

Morning Sermon November 1, 2020

“The Serpent”– Genesis 3:1

I. The serpent was “more cunning” –

3 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. Genesis 3:1 A (NKJV)

1. A reference to the animal chosen by Satan – A literal serpent was possessed by Satan.

2. The serpent is described as cunning, crafty (ESV), subtle (KJV), Eve was not scared! Satan chose, possessed such an animal because he would try to look good –

¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14 (NKJV)

John Bunyan, describes demonic strategies as if Satan, Beelzebub, Lucifer, Diabolus were all discussing how to bring down the great town of Mansoul -

“Whether they (Demonic forces) had best go and sit down before Mansoul in their now ragged and beggarly guise (caused by sin). To which it was answered also in the negative, By no means; and that because though the town of Mansoul had been made to know and to have to do, before now, with things that are invisible, they did never as yet see any of their fellow-creatures in so sad and rascally condition as they.”

John Bunyan “The Holy War” *The serpent was a more attractive animal then than it is now. The curse caused the serpent to crawl on its belly, to eat dust –*

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. Genesis 3:14 (NKJV) *Before the curse, it seems, the serpent had legs; Eve was not startled by the approach of this creature.*

3. The deadly poison of the serpent surely came after the fall, as there was no death before man’s fall –

⁶ So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. Numbers 21:6 (NKJV)

Rattlesnakes and cobras can kill a human being in a matter of minutes with their bites, other snakes have bites that paralyze and some bites eat flesh ... these bites make take hours or even days to kill a person and yet still do tremendous damage –

II. This Genesis 3 serpent’s poison was from its mouth in the form of words, questions, lies -

And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” Genesis 3:1 B (NKJV)

1. The question is asked in such a way to make you think God is withholding something! God is a killjoy, a RULE-Maker, Legalistic ...

2. Satan moves from questioning to direct deadly lying –

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:4–5 (NKJV)

A. God had told Adam eating from that tree would cause death – **¹⁷ but 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.” Genesis 2:17 (NKJV)** *Notice Satan’s word’s almost mirrored God’s words; but adding the word “not” made Eve think God was lying!*

B. Not only was God accused of lying by Satan, but God was also accused of not wanting Eve to know “good and evil” ... *deceived by Satan, Eve sees the forbidden tree according to Satan’s lie –*

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Genesis 3:6 (NKJV)

3. Men’s mouths are compared to serpents because of lies –

¹³ “Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps is under their lips”; Romans 3:13 (NKJV)

4. *Lying is the way of the devil's children, they even lie to themselves –*

44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44 (NKJV)

A. *These people seemingly believed what Jesus told them about Himself, but when He told them they were slaves of sin, when He told them TRUTH about themselves, they fought Him –*

30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. 37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." 39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God." John 8:30–41 (NKJV)

B. *In order to be saved, we need to realize we are LOST, and how lost?*

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

III. *The Serpent, Satan has increased his power –*

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)

1. *Satan who was the serpent, possessed a serpent, now deceives the entire world –*

2. *He is called by Christ the ruler of this world –*

John 12:31; John 14:30 & John 16:11

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. Revelation 12:3 (NKJV)

A. *Great because large in rule*

B. *Fiery red – "fiery" like the serpents in Numbers 21, full of deadly poison!*

Red – the color of blood, of passion, of war

C. *Seven heads refers to complete rule, horns and diadems both refer to government, kings ---*

3. *Such a creature(s) is not beaten except by God's power –*

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:10–20 (NKJV)

A. *Truth, God's truth, the Bible is the first weapon we have against Satan!*

B. *Sinners suppress truth –*

8 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, Romans 1:18 (NKJV)

C. *God's people speak TRUTH – Ephesians 4:14-15*

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— Ephesians 4:14–15 (NKJV)

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