

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #14

Genesis 3:1-6

Sin was not the fault of the original environment or the fault of an inherited sin nature, the choice for man to sin against God was a free-will choice. The reason why there are so many problems in this world is because man has a sin problem. In this chapter we learn how this world, which God once classified as “very good” (1:31) became very bad. W.H. Griffith Thomas said that if you take this one chapter out of the Bible, the rest of the Bible is meaningless (*Genesis*, p. 46).

SIN CAME AS A RESULT OF MAN’S ORIGINAL CHOICE TO LISTEN TO SATAN RATHER THAN LISTEN TO AND OBEY THE LORD GOD.

This text is very applicable to us because Paul says we, in Adam, chose to sin against God. (Romans 5:12ff.). We took our wills and freely chose the way of Satan, not the way of God. Did man once have a free will? Yes. Will man choose to obey God with his free will? The answer is No!

TOPIC #1 - The description of the Tempter. 3:1a

(Fact #1) - He was a serpent. 3:1

The noun “serpent” is derived from the hissing sound a serpent makes. It is natural for the serpent to hiss, it is very supernatural for a serpent to speak. We may assume that this serpent either had legs or some unique ability to stand upright because crawling on its belly became part of the curse and at this point the curse was not operative (Genesis 3:14).

(Fact #2) - He was crafty. 3:1

This particular Hebrew word “crafty” actually is one closely connected to the word “naked” of Genesis 2:25, which means to be uncovered or naked (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 655). At this point, the serpent was the most uncovered beast Satan could select and it would not be easy to detect him.

(Fact #3) - He was a beast. 3:1

The Tempter was one of the wild animals as opposed to one of the tame and domestic animals. This indicates that Satan and his agents are not man’s friends.

(Fact #4) - He was made by the LORD God. 3:1

The serpent was made by God (Job 26:13) and so was Satan (Ezekiel 28:15).

(Fact #5) - He was in the garden. 3:1

This text and Ezekiel 28:13 makes it clear that God permitted the serpent and Satan in His garden.

(Fact #6) - He could speak. 3:1

We must assume that the thing that should have caused Eve to realize something was out of sync was this fact that the serpent could speak.

TOPIC #2 - The question of the Tempter. 3:1b

Satan's primary motivation is to rid the World of the life that the LORD God created in His image and he knew that the death penalty would be given to Adam and Eve if they ate of the "tree of knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2: 17/3:4).

The first thing Satan does is to question Eve about what God actually said. The first glimpse we get of satanic activity is one of a debate concerning God's word. Satan does not approach Eve as a hater of God or who wants to be worshipped as God, he approaches her wanting to discuss religion.

The emphasis of his question is on the negative. Instead of focusing on the fact that God said Adam and Eve could eat of every tree but one, Satan blows the one prohibition of God Way out of proportion and uses that to lure her into a discussion.

Satan used an animal to speak through because at this point in history he did not have the option of using people, but **today it is different in that Satan does his finest deceptive work by using people to lure others into theological discussions (II Corinthians 11:13-15; I John 4:1).**

TOPIC #3 - The reaction of the woman. 3:2-3

It is clear from Eve's response that she was uncertain about the Word of God and her ignorance left her vulnerable to these satanic deceptions. This is revealed four ways:

(Way #1) - She subtracted the words "any" and "freely" when stressing the trees from which they could eat. Genesis 3:2/Genesis 2:16

(Way #2) - She neglected the one tree in the middle of the garden from which they could partake - "the tree of life". Genesis 2:9/Genesis 3:3a

(Way #3) - She added the word "touch" to God's command, which is something He did not say - Genesis 2:17/Genesis 3:3b

(Way #4) - She subtracted the word "surely" from God's promise of death - Genesis 2:17/Genesis 3:30c

Eve was not very certain as to what exactly God did say and what He didn't say, and it was this uncertainty that made her a prime target for satanic conquering.

There is absolutely no doubt that the major key to victory over satanic temptation is proper and precise knowledge of God's Word. This was Personally demonstrated by Jesus Christ, when He went one on one against Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). This was personally taught by Paul (Ephesians 6:11, 14-17), who says this is key armor against satanic attack. Knowing God's Word precisely will keep one from sin (Psalm 119:11).

TOPIC #4 - The deception of the Tempter. 3:4-5

As soon as Satan realized Eve did not know God's word precisely, he directly contradicted God's word. He is the father of lies (John 6:44) and he blatantly lies when he says "you surely shall not die." It would be the belief of this very lie that would end up causing all men to die.

Satan deceptively entices Eve into thinking that God was withholding something good from them. He suggests that God does not want them to become like Him, knowing good and evil and he tries to make God's motive one of jealousy, when in all reality it was one of protection.

Satan is saying what is partially true, they would have knowledge of good and evil rather than just knowledge of good (Genesis 3:22). But what Satan neglected to tell Eve is that after partaking of this tree, they would not be able to do good and would always choose evil. What Satan did not tell Eve was this would cause a permanent "bondage of the human will" in which man would be sold to do that which is not good, that which is evil. God was trying to protect man from ever knowing evil and Satan was trying to lure man into evil.

TOPIC #5 - The sin of the woman. 3:6a

Eve thought about what Satan said and stared at the tree and was drawn to it by her own lusts (James 1:13-15). She saw the fruit was good for food - the lust of the flesh; it was a delight to her eyes - the lust of the eyes; and it could make one wise - the pride of life. What Eve thought was the wisest thing for her to do ended up being the most wretched thing she could do.

TOPIC #6 - The sin of the man. 3:6b

We learn from other passages that Eve was deceived, but Adam seems to have been not deceived but in fact made a deliberate choice to turn against God and follow his wife into the ways of Satan (I Timothy 2:14). When Eve offered Adam the fruit, he should have refused and immediately sought God.

This is a pathetic picture - man was here to dominate the animal world (Genesis 1:26, 28) and ends up being deceived and dominated by a serpent. Man was supposed to be helped by the woman (Genesis 2:18) and ends up being hurt by this woman.

We cannot blame the environment for the sin problem. We cannot blame heredity for the sin problem, we cannot blame God for the sin problem, we can only blame ourselves. We have all chosen to turn our backs on God and give our allegiance to the ways of the evil one.

Man sinned by his own choosing but that choice to sin was also part of a Sovereign Plan of God. God knew what would happen, in fact, His plan was in full order before the foundation of the world. Just as the woman took the fruit and did eat and just as Adam took the fruit and ate, so several hundred years later, there would be another invitation to "take and eat." The invitation would be to take and eat of the bread of life. Jesus Christ allowed His own body to be broken and His blood to be shed so that He might undo all that Adam did (Romans 5:12-21).

Whosoever believes on Him has everlasting life.