

ANTHROPOLOGY (29)

QUESTION #23 – Did man originate sin?

The answer to this question is no. Man did not originate sin, but he was penalized for his sin. Man became a sinner as a result of satanic influence (Gen. 3:4-7). What this immediately tells us is that the possibility for man living out a perfect, active holiness cannot exist until Satan is non-existent in this world. Adam and Eve were not created with a sin nature and Satan was able to originate the fall. We, who are born with a sin nature, will never be perfectly holy until Satan is removed.

It is possible to develop an active holiness that is dominated by righteousness, but it is not possible to develop a perfect holiness that is developed into sinlessness. It is clear that for perfection to be a possibility, Satan cannot be in the society.

QUESTION #24 – What was the tempter like?

When we first meet Satan in Genesis, there are certain facts we may observe:

(Fact #1) - He came in the form of a serpent. Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9

(Fact #2) - He apparently had some type of legs. Gen. 3:14

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

(Fact #4) - He was able to speak. Gen. 3:1

The fact that the serpent is able to speak shows the amazing power of Satan in being able to possess something and do the miraculous with it. He has tremendous, deceptive power.

QUESTION #25 – What was Satan's method of temptation?

The passage which shows us where Satan conducted his temptation is Gen. 2:16-17. The test or temptation came down to an issue of one tree versus all the other trees in Eden. The deceptive tactics of Satan are as follows:

(**Tactic #1**) - Satan magnified the one prohibition given by God and minimized the many blessings . Gen. 1:28-30; 2:16-17; 3:1.

Satan is basically promoting a no-restriction lifestyle. God had given only one restriction, whereas Satan did not want any restrictions and he promoted this concept to Eve. It is not surprising that Satanism is nonrestrictive in that it promotes an anything goes philosophy.

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As we have already discussed in Satanology, Eve was totally confused as to what God did say: 1) She leaves out “freely” (2:16; 3:2); 2) She leaves out “surely” and adds “touch it” (2:17; 3:3). Satan was very knowledgeable of the Word of God and he was able to use his knowledge in such a way as to deceive Eve. One of the great tactics of Satan is to bring out the negative prohibitions in an attempt to get a person to forget about the blessings. This tactic certainly worked in Eden.

(Tactic #2) - Satan lied about what God did say and totally contradicted the true Word of God. Gen. 2:17; 3:4

Satan will always twist things so that the truth of God’s Word is ultimately contradicted. Whatever God’s Word truly says, Satan is out to communicate something that distorts it.

(Tactic #3) - Satan got Eve to imagine that God was withholding something good from her. Gen. 3:5

He got Eve to take her eyes off God and focus them on self.

(Tactic #4) - Satan focused her attention on what was forbidden and he used a basic threefold attack (Gen. 3:6; 1 John 2:16).

- A. “Good for food”–lust of flesh - attack through the body.
- B. “Delight to eyes”–lust of eyes - attack through vision.
- C. “Desirable to make one wise”–pride of life–attack through ego.

Dr. Torrey observed this first temptation presents five key steps that usually lead to sin:

1. Listen to slander against God’s Word.
2. Doubt God’s Word and God’s love.
3. Look at what God has forbidden.
4. Lust for what God has prohibited.
5. Disobey God’s command.

Satan’s first method of temptation teaches us much concerning God’s Word:

1. We must know God’s Word well because Satan not only knows it well but he will totally distort it. Gen. 3:4–“shall not die!”
2. We must believe God’s Word and stand firmly for what it says. Our entire relationship with God hinges on this as does our ability to combat our enemy. Had Eve believed God’s Word instead of Satan’s lies, this entire scene would have been different.
3. We must defend God’s Word by having such a working knowledge of it that we can give an adequate defense against our enemies. Satan will specifically come at us trying to twist God’s Word and we must be able to give an adequate defense or we can be tripped.
4. We must never add to or subtract from God’s Word, for this is a major key to success with God and success against Satan (Gen. 3:3; 2:17; Rev. 22:18).

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QUESTION #26 – What are the three main methods of interpretation concerning the fall of man found in Genesis?

(Interpretive Method #1) - Allegory - a figurative story or legend.

(Interpretive Method #2) - Myth - a folklore or fairytale to teach some truth or lesson.

(Interpretive Method #3) - Literal - a literal, historical, actual, factual event that occurred exactly as the Bible says. N.T. writers interpreted Genesis literally—Rom. 5:12-21; I Cor. 15:21-22; I Tim. 2:14; Jude 14.

The only acceptable method of interpretation that is consistent with facts and consistent with the rest of the Word of God is to interpret the Genesis account literally. It is a literal, historical, factual account of what actually happened.

One of the main reasons why some want to discredit Genesis is because men do not like to face themselves as sinners. The moment one concedes that Genesis is to be interpreted literally is the moment one must concede that he has a real problem with God. Many do not want to face this reality and therefore Genesis is explained as being an allegory or myth, but not factual reality.

It is imperative to realize that the entire Bible, not just Genesis, must be interpreted literally for this is the only method of interpretation that acknowledges that God says what He means and means what He says. It is the only method of interpretation that allows God to speak for Himself.

QUESTION #27 – What was the test given to Adam and Eve?

The real test given to Adam and Eve was basically this: Will you obey the Word of God. God told them they were not to eat of one tree, so the ultimate test is whether or not they will obey Him in conforming to His Word.

This is the same type of test that faces both the unbeliever and the believer. The real issue at stake in anyone's life is whether we will obey God and His Word. This is the issue pertaining to both salvation and sanctification.

QUESTION #28 – What were the results of the fact that Adam and Eve did not choose to obey God? (This outline taken from the doctrine notes of Mr. John Miles).

The results of Adam and Eve's disobedience were devastating and we may see them under two headings: