

Vision 2026:

Advance

Introduction: I'd like to invite your attention to the book of Genesis, chapter two.

Genesis is in the Old Testament, which is the first part of your Bible. The second part is called the New Testament.

If you need to use the index, that's cool. If you are using an app, it's in the same place.

Now, if you are watching today & are checking out Christianity, or maybe returning to the faith of your childhood, or maybe you're not even sure there is a God, I'm glad you are here. You are welcome with your doubt, uncertainty or questions & we pray God will reveal the truth about Himself to you.

Now, lets look at the text together.

The Devil Didn't Need a Storm— He Just Needed a Conversation

Genesis 2:7-8

*Genesis 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;** and man became a living being.*

⁸The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. NKJV

Illustrate: [**Have an apple in hand...**]

A. God Created Adam for Life—not Death

- a. Adam was not fashioned for the grave—he was formed for fellowship. He was created to walk in the breath & presence of Almighty God.

Death was never God's original design for him; had Adam remained surrendered, obedient, & in fellowship with the Lord, life would have continued under the covering of God's glory.

- b. **Genesis 1:29, 30, and 31** show us that when God placed Adam & Eve in that garden, He did not leave them empty-handed! Everything they needed was already there.

Provision was there. Purpose was there. Fellowship was there. They lacked nothing because they had complete access to God, their Creator.

B. And that is why the enemy did not begin by attacking what they lacked—**because they lacked nothing**. He began by questioning what God had already said. Eve gave the serpent, “*who was more cunning than any beast of the field,*” access to her mind, & church, before sin ever showed up in her hand, it first found a seat in her thoughts.

God had already given humanity dominion over every living thing, but the serpent slipped in through thoughts, conversation.

Hear me: the devil did not need a storm, a sword, or a battlefield—he only needed a doorway into the mind. If he could get Eve to entertain his question, he could move her from confidence in God’s Word to confusion about God’s will.

TRANSITION: Don't EVER think you can take the devil on by yourself. If living in absolute, literal paradise wasn't enough to hold that old serpent at bay, then how do you think living in a fallen world of sin you can do it alone.

Genesis clearly teaches Adam & Eve were given “*dominion*” over every living & moving creature—I believe that includes the Serpent, yet he found a way in.

Church, we have all been there. Every one of us—myself included—has tried to explain the struggle by pointing to our circumstances. We say it was church hurt. We say it was the job we lost, the health we lost, the relationship that broke, the disappointment that wounded us, or the season that nearly took us under. And yes, those things are real, and they can hurt deeply.

*But hear me today: the enemy is still using the same tactic he used in Eden. He does not begin by attacking your body, your house, your money, or your relationships. He begins by whispering **against** the Word of God. He begins by **planting** a **question** where God already gave a command. He begins by turning confidence into confusion—because that is where the battle is won or lost: in the mind!*

Remember the application:

I. **Devil, You Can't Have This Mind**

Take Every Thought Captive or the Serpent Will

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (**BIBLE**)

A. The Question is Where it Starts

- a. The Apostle Paul wants you to understand—you walk in the flesh, but that is not how you wage war.
 - i. *Strongholds*: Satan uses wrong thoughts, contradictions of God's Word, opinions, & imaginations to build strongholds in the mind—walls that try to keep the Word of God from getting down into your spirit. {strong holds מְבָצָר}
 - ii. It is meant to overflow ^(Mem) & take up residence ^(Bet) with the intention to destroy your relationship with Jesus.
 - iii. Paul says we do not have to let every thought preach to us; we can take that thought captive & make it bow to Christ!

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b. I'm going to read this verse a little different:
2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but **mighty in God** for pulling down strongholds...

- i. Pulling down those strongholds that try to convince you the worldly ways are smarter, more sophisticated, more effective, more powerful than God's ways.

c. Where do strongholds come from? – When you entertain Arguments/Reasoning. When you harbor or taken in Theories/Speculations contrary to God's Word –

B. Rule Your Mind

a. ל *against the knowledge of God* The intent of the enemy is to give the perception {ל} that he has greater authority & wisdom {ל} than what God has already spoken. That is how he builds “*strongholds*” in your thoughts to doubt this Word.

– Another way to say it; he tries to make himself higher than the thoughts of God – Is this not what got him cast out of heaven & Jesus said, *Luke 10:18 “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”*

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b. You must be ready to demolish those thoughts & bring them into obedience to Christ.

Rely on Spiritual, not Carnal Weapons:

i. The carnal man says, “*I’ll overpower it, I’ll control it, I’ll manipulate it, I’ll figure my way around it.*” But that is not the way of the Spirit!

Jesus’ way says, “Humble yourself. Die to yourself. Surrender your will. Lay your weapons down before the LORD.” And when you get low enough to trust Him, God will raise up resurrection power in you!

ii. The Prophet Jeremiah says it well, ***Jeremiah 17:5*** — “*Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength.*”

iii. ***Proverbs 3:5–6*** — “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*”
Proverbs 14:12 — “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.*”

c. Answer to this —

- i. ***Zechariah 4:6*** — “*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.*”
- ii. ***John 6:63*** — “*The flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*”
- iii. ***Romans 8:7–8*** — “*The mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God... those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*”
- iv. ***Galatians 5:17*** — “*The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit.*”

C. Rule the Serpent

a. Genesis 3:1 says the serpent was more crafty, shrewd & cunning than any other creature. Eve should have NEVER sat under the teaching of the Serpent. They were supposed to rule over it.

- i. As it is today, you are to rule over Satan & stop the manipulating thoughts & opinions he attempts to impose on you.

Jesus said it, “*Luke 10:19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*” This is powerful – *nothing shall by any means hurt you* –

- ii. The Serpent should have been driven out of Eden as they were supposed to “*rule & subdue the earth.*” But the serpent ended up ruling them by deception.

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b. Sin entered through one man Adam {Romans 5:12}. *Romans 5:12* *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—* *ESV*

Genesis 3 records the fall of man ushering in sin, but the first prophetic word of Satan's destruction was also given; promising a coming Seed who would crush the serpent's head (*Genesis 3:15*). That victory is fulfilled in Christ.

Genesis 3:14 *Adonai, God, said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all livestock and wild animals. You will crawl on your belly and eat dust as long as you live. ¹⁵I will {God, Adonai said} put animosity between you and the woman, and between your descendant and her descendant; he will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel.”* *CJB*

II. Conclusion

A. Eve did not need more information from the snake. ***She needed to remember who was supposed to rule whom.*** The danger was not that the serpent was stronger than the mandate. The danger was that she treated a creature's word as if it outranked God's Word. That is still the battle for the mind.

B. Remember who you are & whose you are!

C. The reason we can do this is because of the resurrection of Christ.

- **He asks us to:**

**Repent*

**Live by Faith*

**Be Baptized*

**Be Filled with His Spirit*

Conclusion: PRESENT THE GOSPEL FOR SALVATION – EVERY WEEK – AND THE NEED TO COME FORWARD IN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST.