

INTRODUCTION

1. We come now to the Word of God and our study of it.
2. The beauty of our time is we get to study God's Word.
3. And in doing that, let me invite you to take God's Word and turn with me to Genesis chapter 3.
4. In our last two times together we addressed a question, "What is sin?"
5. And we answered that question by saying that sin is "transgression of God's will, either by doing what He forbids or failing to do what He requires."
6. And we saw that's exactly what Adam and Eve did.
7. They did the forbidden.
8. They ate of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God said not to eat of.

9. And immediately they fell.
10. Now looking more closely at Genesis 3:1-7, let's see the details.
11. Genesis 3:1-7 (NKJV) says, "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 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." 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. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.
12. Satan is a liar and the father of lies.

13. He tempts, deceives, destroys everyone and everything he touches.
14. Whether he keeps you seeped in unbelief or oppresses you as a believer, he is a destroyer of lives.
15. The Bible uses many different titles for him:
 - a. Satan - “adversary or opposer” (Mat.4:10)
 - b. Devil - “slanderer” (Mat.4:1)
 - c. Evil one - “intrinsically evil” (John 17:5)
 - d. Great red dragon - (Rev.12:3, 7, 9)
 - e. Serpent of old - “deceiver in Eden” (Rev.12:9)
 - f. Abaddon - “destruction” (Rev.9:11)
 - g. Apollyon - “destroyer” (Rev.9:11)
 - h. Adversary - “opponent” (1 Pet.5:8)
 - i. God of this world (2 Cor.4:4)
 - j. Ruler of this world (Jn.12:31)
 - k. Prince of the power of the air (Eph.2:2)
 - l. Enemy (Mat.13:28)
 - m. Tempter (Mat.4:3)
 - n. Murderer (Jn.8:44)
 - o. Liar (Jn.8:44)
 - p. Accuser (Rev.12:10)
16. All of those titles tell us what he is like.

17. And people who question his existence are only caught up in his deceptive lies.
18. He doesn't want you to know he exists.
19. But as John MacArthur says, "There must be an adversary, because absolute harmony does not exist in the world."¹
20. And the reason why is because of sin and God's adversary, the Devil.
21. He is mentioned by the term "devil" 52 times and as "Sata" 49 times.
22. Jesus mentioned him many times like in Matthew 4; John 12:31; 14:30 just to name a few.
23. Satan is the embodiment of evil in a person, and as we will see in Genesis 3, he's the embodiment of evil in a serpent.
24. As we look again at Genesis 3:1-7, we see first...

¹ John MacArthur, God, Satan and Angels, p.72

LESSON

I. The Cunningness of the Serpent (v.1)

Genesis 3:1 (NKJV) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

A. His Identity

“The serpent”

Those who seek to “demythologize” the Bible believe that this account of the fall is allegorical and not literal. They cite the talking serpent as proof.²

But this is not the serpent talking. It’s Satan.

According to ancient Talmudic sources, the primeval serpent is just a species of animal, although differing in character from the serpent of today, and resembling man in his upright stature and in his manner of eating (see, for instance, B. Soṭa 9b).³

² MacDonald, William. *Believer’s Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*. Ed. Arthur Farstad. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995. Print.

³ Cassuto, U. *A Commentary on the Book of Genesis: Part I, From Adam to Noah (Genesis I–VI 8)*. Trans. Israel Abrahams. Jerusalem: The Magnes Press, The Hebrew University, 1998. Print.

But as you examine the serpent closer, it is more than “just a species of animal.”

1. The apostle John identified the serpent as Satan
 - a) Revelation 12:9 (NKJV) 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.
 - b) Revelation 20:1-2 (NKJV) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.
2. The apostle Paul also identified him in 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 (NKJV) For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Notice that...

3. Satan is described in Ezekiel 28:11-15

We hear verse 15 tell us that “iniquity was found in” him but exactly where that iniquity came from is not mentioned but we do hear...

4. Satan’s fall is described in Isaiah 14:13-14

Satan fell “as lightning falls from heaven” (Luke 10:18). God “cast him to the ground” (Ezekiel 28:17) and ultimately he will be “brought down to hell” (Isaiah 14:15; Matthew 25:41).⁴

We need to remember that!

He who enslaves sinners will one day himself be enslaved to the lake of fire!

Moses also gives...

B. His Comparison

He says the serpent “was more cunning than any

⁴ Morris, Henry M. [*The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976. Print.

beast of the field”

1. The KJV has “subtle” but the idea is “cunning” or a better word is “shrewd”
2. Matthew 10:16 (NKJV) translates it “wise”: Jesus to the twelve: “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

John Calvin says, “For since [Satan] required an instrument, he chose from among animals that which he saw would be most suitable for him.”⁵

Notice...

C. His Question

And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

John bunyan said, “In these words we have an entrance of the first great spiritual conflict that was fought between the devil and flesh.”⁶

⁵ Calvin, John. [Genesis](#). electronic ed. N. p., 1998. Print. Calvin’s Commentaries.

⁶ Bunyan, John. An Exposition of the First Ten Chapters of Genesis. Vol. 2. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2006. Print.

Satan appeals to everyone the same way...on the basis of the flesh.

The apostle John calls it “the lust of the flesh” (1 John 2:16).

Notice by this question how...

1. He drew her interest

He says, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

2. He was a setting her up for his big lie by planting a seed of doubt in her mind - “Has God indeed said.”
3. This planted seed of doubt would cause her to question what God said
4. This would be the first time man would question God and here it is done with the weaker vessel

John Phillips says, “The being with whom Eve dealt was more than a match for her except for one thing. She had the Word of God. With that Word to guide her, brief as it was in her day, she was more than a

match for her foe. All the craft and cunning of the evil one would have availed him nothing had Eve simply responded to every suggestion with the simple statement: “Thus saith the Lord.”⁷

Henry Morris adds: “It is always dangerous to alter God’s Word, either by addition (as do modern cultists) or by deletion (as do modern liberals). God, being omniscient, can always be trusted to say exactly, and only, what He means (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5; Revelation 22:18, 19); and finite man is inexcusable when he seeks to change God’s Word. Such will lead either to divine reproof (Proverbs 30:6) or death (Revelation 22:19).”⁸

Do you remember how Jesus responded to Satan when He fasted forty days and nights?

He answered Satan with the Word of God!

Matthew 4:3-4 (NKJV) Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the

⁷ Phillips, John. [Exploring Genesis: An Expository Commentary](#). Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009. Print. The John Phillips Commentary Series.

⁸ Ibid., Morris.

mouth of God.”

This is what Eve should have done!

We need to understand that Satan takes advantage of ignorance to God’s Word.

Jehovah’s Witnesses’ and the rest of the cults prey on those who are weak with God’s Word.

1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

In verses 2-5 we see...

II. The Gullibility of the Woman (vv.2-5)

Genesis 3:2-5 (NKJV) And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” 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.”

A. Eve Engages with the Serpent

She reasons and rationalizes with the serpent over his question and what she had been told, either by Adam or God.

1. It is dangerous to reason with the enemy

John Bunyan said, “In time of temptation, it is our wisdom and duty to keep close to the word, that prohibits and forbids the sin; and not to reason with Satan.”⁹

2. It is also dangerous to talk to Satan and demons

R.C. Sproul says, “Sadly, too much concern with Satan and demons means that we focus less of our attention on Christ. That must please Satan, and it is certainly not pleasing to God.”¹⁰

Jon Bloom, of Desiring God Ministries, says, “Our best protection against demons is less preoccupation with them and more preoccupation

⁹ Ibid., Bunyan.

¹⁰ <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/are-we-too-concerned-demons/>

with God — less understanding of deception and more understanding of truth.”¹¹

John MacArthur adds that Ephesians 6 says to “Put on the whole armor of God,” and what that whole armor really consists of is righteousness. The heart of it is “the breastplate of righteousness.” The key then is to live a righteous, Spirit-filled life and to trust in the sovereign power of God.”¹²

And when you do that, there is no need to talk to Satan.

Stop talking to the enemy and talk to the Savior!

Notice how...

B. Eve Goes on the Defense

1. We can eat any fruit but one

God said you shall not eat it, nor...touch it, let you die.

¹¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-satan-gets-a-hold-on-you>

¹² <https://www.gty.org/library/questions/QA189/can-satan-hear-our-thoughts>

- a) There's no record of God saying not to touch it

Her information most likely came from Adam's prohibitions to Eve.

- b) As for death, she didn't know what that meant because there was no death at this point

Notice in verses 4-5...

C. The Serpent Attacks God's Character by Calling God a Liar (vv.4-5)

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."

1. Satan doesn't address the first part of what she said only the second - He knew the command too
2. He also didn't tell her that he rebelled against God and was expelled from heaven and given the death sentence of hell

Notice that...

3. He questions “lest you die.” He knew she had no reference of death and would be unfamiliar with it
4. Frankly, he had no reference either because there was no death until after the Fall
5. When he said “you will not surely die” he was saying God lied to her. This would be the first time God would be challenged by one of his creatures

In all this we see that...

6. Satan attacked the character of God and the truthfulness of His Word

This is what he did when talking about Job.

Job 2:3 (NKJV) Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him

without cause.”

7. Verse 5 is true even though it's coming from the father of lies (John 8:44)
8. Satan will use just enough truth to entrap those he is seeking to deceive. That's what he does with the cults! (a little truth and a whole lot of lies)

So we saw the cunningness of the serpent and the gullibility of the woman. Notice now...

III. The Fall of Man (vv.6-7)

This is the saddest day in history!

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. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Verse 6 highlights the process of temptation. It also reveals they were in a state of innocence like a child that hasn't reached the level of maturity.

It also shows that she listened to what the serpent said in verses 4-5.

This, in essence, is 1 John 2:16 (NKJV) For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

James 1:14-15 (NKJV) But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

That's exactly what we see here.

Notice verse 6...

A. Temptation Begins with a Look (v.6a)

“She saw that the tree was good for food”

This is the “lust of the eyes” John talks about.

B. It Then Forms into a Desire (v.6b)

“A tree desirable to make one wise”

This is the “lust of the flesh.”

C. Once it Becomes a Desire it Proceeds to Action (v.6c)

“She took of its fruit”

This is the “boastful pride of life.”

D. This is Illustrated in the Life of David (2 Samuel 11)

1. “Look” - He “saw a woman bathing” (v.2a)
2. “Desirable” - The “woman was very beautiful to behold” (v.2b)
3. He “sent and inquired about the woman” (v.3a)
4. “Took” - He then “sent messengers, and took her” (v.3b)
5. “The woman conceived” (v.5)
6. David had “Uriah” killed (v.17)
7. David takes Bathsheba to be his wife (v.27)

All this doesn't come without consequences. We see that here in 2 Samuel with David but also with Eve in the Garden. Verse 7 says, "Genesis 3:7 (NKJV) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

E. Sin Entered Adam and Eve (v.7)

1. Both their eyes were now opened to evil
2. They now knew they were naked and felt guilt and shame which is seen in their making of coverings
3. Romans 5:12 (NKJV) Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Cassuto says "In truth their eyes were opened as they had expected, but the outcome was not what they had awaited. They had hoped that by eating of the fruit of the tree they would attain *Divine knowledge*; in point of fact, they did gain *knowledge*, but of what kind? *They knew that they were naked!* The cognition that had seemed so *desirable* to them as to warrant the

transgression, for its sake, of the Creator's precept, appeared to them, once they had achieved it, vastly different from what they had originally imagined. The first knowledge they acquired was the wretched and grieving realization that they were naked."¹³

John Calvin says, "It was necessary that the eyes of Eve should be veiled till her husband also was deceived; but now both, being alike bound by the chain of an unhappy consent, begin to be sensible of their wretchedness although they are not yet affected with a deep knowledge of their fault. They are ashamed of their nakedness, yet, though convinced, they do not humble themselves before God, nor fear his judgements as they ought; they even do not cease to resort to evasions."¹⁴

CONCLUSION

1. I conclude with these words from Henry Morris:
2. Commenting on this verse He says, "Hastily they fashioned crude girdles of fig leaves and covered themselves, but of course such aprons would hardly suffice to hide the guilt of their rebellion against God. Neither will the "filthy rags" of our own self-made

¹³ Ibid., Cassuto.

¹⁴ Ibid., Calvin.

“righteousnesses” serve to cover our sinful hearts today (Isaiah 64:6). We need rather the “garments of salvation,” the “robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10) with which only God can clothe us (Genesis 3:21). We can never escape God’s eye of judgment by anything that we ourselves can fashion or accomplish.”¹⁵

3. So true!
4. What a horrible day!
5. Paradise is now lost!
6. What can we learn from Genesis 3:1-7?
7. Don’t play with temptation!
8. Do not talk to Satan and Demons!
9. Believe and trust in God’s Word!
10. Don’t alter God’s Word!
11. Don’t give in to the “lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, (and) the pride of life!

¹⁵ Ibid., Morris.

12. Realize your weakness and humble yourself before God!
13. Submit to God and the devil will flee from you!
14. Overcoming temptation is only possible with a relationship with Jesus Christ.
15. At salvation, the chains are broken.
16. You, as Paul declares in Romans 6, now become an “instrument of righteousness” and are no longer “a slave of sin.”
17. But until you repent, you are still chained in your sins and a servant of it.
18. If you haven’t repented and turned to Jesus, do so now!
19. Let’s pray.