

Genesis 3:1-5

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- This conversation changed the course of history
- Imagine how short sermons would be if this didn't happen
- **Genesis 1:28-30; Genesis 2:15-17**
- It's why the rest of the Bible is written and why we study it
- It's why we sin, and everything that sin brings with it (evil)
- It's why Jesus had to come, die, and be resurrected
- It amazes me how short the conversation is
- Satan only asks 1 question and makes 2 statements
- **V. 1** - Did God actually say, You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?
- **V. 4-5** - You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
- The statements are outright lies
- The question is subtle, almost innocent

2 Corinthians 11:14 - And no wonder, for even **Satan** disguises himself as an **angel of light**.

- Satan presents himself to the woman as an innocent bystander, something good
- In the Bible, light and darkness are metaphors for good and evil

1 John 1:5 - ...**God is light**, and in him is **no darkness at all**.

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him **who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light**.

John 12:46 - **I have come into the world as light**, so that whoever believes in me **may not remain in darkness**.

2 Corinthians 11:14 - And no wonder, for even **Satan** disguises himself as an **angel of light**.

- Satan disguises himself as an angel of light to capitalize on our desire for light (good) in order to deceive us
- He tries to present to us all the characteristics that God is (good, truthful, loving, powerful, desirable)
- People are scared of the dark, the ugly, the obviously evil
- Serial killer (**murderers**) – manipulation of others, pathological lying, Delusions of Grandeur, etc. (Example – Ted Bundy)

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and **has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him**. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, **for he is a liar and the father of lies**.

John 8:31-32; 37-38; 43-47

- How can we discern which light is of God and which light is of Satan?

Psalm 119:105 - **Your word is** a lamp to my feet and **a light** to my path.

Psalm 119:130 - The unfolding of **your words gives light**; it imparts understanding to the simple.

- Just as God spoke physical light into existence, God's Word has power
- Exposure to His Word helps us recognize the difference between the good light of God and the counterfeit lie of Satan
- Satan presents sin to us as something pleasing and beautiful, something desirable
- People are deceived because they do not know God's truth
- Darkness is a result of attempting to find truth without the Word of God

Genesis 3:1 - ...He said to the woman, Did God actually say, You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?

- Lets apply this thinking to the conversation between the serpent and the woman
- The first question and the first dilemma in the Bible
- Before this there was no choice of right and wrong
- The temptation starts with us questioning what God has said
- The problem comes when we believe we have a right to evaluate what God has said to be good or bad (evil)
- Before this, there was only right, only good (God is our Lord)
- We believe we have the right to put God on the stand and question His Word
- We make ourselves the judge and assume we have the power to determine right from wrong
- We must remember that we are the creatures and not the creator

Genesis 3:1 - ...He said to the woman, Did **God** actually say, You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?

- Notice that Satan just uses the word **“God,”** and not **“LORD God”**
- God (Elohim) = General term for god
- LORD (Jehovah) = “self-existent” Only the true God can be self-existent, everything else is a creation of the self-existent God
- Once we get past the original creation narrative of **Genesis 1**, all other mentions of God so far have been **“LORD God”**
- **Genesis 2:4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 18, 19, 21, 22, 3:1, 8, 9, 13, 14, 21, 22, 23**
- This change in the way Satan describes God is not corrected by the woman
- In fact, she follows this thinking and repeats it herself, subtly demeaning God (**Genesis 3:3**)
- Satan’s strategy is to disguise himself as an angel of light and lie, to deceive you
- Satan lies about 2 things: the character of God and the Word of God

Genesis 3:2-3 - And the woman said to the serpent, We may **eat** of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, **neither shall you touch it**, lest you **die**.

Genesis 2:16-17 – And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may **surely eat** of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall **surely die**.

