

Foundations 10

Three deadly suggestions!

How Satan still leads people astray today?

“... Yea, hath God said... ?” (Genesis 3:1)

Introduction

We will look more generally at the subject of the entrance of sin into the world and particularly into the human race or mankind.

But today I want to start by looking at the temptations or the suggestions that Satan brought to the woman that lead her to sin against God.

The Garden

Adam and Eve have been put into a beautiful garden.

“And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. v9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” (Genesis 2:8-9)

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. v16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: v17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:15-17)

A God made garden

- Every tree that was pleasant to the sight
- And that were good for food
- Mankind can eat of EVERY tree and he can eat FREELY of them... all except one.

Just one rule to keep.

The Serpent

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman..." (Genesis 3:1)

We will come to what he said later.

Who or what was the serpent in the garden?

I was going to ask, "who was the serpent in the tree?" But that shows now much tradition and art have affected our thinking.

We are not told the serpent was in a tree nor that the fruit was an apple.

Who or what was the serpent in the garden?

We need to look to scripture to help with this, not the fanciful ideas of man.

John the evangelist, who "in the spirit," in the book of Revelation tells us that...

"... the **great dragon** was cast out, **that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (Revelation 12:9)

So there is

- An "old serpent."
- Who is called "the Devil and Satan."
- And this serpent, in the past, "deceiveth the whole world."

So an old serpent deceived the whole world and he is the Devil or Satan?

Now, it is possible that there was a real, made of flesh serpent that was used or controlled by the devil, but the temptations came from the devil.

How?

Judas was entered by Satan.

"Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot..." (Luke 22:3)

Peter was influenced by, or spoke for Satan.

"But he [Jesus] turned, and said unto Peter, **Get thee behind me, Satan:**"
(Matthew 16:23)

So the devil can speak through people or things of flesh and blood.

The serpent in this record of the fall, is Satan or the Devil.

Three statements or one question and two statements.

We will look more generally at, The Fall, in our next study, But I want us to take this whole study to, look at these three statements or one question and two statements, because they seem to encamp the main strategy that Satan has been using throughout history and is still using today to lead mankind away from God.

"Yea, hath God said... ?" (Genesis 3:1)

I want to come back to the shorter question here in a moment, but first let us dealt with the first full question and answer...

"Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? v2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of

the garden: v3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." (Genesis 3:1a-3)

Had God said, "Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

NO!

But the suggestion is given that God is... God is a nasty God, here you have lots of trees and God will not let you eat of them.

In fact God had said you "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:"

Just that one in the middle... do not eat of that one.

Eve's reply was just as inaccurate.

She said, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden"

God said you could freely eat.

She said, "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."

God did not say you could not touch it.

He said "thou shalt not eat of it"

She might have been better, rather than exaggerating what God had said, to have not been close enough to see the tree.

"And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:" (Mark 9:47)

Yea, hath God said (Genesis 3:1)

Satan starts by sowing doubt on God's word.

HAS GOD SAID?

There can not be a more attacked book in the world than the Bible.

And there can't be an ancient text, that is more proven true than the Bible.

How can you trust the Bible?

“Prove the Bible to be true scientifically?”

If you are asking this... you do not understand Evidence!

“Prove you are married... Scientifically”

You do not prove that you are married with science.

You use:

- Documentary evidence (Marriage certificate)
- Eye witness evidence

“Prove what you had for Christmas dinner last year... Scientifically”

You do not prove what you had for dinner last year with science.

You use:

- Documentary evidence (a photograph)
- Eye witness evidence

Documentary evidence

We trust many old documents:

- Herodotus (History) - only 8 known manuscripts
- Aristotle (Philosopher) - only 49 known manuscripts
- Caesar (History) - only 10 known manuscripts
- Homer (Iliad) - 643 known manuscripts

No one ever questions the existence or correctness of these texts.

- New Testament - 24,633 known manuscripts

That can not be true, it must be made up!

We trust the accuracy of the manuscripts we have even though some are not very contemporaneous with the events recorded.

Years from first writing to earliest copy

- Herodotus (History) - 1,300 years from first writing to earliest copy
- Aristotle (Philosopher) - 1,400 years from first writing to earliest copy
- Caesar (History) - 1,000 years from first writing to earliest copy
- Homer (Iliad) - 500 years from first writing to earliest copy

No one ever questions the existence or correctness of these texts.

- New Testament - 50 to at the most 150 years from first writing to earliest copy

That can not be true, it must have been changed as it went along!

If every copy of the Bible was destroyed, and every old manuscript of the New Testament lost,

From quotations of the Bible in sermons and letters we could recreate all but 11 versus of the New Testament. Going all the way back to 100AD to 250AD.

We have 86,489 fragments of the bible in other writings.

Eye witness evidence.

"To whom also he **shewed** himself alive after his passion by **many infallible proofs**, being **seen** of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:" (Acts 1:3)

"That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked** upon, and our **hands have handled**, of the Word of life;" (1 John 1:1)

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**" (2 Peter 1:16)

If you want to know more...

Read - The New Evinced That Demands A Verdict by Josh McDowell.

Or go to www.josh.org and look up "Can I Trust the Bible?"

"... Ye shall not surely die:" (Genesis 3:4)

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:"

(Genesis 3:4)

God had said...

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden **thou mayest freely eat:** ^{VI7} But **of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**" (Genesis 2:16-17)

God said, "for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Satan says "Ye shall not surely die:"

NOTE: God's idea of dying or of being dead may be different to yours and mine.

After Adam ate from this tree he lived another 930 years!

But while he was still breathing he as dead!

What is meant here by death and how a man can live for 930 years is not the subject for this study, but...

This morning he was a perfect man, not a single genetic error in his body. A perfectly healthy man. It can take a long time for a perfectly healthy man to die.

There is some debate about what is meant by "for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

The phrase "you shall surely die" can be literally translated from the Hebrew biblical text as "dying you shall die."

- Spiritual death - guilt before God

- Physical death in that from that moment on though he was breathing - his body was dying
- Moral death - Man was now heading for judgment.

Back to our subject.

God said, “for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

Satan says “Ye shall not surely die:”

If I can generalise

Satan is offering...

Or saying you can have...

Consequence free sin!

Consequence free sin!

You can do what YOU want and there will be no consequences for you.

In this specific case...

You can **eat** and not **die!**

But more generally you can indulge whatever pleasure you want and it will have no consequences.

We have tried to bring this into the physical world.

Sex outside marriage.

- Contraception - sex without a baby
 - Now Abortion - Sex without any consequences

Except the death of more babies than actually reach birth.

- Medication - Prolific sex - without disease - NO STDs
 - Or STDs then treatment for them
- Hollywood and pop culture - fornication without guilt

We have tried to remove the consequences of morality.

But the murder of millions of babies.

Broken marriages

Single parent families or children living in divided families.

Guilt before God...

Drugs - drink and suicide

These are not consequence free sex.

Sin has consequences.

Paul tells us...

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (Romans 5:12)

The consequences of Adams sin, (Eve was involved, but it was Adams sin that was the sin held responsible)...

The consequences of Adams sin was that now every single man in earth is born in sin.

In fact conceived in sin.

The Devil would like you to believe that you can sin with impunity...

But sin has a cost that must be paid.

“... ye shall be as gods...” (Genesis 3:5)

"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5)

Satans third attack is to offer man the chance to be the God of his own life.

“... ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:5)

Well, yes they soon know good and evil.

They now know what it felt like to be evil.

To have disobeyed their creator, their lord.

Even with the regular personal presents of God in the Garden with them.

Even with their every need having been provided by God.

Paradise to live in

Food growing on the trees

A stunning wife.

Literally the most beautiful woman in the world.

[ok the only woman in the world]

But probably also the most perfect the most beautiful woman ever to have lived through all history.

Free guilt free sex with her.

The right to rule the entire earth - UNDER God

This is not enough.

Man must BE GOD, must be the roller of his own life.

Like the nobleman, in Luke 19, who was to be made king, but who's subject said of him...

"... We will not have this man to reign over us." (Luke 19:14)

Like when Israel rejected God as their King and wanted a man.

"And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but **they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.**" (1 Samuel 8:7)

Like, mankind and especially the religious leaders of Israel when they rejected Jesus.

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not." (John 1:11)

And like the Jewish people when they killed Jesus...

"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, **ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.** v52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:" (Acts 7:51-52)

Man, Mankind, will not submit to the authority of God.

And if you will not be a servant of God, you will be the servant of sin.

Bob Dylan wrote a song, "Gotta Serve Somebody," (© 1979, Special Rider Music) with the refrain,

*But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody,
It may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.*

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? v17 But God be thanked, that **ye were the servants of sin**, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. v18 **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.** v19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for **as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.** v20 For when **ye were the servants of sin**, ye were free from righteousness. v21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for **the end of those things is death.** v22 But now being made **free from sin, and become servants to God**, ye have your fruit

unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. v23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:16-23)

Let us review these questions or statements.

“Yea, hath God said?”

“Yea, hath God said... ” (Genesis 3:1a)

Satan wants you to doubt or question the authority of the Bible

“... Ye shall not surely die!”

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:"
(Genesis 3:4)

Satan wants to assure you that there is no consequences of sinning or rejecting God as ruler in your life.

Live as you want and you will not suffer for it.

“Ye shall be as gods!”

"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5)

Satan wants you to believe that you are fully capable of controlling your own life.

You are in control of your own destiny and you should not let anyone tell you what to do.

Well... you should not let anyone tell you what to do... except Satan, leftists liberals etc.

Not much has changed.

These are still, or it appears to me are still the main attacks, to stop people following Jesus.

Or on people submitting to God.

Satan still want you to...

Doubt the Bible is the inspired word of God.

Believe that you can do as you like and there will be no judgment for it.

John Lennon - "Imagine"

*Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today... Aha-ah...*

In other words, there is no judgment, just do what you like.

And he, (the devil), wants you to believe that you are the only person who can decide what is right or wrong for you.

That YOU are the final arbiter of what you should do.

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Proverbs 14:12)

Being free from God and his Lordship is not freedom, but bondage to Satan and the lusts of the flesh.

“Know ye not, that **to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey**, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

v17 But God be thanked, that **ye were the servants of sin**, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

v18 Being then made **free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**” (Romans 6:16-18)

Since Adam,

Every man has been born a servant of sin.

Jesus can free you from that bondage, but you must then be bonds slave to Christ.

“For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

v21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.” (Romans 6:20-21)

What fruit did you have?

It was just a path to eternal death.

“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

v23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:22-23)

You need to ask God for the gift of being freed from the bondage to sin.

And for the free gift of eternal life.