

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

TODAY WE LOOK AT ONE OF THE ENEMY'S OLDEST STRATEGIES: HE ATTACKS THE MIND BY STARTING A CONVERSATION AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD. IN EDEN, ADAM AND EVE LACKED NOTHING. THEY HAD PROVISION, PURPOSE, FELLOWSHIP, AND ACCESS TO GOD. THE DEVIL DID NOT NEED A STORM, A SWORD, OR A BATTLEFIELD. HE ONLY NEEDED A DOORWAY INTO THE MIND.

SHE WAS NOT IN EMOTIONAL TURMOIL, ISOLATION, MARITAL CONFLICT, OR ANY OTHER PRE-EXISTING DISTRESS. THEY LIVED IN PARADISE: GOD HAD DECLARED ALL HE MADE “*VERY GOOD.*”

BEFORE SIN EVER SHOWED UP IN EVE'S HAND, IT FIRST FOUND A SEAT IN HER THOUGHTS. THE SERPENT'S QUESTION MOVED HER FROM CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S WORD TO CONFUSION ABOUT GOD'S WILL. AND THAT SAME TACTIC IS STILL BEING USED TODAY.

WE ARE GOING TO LEARN HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE ENEMY'S VOICE, TAKE EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE, REFUSE THE LIES THAT CHALLENGE GOD'S WORD, AND WALK IN THE AUTHORITY CHRIST HAS GIVEN US.

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*THE FIRST MESSAGE REMINDS US: THE DEVIL DIDN'T NEED A STORM — HE JUST NEEDED A CONVERSATION. AND TODAY THE MESSAGE, “**DIALOGUE WITH A LIAR**,” WE WILL LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ENTERTAIN A CONVERSATION WITH A VOICE GOD NEVER TOLD US TO TRUST.*

A. Satan is a liar, & the Bible says he's been lying since the garden! He doesn't fight fair, & he doesn't fight loud. He fights quiet.

He whispers. He accuses. He plants doubt in the middle of your trial & dresses it up like truth. He wants you anxious. He wants you questioning the goodness of God!

He wants to shake your faith. He wants to fill you with anxiety & despair. He wants you questioning the goodness of God — wondering if God really loves you, if God really sees you, if God really cares.

a. The Word calls the mind a battlefield — not a courtroom, not a debate stage. And on a battlefield, you don't sit down & talk with the enemy — you don't dialogue with a defeated foe — you **cast him down!**

b. So, hear me, saints: Satan is a liar, & there is no truth in him. We are blood-bought, Spirit-filled children of the Most High God, & we don't converse with the devil — we **resist him, in Jesus' name!**

B. *Here's the truth this morning:* Satan is a liar, & the truth is not in him.

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C. We're going back to the beginning—to that first conversation between Eve & the serpent—and, with the Holy Ghost leading us, we're going to expose the enemy's tactics & see how that ancient deception is still speaking in the 21st century.

Scripture (**BIBLE**)

Remember the application:

I. **Main**

A. Abundance With Accountability

- a. Know that God created everything good & gave it to Adam. *Genesis 2: 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. A crystal-clear river flowed out of the garden to water it.*
- b. **Genesis 2** verse 15 says He put Adam, “¹⁵ in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” There could not have been much work besides some cultivating & harvesting.

There were not any thorns, briars or weeds. The bears, lions & other predators were not violent. They ate herbs & grass just as the sheep & cattle did. {Genesis 1;29-30}

Genesis 2: 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

TRANSITION: REMEMBER, THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN EVE & THE SERPENT WAS MORE THAN RECORDED IN GENESIS 3:1-5... CASUAL. NONCHALANT. EVERYDAY CONVO IS HOW IT BEGAN...

B. The Slightest Distortion

- a. As we said last week, casting doubt on God's Word begins with a question.

God did say they, “*may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat*” The casting of doubt, “*Did God actually say ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?*” –The Slightest Distortion—

- i. God restricted only one tree—“*the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat.*”
- ii. Today: “God is just trying to keep you from having fun / from real love / from being who you are.

- b. Two things: 1. Eve changed what God said, “*neither shall you touch it.*” 2. The serpent said, “*you shall not surely die!*” Then says, look what you're missing... “*your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*”

Hebrew word for “Serpent”:

- i. As an adjective means, “shiny, luminous.” Isaiah 14:12 (**BIBLE**)
- ii. As a verb means, “diviner, deceiver.”

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c. Let me share a couple of Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 19:14 “You shall not remove your neighbor’s landmark, which the men of old have set... NKJV

Deuteronomy 27:17 “‘A curse on anyone who moves his neighbor’s boundary marker.’” CJB

- i. Illustrate the survey markers on Lake Ridge...
- ii. You can move the marker, but you cannot change who legally owns the land—it still belongs to CFWC.
- iii. The gods of this world—culture, society, government, and every other voice—may try to move the ancient landmark, but they cannot move the truth of God’s Word. Truth is still truth, and by the power of the Holy Ghost, truth shall stand!

C. Beguiled

- a. Remember, the LORD God walked in the Garden to commune with Adam & Eve. {The Conversation between the LORD & Adam...} Eve says, *Genesis 3:13b* “*The serpent deceived me, and I ate.* NKJV
- b. The concern of the Apostle Paul is the same with us as he speaks to the Christians in Corinth: *2 Corinthians 11:3* *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity & devotion that is in Christ.* NKJV
 - i. When you converse with a Liar, expect to hear lies.
 - ii. When you listen to the Liar long enough, your mind is corrupted & you become deceived, believing the lie as truth.

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- c. The Apostle was dealing with people who were undermining his authority and were leading people away from the gospel he had preached.
 - i. He warned of teaching of a “different” Jesus, spirit & gospel. {2 Cor. 11:4}
 - ii. He said, do not put up with it! Recognize the *deception* for what it is—the same kind of *craftiness* the Serpent used on Eve—and REFUSE to be led away from sincere & pure devotion to Christ.
- d. Church, know this Word! Receive the Holy Ghost in power – **Acts 2** Spend time with our Heavenly Father as His child...

II. Conclusion

A. Bottom line: Do not have Dialogue with a Liar!

If the Devil can get your mind, he can get your steps — because what you believe in your mind will show up in your life.

2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

⁵Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; KJV

B. 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.