10. However, as royalty in the hypostatic union, He did not have a royal family. This developed in the mystery dispensation of the Church in which a royal family of believers was formed.
11. During the Incarnation, the Lord grew to maturity from childhood to adulthood and in that process, He advanced to spiritual maturity. We do not learn from Scripture how these things developed from His age 12 to age 30.
12. However, the outcome is clearly revealed by this passage in Matthew 4:1–4, a passage which documents the Lord’s strategic victory through evidence testing accomplished by his debate with Lucifer.

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up under the authority of the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted from the source of the devil.

1. In order to provide a royal family for our Lord, He had to be tested in order to become the prototype for the Church-Age believer. Jesus was impeccable and therefore not able to sin, nevertheless, the temptations were real.
2. The Holy Spirit led him into the desert where His volition was challenged in order to establish the prototype for the soon-to-become Church-Age believers.
3. Jesus had the filling of the Holy Spirit and was tested to follow the will of God while being tempted by the devil: [**διάβολος (diábolos): “accuser, slanderer, adversary, tempter”**; proper names: **“Lucifer, Satan”**].

Matthew 4:2 After He fasted [**νηστεύω (nēsteúō)**: privately for concentration on the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit] **forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.**

1. Fasting refers to the decision to avoid eating so as to focus attention on the study and retention of divine guidance.

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter [**devil, Lucifer, Satan**] came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, and you are, speak to these stones commanding them to become bread.”

1. Lucifer issued a first-class condition to command Jesus to speak to the stones. The structure of the sentence indicates that Lucifer knew Jesus is the Son of God.



2. And since He is the Son of God, then Lucifer commands Him to “speak to these stones by commanding them to become bread.”
3. Recognizing Jesus as deity does not indicate that Lucifer is saved by this comment. It means that he recognizes the fact, but continues and remains the lead witness for the defense before the Divine Court of Appeals.
4. Lucifer has been judged, found guilty, and sentenced to the lake of fire. The only reason his incarceration has not already taken place was his appeal to the court to allow his appeal.
5. In this scene, Lucifer is cross-examining Jesus in His true humanity to disqualify Him as a witness before the court.
6. If Jesus does what Lucifer commands, He will have discredited Himself as a witness by using His deity to perform the task.
7. It is the humanity of Christ that is under cross-examination, not His deity. Jesus’ task is to perform the duty of inculcating doctrine into his human soul in order to use Scripture to do battle in the angelic conflict.

Matthew 4:4 But He [Jesus] answered and said, “It was written in the past with results that stand forever, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that keeps on coming out of the mouth of God which is to our advantage.’” (EXT)

1. Jesus did not use the power of His deity in His response but did use the power of the Word of God to do so in:

Deuteronomy 8:3b “... man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.”

2. Victory in the angelic conflict is not accomplished solely by utilization of worldly provisions such as food, but by the study, retention, facilitation, and application of the Word of God.
3. Our relationship with God is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Just having the general necessities of life is not really living. Having a relationship with God must come first and that is through the study of the Word of God.
4. Throughout this passage, Jesus successfully passed all the tests that Lucifer threw at Him which prepared Him to endure the cross while being judged for the sins of the entire world.

(End JAS4-42.Rev. See JAS4-43.Rev for the continuation of study at p. 421.)

