

A Conquering King Appears

Down from the mount, Jesus focuses on the cross. He is going to win the battle.

Details Omitted

Compared to Matthew and Mark’s accounts:

- No scribes are present.
- The man doesn’t kneel before Jesus.
- It doesn’t include the detail about the boy falling into fire and water.
- Jesus doesn’t ask how long it’s been going on.
- It doesn’t include the man saying, “I believe; help my unbelief!”
- *Jesus doesn’t say, “This kind can only be driven out by prayer.”*

I believe Luke intends to highlight Jesus’ interpretation of this exorcism, where he quotes the Song of Moses and continues the Exodus theme introduced at the Mount of Transfiguration.

Old Testament Quoted

The Song of Moses

The Song of Moses was spoken (sung?) by Moses from the plains of Moab before they entered the Promised Land. It foretold of Israel’s continued idolatry and God’s relentless pursuit of his people.

God Revealed (vv. 1-3)

*Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew,
like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!*

God is the source of life and refreshment.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

God Replaced (vv. 4-5, 10-14)

*⁴ “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice.
A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.
They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished;
they are a crooked and twisted generation.”*

Read Deuteronomy 32:10-14 to see the Father’s love for his people.

Demonic Counterfeits Embraced (vv. 16-17)

¹⁶They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger.

¹⁷They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known,
to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.

Important point: The Old and New Testaments equate idolatry with the worship of demons. God wins back his people by defeating false gods, which is victory over spiritual forces of darkness.

Wrath Executed (vv. 23-24)

²³“And I will heap disasters upon them; I will spend my arrows on them;

²⁴they shall be wasted with hunger, and devoured by plague and poisonous pestilence;
I will send the teeth of beasts against them, with the venom of things that crawl in the dust.”

Salvation Promised (vv. 36, 43)

³⁶For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants,
when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.

⁴³“Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods,
for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries.
He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people’s land.”

Salvation Delivered

In Luke 9:40, Jesus defeats the demon (“cleanses the land”) when his disciples could not.

In Luke 9:44, Jesus explains the cost of his victory. He will be delivered into the hands of men.

Israel’s story is our story. In Philippians 2:14-15 we are called to shine as light in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation.

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.”

Questions for Personal Study

1. What is the significance of Jesus quoting Deuteronomy 32?
2. How does idolatry exchange the truth of God for a lie? How does it offend God’s heart?
3. What are ways you need to turn from worthless idols in your life to serve the living God?
4. What can you do this week to shine your light in the midst of a faithless and twisted generation?