- How can we discern which light is of God and which light is of Satan?
- The woman alters God's Word 3 times in her answer to the serpent
- She changes **surely eat** to just **eat**
- She adds "**neither shall you touch it**,"
- She changes **surely die** to just **die**

Genesis 3:2 - And the woman said to the serpent, We may **eat** of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

- She changes **surely eat** to just **eat**
- Eve starts off good by correcting the serpent
- This may seem like a small point, but notice how the woman's thought of God subtly restricts what God actually said
- **Surely or freely eat** of every tree in the garden = you have permission (not a command) to eat until your hearts content
- It was unrestricted eating
- But Eve alters what God has said making Him sound more restrictive
- We can't be too hard on the woman just yet, because we're not told how she what she knew
- **Genesis 2:16-17** was given to the man before Eve was created

Genesis 3:3 - but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, **neither shall you touch it**, lest you die.

- This could be seen as adding to God's Word
- On the one hand, nowhere in scripture is the woman ever charged with adding her own words to scripture
- Instead, it's the fact that she was deceived
- **1 Timothy 2:14** - and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.
- If Eve added to scripture, that would have been a transgression
- But **1 Timothy** says she was deceived first, then became a transgressor after
- On the other hand, this may be in direct contradiction with the command of Adam to tend the Garden (**Genesis 2:15**), which would probably involve touching the tree and the fruit from time to time
- It makes the command from God to be exceptionally harsh (restrictive)

Genesis 3:3 - but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you **die**.

- She changes **surely die** to just **die**
- **Surely die** in Hebrew is “die die” (muwth muwth)
- Literally it is “dying you shall die,” which indicates the beginning of dying
- In other words, **Genesis 2:17** says, “for in the day that you eat of it you shall **begin to die.**”
- If they were meant to die immediately, **Genesis 2:17** should have used “die” only once
- One “die” in Hebrew means dead, died, or die in an absolute sense
- Again, the woman changes God’s word to appear harsher than it was, by saying they would die almost immediately

Genesis 3:4 – But the serpent said to the woman, You will **not surely die**.

- Notice the serpent uses the same language God used, not what Eve said
- It's very clever (crafty) of Satan to correct the woman's incorrect words with the exact way God phrased it
- In a deceptive way, Satan used the proper sense of die that God stated in **Genesis 2:17** against Eve's mistaken view
- God says: Don't eat or you will **begin to die**.
- Eve says: We can't eat or we will **die immediately**.
- Serpent says: You will **not begin to die?**
- Satan uses God's Words against her to deceive her because she didn't understand The Word well enough
- Satan lies about the character of God and the Word of God, and the woman believes him, and exchanges God's truth for a lie

Luke 3:23; 38-4:4

- 3:23; 38 - Jesus appears as the last Adam who will reverse the curse from **Genesis 3**
- 4:1-2 - The setting is in the wilderness (desert) where the Israelites failed for 40 years
- V.3 – “If you are the son of God” (**Luke 3:38**), questioning His character
- V.4 – **Deuteronomy 8:3** - And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that **man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**
- Where Adam and the Israelites failed, Jesus was going to succeed
- Jesus did not use divine power to withstand the temptations, He simply used The Word to overcome the lies of the evil one
- Notice that these temptations are not blatant evil deeds (steal, murder, etc.)
- They’re subtle, trying to break the relationship between The Son and The Father
- Are you the son of God?

Luke 4:5-8

- Similar to the temptation in Eden
- The serpent told the woman that they would be “like God, knowing good and evil”
- The lie is they were already like God (image bearers)
- Satan tempts Jesus the same way
- Jesus was already given all of these things

Daniel 7:14a. - And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him;

Matthew 28:18 - All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

- Again Jesus overcomes the temptation by quoting scripture (**Deuteronomy 6:13**)

Luke 4:9-12

- The devil takes Jesus to Jerusalem, likely the SE corner of the temple
- Satan attempts to use scripture (God's Word) on Jesus (God)
- **V.10-11 - Psalm 91:11-13** - For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you **in all your ways**. 12 On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

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- Satan could not have picked a worse scripture to quote
- The very Psalm he quotes, predicts what Jesus will do to him
- 3 temptations, 3 times Jesus refutes them by understanding and quoting The Word back to Satan
- Jesus, the last Adam, reverses the fall