

'IN THE BEGINNING'

(The Origins of Everything Coming to Pass in These Last Days)

Studies in Genesis 1-11

'The Snake-Charmer'

(Lucifer & 'The Lie')

Throughout India, Pakistan, and other Asian locations, tourists are amazed at the apparent magical powers of certain holy men to control venomous serpents in baskets. Truth be told, the so-called snake-charmer is usually a cunning showman who dazzles spectators because of many precautions he has taken – he sits out of range playing his instrument, things have been done to make the snake sluggish and a bit disoriented (the snake dances, not to the music since its hearing is poor, but to the movements of the charmer), sometimes the fangs have been removed or jaws sewn shut, etc.

Although Satan is called many things in Scripture, *serpent* is the one most fitting because of his crafty deception of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Like a snake-charmer, Satan with his demons through people and things under their control, deceive and lie about the Bible, God, and the dangers of sin (***John 8:44, 1 John 5:19, Revelation 12:9***). The enemy fools gullible souls into thinking they can control and get away with sin for their own benefit. He deceives with charming trickery and cunning, making sin seem controllable and entertaining, but knowing full well the deadly bite to come when sin is allowed to strike and kill according to its nature (***James 1:14-15***). The wicked one wants people to think they can treat sin like an exotic pet that is under their control. The serpent wants foolish, reckless souls to let down their guard about sin, only for a moment, so Satan can coil and quickly strike deadly venom into the mind, heart, and life of all naïve enough to believe the charade of sin. This is why ***Genesis 3*** is so vital to understanding the origin of sin, how it destroys and kills, and God's way to rescue those poisoned by the devil and his lying deceptions.

The lie of the enemy has always been the same, whether in heaven when he led astray 1/3rd of the angels (***Revelation 12:3-4, Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:14-16***) or in the Garden of Eden when he corrupted man created in God's image (***Genesis 3***). Doubting God's Word, denial of consequences for sin, and the delusion that sin will be fun and good for you are ***'the lie'*** of Satan. Both snake-charmer and the serpent are stars in Satan's seductive side show of sin. But, the only one really under control is the mesmerized, curious victim being charmed by *the serpent of old*, Satan, to disobey and die. ***PtL***

'C.S.I. / Paradise'

(Original Sin & The Tragic Consequences)

Genesis 3

Crime

(God's Word / doubt, denial, delusion)

*"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Has God indeed said** "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, **'You shall not surely die.'** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened and **you will be like God** knowing good & evil."*

(3:1-5)

Discuss how Satan's 3-step **'lie'** works so effectively with people today.

- Do you see how you were misled this way prior to salvation?
- Does the enemy still employ this scheme with Christians?

- How can we see ‘**the lie**’ coming? What should you do?

Consequences

(Lust of the flesh, eyes and pride)

“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” (3:6-10)

Talk about *1 John 2:15-17* in light of what happened to Adam and Eve. List as many consequences as you can observe that happen when people sin.

- What can be done to remember the consequences and high cost of sin, before we commit to disobedience?

Conviction

(No confession = evasion, blame, judgment)

“... Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate.” And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me and I ate.” So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this you are cursed... (slither on ground) And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” To the woman He said (sorrowful conception & painful birth) (desire husband’s position, but must submit to him)” Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife (not God’s)... Cursed is the ground for your sake (toil, weeds, sweat, death).” (3:11-19)

Discuss how God’s interrogation is similar to the Holy Spirit’s silent conviction of us when we go astray (*John 16:8-11*).

- How different would things have been if the first couple had been repentant and confessed instead of evasion and blame?

Conversion

(New name, new covering, new destiny)

“And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin and clothed them. Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil ... (therefore eviction from Eden and the tree of life)” (3:20-24)

Talk about what God did for Adam and Eve, and how it previews Christ’s sacrifice.

