

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴ The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

V.1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

1. "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'"

a. Man at that time was living in the dispensation of innocence

i. The word dispensation – οἰκονομία – means household manager

b. At that time man could do anything he wanted to do & it wasn't sin – he could turn 360° & anything he could think of was ok! – there was only one thing you could do to sin

c. One of the criticisms of Christianity is that it is so narrow-minded

d. There is only One way to God & that is thru Jesus Christ

i. If there were a 100 ways – man would want 101

ii. Man was only forbidden one thing – could not eat from one particular tree

e. So let's look at the first temptation man will experience

f. The first temptation was – to accept misquoted Scripture

i. Eve corrected that

g. Next she was tempted to – question what God had said!

h. "Indeed, has God said"

i. Isn't that still one of the greatest temptations of all?

i. God said to Israel, "I love you" – listen to the dialogue

Malachi 1:2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have You loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob;

1. "I have loved you, says the Lord"

- a. No nation has ever been so favored as Israel

Deuteronomy 7:6 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for **His own possession** out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

⁷ "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples,
⁸ but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

- b. And their response to what God said?

- i. "But you say, "How have You loved us?" (i.e. "We don't see where you love us!")
- ii. Satan told Israel – "God doesn't love you" – and Israel listened

- c. God says the same thing to the Church – "that we are His own possession"

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

- i. Very few believers see themselves as God's own possession – b/c Satan tells us we are not unique

- d. God tells us how much He loves us

Romans 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers,

³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing,
will be able to separate us from the love of God,
 which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- i. Few believers grasp the love God has for us – b/c Satan tells us that He doesn't really love us

e. Scripture says the Church should have a supernatural peace

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- i. But few believers have peace & contentment
- ii. B/c Satan tells us we can't trust God

f. Why? – Because Satan is still in the business of challenging what God says

V.2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

V.3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

V.4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

V.5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

1. "You surely will not die...the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened...you will be like God"

- a. This is all a lie!

- b. Who is this creature that is telling this lie?

- c. He is the "serpent"

- i. Apparently a beautiful creature

- ii. Very intelligent – it didn't surprise Eve that he could talk

- iii. He was a creature that Satan could use to deceive man

- d. But the real person behind this scheme is Satan himself

- e. Who do think he is? Does he play a role in everyday life now?

- f. Would it surprise you to know that the devil is mentioned more in Scripture than anyone else other than the Trinity?

- g. Would it surprise you to know that Satan is listed under at least 40 different titles or names in Scripture?
- h. Would it surprise you to know the Bible gives the details to Satan's creation, career, & final destiny?
- i. No other creature garners that kind of attention in Scripture
 - i. There is more said about his motives, methods of operation, his character than any other creature in Scripture – including any O.T. or N.T. characters
- j. Would it surprise you to know that we are supposed to be informed of his schemes?

2 Corinthians 2:11 so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

- k. There are 11 mysteries in Scripture
 - i. One of those has to do w/ Satan

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way.

⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

⁹ *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

- l. Would it surprise you to know that you are told to pray for God's protection from Satan?

Matthew 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ 'Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil (literally – the evil one). [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'](not in original text)

- m. There are two dangers when dealing w/ the topic of Satan

- i. **First** is – to be too interested in him & want to know more info than Scripture gives
- ii. Anything learned outside of Scripture is wrong – Satan would never let anyone know the truth about himself
- iii. **Second** danger – is to know too little – then you are a victim of his schemes
- n. You can't know anything true about Satan other than what is described in the Bible
 - i. The devil is not a little red man w/ a tail & horns & pitchfork
 - ii. Satan never looks like Satan – he always looks attractive

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

¹⁴ No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

- iii. All that religion knows about the devil is either a product of their imagination or a lie Satan has propagated

- o. For the believer there is **nothing to fear** from him at all
 - i. He can't do a thing to a believer w/out God's permission
 - ii. He answers to God just like the rest of creation

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."

⁸ The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

¹⁰ "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have

blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

Luke 22:31 (NIV) "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

- iii. The Holy Spirit is in every believer – therefore it is impossible for Satan to possess a believer

1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he^(devil) who is in the world.

- p. What we are to be careful of – are the snares that he uses to defeat men's walk w/ God
- q. Who is Satan?
- r. Satan is a created being – **Ezekiel 28:1-19**
- s. He fell because of pride – **Isaiah 14:12-15**
- t. He was the most powerful creature – until his fall **Ezekiel 28**
- u. He is an angel – although fallen at this time
- v. Angels are more numerable than people
 - i. They have intelligence, a will, & emotions
 - ii. They are not subject to the laws of physics
- w. Angels have at times made themselves visible & intervened in the affairs of men

Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

- i. They were created before the physical universe
- ii. They are organized by rank

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

- iii. They are very interested in what man does & are watching our activities

1 Corinthians 11:10 Therefore the woman ought to have *a symbol of* authority on her head, because of the angels.

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

- iv. They can't be seen by the physical eye unless God chooses to enhance the eye

2 Kings 6:14^(king of Aram after Elisha) He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

¹⁶ So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- x. I have given you this data for a purpose
 - i. You need to know that the world is much bigger than our little plot of soil
 - ii. We need to think on a higher plane – & see life as it really is!
- y. We live in a time of a great spiritual war
- z. As a believer you are either involved in the battle or you are a prisoner of war
- aa. We are to be aware that the battle is ongoing from Eve's day until now & we are to be weaponized for that battle

bb. We are warned of Satan's methods

1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Ephesians 4:27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

cc. We are to know the type of weapons at our disposal

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

⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

dd. We are to be armed for battle at all times

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

ee. As a believer – you will leave here today in one of three ways

i. **#1.** You will leave here afraid of the spiritual world – DON'T

Romans 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

1. Satan has been **totally defeated**

Hebrews 2:14 (NASB) Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

ii. **#2.** With a deeper understanding of who we are in Christ – soldiers in service for Him

1. Determined to not get caught up in all the pursuits of earthly life

2 Timothy 2:3 Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

⁴ No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

iii. **#3.** You will think this is a bunch of nonsense – you will be a victim of Satan's scheme – deceived

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

1. I've given Scripture for everything I've said today

2. Most believers will go thru life totally ignorant about what life is about
3. They will go thru life trying to make money or have fun or or accumulate power – never understanding their job description until it's over & they stand in judgment (as a believer)

4. This life is serious – take it seriously

Ephesians 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.