

The Wiles of the Devil

The Serpent in Paradise

Genesis 3

Lesson 2

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

June 12, 2011

Satan (Heb.) or the Devil (Gr.)

- ▶ Adversary, persecutor, accuser
- ▶ Serpent (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9-10; 20:2)
- ▶ Fallen Cherub (Ezek. 28:14)
- ▶ The ruler of this world (John 12:31, 14:30)
- ▶ The prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- ▶ The spirit that now works in the children of disobedience (Eph. 2:2)
- ▶ The god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Satan's Work

- ▶ Blinds minds of unbelievers – 2 Cor 4:4
- ▶ Takes captive to do his will – 2 Tim 2:26
- ▶ Crafty – 2 Cor 2:11
- ▶ Power of death – Heb 2:14
- ▶ The tempter – Matt. 4:3
- ▶ Deception – 2 Thess 2:9-12
- ▶ Deceiver of the whole world – Rev 12:9

Temptation

- ▶ Not essential for sin
- ▶ Oppose God and Jesus Christ
 - Temptation of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11)
 - Peter protests the cross (Matthew 16:21-23)
- ▶ 1 Tim 2:13-14 – Deceive (Eve) or lead astray (Adam)
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 11:2-4 – turn from devotion to Christ
 - Another Jesus; a different Spirit; a different Gospel
 - Angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- ▶ 1 Peter 5:8 – Seeking whom he may devour

The problem of evil

- ▶ How did sin get into God's good creation?
 - God limited by freedom of his creation
 - Dualism – good and evil are eternal
- ▶ The Bible denies both
 - Romans 11:33-34 – God is incomprehensible
 - Genesis 18:25 – “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”
- ▶ The Bible is not an exhaustive revelation of God
- ▶ The Bible reveals truth that leads to faith

The Bible's Teaching on Sin

- ▶ Berkouwer: “We are of the opinion that an explanation for sin is truly impossible.”
- ▶ The first sin described – Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28
- ▶ The entry of sin into God's creation – Genesis 3

The serpent in Paradise

- ▶ A serpent – crafty
- ▶ Satan – Revelation 12:9-10; 20:2

Did God actually say . . . ?

- ▶ “You shall not eat of any tree in the garden.”
- ▶ Do you really understand what God is saying?
- ▶ A test of faith: do you really believe God?
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 11:2-4 – turn eyes from the LORD to His creation
- ▶ The foundation laid for the fall

Eve's version of God's Word

- ▶ The prohibition was clear to her
- ▶ A dangerous addendum: “Neither shall you touch it.”
- ▶ Cannot improve on God's Word, only detract from it.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:2 – “renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness or handling the Word of God deceitfully
 - 2 Timothy 2:15 – “rightly dividing (handling) the Word of Truth”
- ▶ Additions bring confusion, not clarity

Satan's big lie

- ▶ The methodology of deception – a false truth
 - They did not die and they knew good and evil (3:22)
 - They died – spiritually
 - They lost the image of God (Ephesians 4:24)
 - It was actually a lie.
- ▶ How is this a subtle deception?
 - Satan turned her attention from the LORD to the tree.
 - The issue is not the tree or its fruit but devotion to God
 - Romans 1:25
 - 2 Corinthians 11:3
 - Eve thought she was doing God's will

Eve's fall

- ▶ When she saw . . .
- ▶ The pathway to sin – 1 John 2:15-17
- ▶ Good for food
- ▶ Delight to the eyes
- ▶ Desired to make one wise
- ▶ God's Word v. Eve's wisdom

The wages of sin is death

- ▶ “You shall surely die.” – Ephesians 2:1
- ▶ Eyes opened – nakedness replaced by holiness
- ▶ Sewed fig leaves
- ▶ Hid from the presence of the LORD
- ▶ Fear – servile fear v. fear of faith
- ▶ Self justification – no repentance

The grace of God in the Garden

A Severe Mercy

- ▶ The curse on the serpent – (3:14-15)
 - Enmity – the seed of the woman v. the seed of the serpent
 - The crushed head – the bruised heel
- ▶ The curse on Eve – (3:16)
 - Pain in childbearing – producing the Seed
 - Corruption of the marriage covenant
- ▶ The curse on Adam – (3:17-19)
 - Creation cursed
 - Futility – work hard and then die!

Figures of salvation

- ▶ Garments of skins – blessed by death of another
- ▶ Eviction from the Garden – protected from eternal death
- ▶ Cherubim placed as guards – access to life through the holiness of God

Lessons from Eden

- ▶ The wiles of the devil
 - Question God's Word
 - Deny God's Word
 - Turn attention from Creator to creation
- ▶ The way of deception
 - Carelessness in handling God's Word
 - Trust yourself to discern Truth
 - Do not evaluate by God's Word.
- ▶ Be sober and vigilant
 - Trust in the truthfulness of God's Word is critical
 - Fear God – humility
 - James 4:7