

Session 8 - The Serpent



And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.” - Genesis 2:16-17

Why did God place a tree in the garden that was off limits to man?

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’” “No! You will not die,” the serpent said to the woman. “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” - Genesis 3:1-5



Eve's Three Mistakes

- Minimizes God's provision
- God stated they may “eat of every tree of the garden”
- TOUCH the tree?
- Weakened the penalty for disobedience

“By misrepresenting the original permission and overstating the conditions of the prohibition, the serpent seeks to plant the idea in the woman's mind that the prohibition is unfair.” - Kenneth M. Craig Jr.

“The serpent's cunning reveals itself in the way it frames the question, in its knowledge of the divine proscription, in its claim to be able to probe God's mind and intent, and in the selection of its victim.” - Nahum Sarna

Session 8 - The Serpent



How Jesus combats Satan's Temptations: KNOW GOD'S WORD

1. Temptation of Provision

*Then the tempter approached Him and said, "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." But He answered, "It is written: **Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**"*

- Matthew 4:3-4 (Deuteronomy 8:3)

2. Temptation of Protection

*Then the Devil took Him to the holy city, had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: **He will give His angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**" Jesus told him, "It is also written: **Do not test the Lord your God.**"*

- Matthew 4:5-7 (Psalm 91:11-12) (Deuteronomy 6:16)

3. Temptation of Power

*Again, the Devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. And he said to Him, "I will give You these things if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: **Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.**"*

- Matthew 4:8-9 (Deuteronomy 6:13)

Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. - Genesis 3:6-7

"Eve trusted her own evaluation of what was right and what would be good for her, rather than allowing God's words to define right and wrong." - Wayne Grudem

"The serpent spoke only about what she would gain and avoided mentioning what she would lose in the process." - Kenneth Mathews.