

GENESIS –Lesson 12

Learn: For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. Revelation 22:18, 19

Read: Genesis 3:1-7

1. What was the first question that the “subtle” (crafty) serpent asked Eve? v 1
2. How was the serpent putting doubt in Eve’s mind about God in the way that he asked this question?
3. How did Eve answer the serpent’s first question? vv 2, 3
4. What was wrong with Eve’s answer compared to what God actually said?
See Genesis 2:16, 17.

In her reply, Eve both added to and subtracted from God’s actual words, with the affect of making Him seem less generous and more demanding than He really was. This supposed greater restriction had been purely the product of Eve’s developing resentment.

It is always dangerous to alter God’s Word, either by addition (as do modern cultists) or by deletion (as do modern liberals).

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5. What do the following verses tell us:

Deuteronomy 4:2

Deuteronomy 12:32

Proverbs 30:5, 6

Revelation 22:18, 19

Having led Eve to first question God's authority and goodness, and then to both add to and subtract from His Word, Satan was now ready to blatantly call God a liar. Satan accused God of denying Adam and Eve the best and being unkind to them. Satan accused God of not being good.

6. What 3 things did Satan declare to Eve? vv 4, 5

First Satan told Eve that God's threat of death was merely to keep her from something desirable. Satan always starts by getting us to doubt God's Word, and then when the doubt is in our hearts, he tells us that the consequences that God has warned of will never happen to us. All through history, Satan has used the same plan of attack.

7. What warning about death has God continued to give to every person throughout history and on up to the present time? Romans 3:23; 6:23

8. What are people still hearing from Satan?

9. What are some philosophies that tell people that they won't die as God has explained in His Word?

10. After Satan denied death, what did He offer that she wanted? v5

11. Can you think of any beliefs today that offer man the opportunity to be or to become a god?

Satan offered Eve the same temptation that had been his downfall as we saw in Isaiah 14:13, 14. In effect, of course, as soon as one begins to deny God's Word or to question God's sovereign goodness, he is really setting himself up as his own god. He is deciding for himself the standards of truth and righteousness. This had been the subtle implication of Satan's probings all along; and now that Eve was properly softened to the idea, she was ready to take the bait.

The same temptation comes to us today, over and over, in various guises (costumes). The fact is, that all too often we react in the same way as Eve did, wanting to know (experimentally, that is) “evil” as well as the “good” we receive from God continually.

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12. What should we do in order to overcome the temptations that Satan uses against us?
Ephesians 6:16-18

13. What 3 reasons did Eve give to herself for taking the fruit? v 6

It is remarkable that the particular attributes of this fruit that seemed so tempting are the same as the overt characteristics of practically every type of temptation which man faces today.

To her, it seemed that the tree was: (1) “good for food” (that is, something appealing to the physical, bodily appetites); (2) “pleasant to the eyes” (that is, something appealing to the emotions- the esthetic senses); (3) “desired to make one wise” (that is, appealing to the mind and spirit, and to one’s pride of knowledge and spiritual insight).

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14. How does the above threefold description parallel I John 2:16? 15

We see then that temptations may be directed against either the body, soul, or spirit- or, as in Eve’s case, against all three at once.

15. As we learned before and see in James 3:15, where does all temptation come from?

16. We see that Satan offered Jesus these same three types of temptations in the wilderness. Can you relate each of the temptations offered Jesus to the three areas mentioned in I John 2:16?

(1) Luke 4:3, 4

(2) Luke 4:5-8

(3) Luke 4:9-12

17. How did the Lord overcome the wicked one, this also being our means to overcome him? See verses in Luke 4 of the in the previous question. Also see I John 2:13, 14.