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