

America's Decline Into Darkness

Session 2 - The Fall Of Man – Satan Gains Dominion Part 1

[Adapted from a sermon by Pastor John MacArthur](#)

Worldview Matters

Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Romans 3:9-18 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

The reason I include this ancient history of mankind is that far too many people today believe that man is by nature – Good and it is external forces that make them act outside of their nature (Rousseau)! This world view leads to a false belief that if a person, people group, or nation just has what they need then the utopia or heaven on earth is possible without God. This world view also makes it impossible for anyone to believe that there could be a group Jesus called the Money Changers/Synagogue of Satan that are ruling the planet, doing the work of their father Satan which is to steal, kill and destroy (**John 10:10**). Are They Powerful? Yes, Jesus threw them out of the temple at the first of the week and they had Him on the Cross by the end of the week!

This is the Seed Battle For Total Control which started after The Fall (**Gen. 3:15**). This is why God inserted Jesus in the Timeline of History to destroy the works of the devil (**1 John 3:8** *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*) This is why there is only one way to the Father and that is through Jesus (**John 14:6** *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*)

DOUBTS, LIES and PARADISE LOST

Adam and Eve Are Given Dominion Over All the Earth - Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Satan Uses Manipulation and Deception In Paradise - Genesis 3:1-6 V. 1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? V. 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: V. 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. V. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: V. 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. V. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Dominion Transferred – When Adam and Eve Believed Satan and Followed him the transfer was made – **Matthew 4:8-9** *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4* *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

What we have just learned is how vulnerable humanity is if we are outside the protection of God (**Ephesians 6:10-18**). Adam and Eve Sinless and Living in a Perfect Environment with dominion over all the earth traded it all away for the one thing God told them to leave alone! Just destroyed the worldview of most people!

Before The Fall

- No Death
- No Disintegration
- No Disease
- No Dysfunction
- No Decay
- A Perfect World/Universe!
- A Perfect Personal Relationship With The Creator of This Perfect World/Universe!!!!

Despite all of these great blessings beginning in **Genesis Chapter 3** God exposes and explains why things are the way they are today in our world. Scripture gives God's own account of the Fall – the Scriptures gives God's History of mankind's disobedience and Satan's manipulations and deceptions. Scriptures tell us that God's people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge (**Hosea 4:6**), not because the knowledge is not available (**Dan. 12:4** *knowledge shall be increased*) but because we have rejected it (**Rom. 1:19-22**). God in His Scriptures tells us *all Scripture is given by His inspiration and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness* (**2 Tim. 3:16**). So, if we continue in our rejection of and the intentional forgetting of the law of God, He will forget us and let us reap what we are sowing (**Gal. 6:7**).

The Results of the Fall

- Decay
- Disease
- Dysfunction
- Disintegration
- Death
- Judgment

What Does The Fall Establish?

- Our Need For Restoration
- Our Need For Recreation
- Our Need For Regeneration
- Our Need For Salvation

The Anatomy of A Lie

When reading these words from Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf I think you will hear the words of "the prince of this world": *"The magnitude of a lie always contains a certain factor of credibility, since the great masses of the people in the very bottom of their hearts tend to be corrupted rather than consciously and purposely evil, and that, therefore, in view of the primitive simplicity of their minds, they more easily fall a victim to a big lie than to a little lie, since they themselves lie in little things, but would be ashamed of lies that were too big...Something of even the most insolent lie will always remain and stick-a fact which all the great lie-virtuosi and lying-clubs in this world know only too well and also make the most treacherous use of... By clever and persevering use of propaganda even heaven can be represented as hell to the people, and conversely the most wretched life as paradise."*

- 1) Contains a certain factor of credibility (truth)
- 2) Plays of the corruption (Lust) of the heart of mankind
- 3) There is always a victim due to a lack (rejection) of knowledge
- 4) Always plants a seed of deception
- 5) Has as its greatest tool propaganda (information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view – [Oxford Dictionary](#))

The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organised habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country.

[Edward Bernays](#)

Features of the Fall

(1) The Solicitor...Satan

- The one who solicits sin
- He is the tempter
- Lucifer
- Son of the morning
- The praise leader of heaven
- He wanted to be like God - like the Most High God
- God threw him out of heaven, along with a third of the other holy angels
- Brings the rebellion into the perfection of the earth
- The solicitor of evil - behind evil in our world
- The developer of our world system
- The number one adversary of God
- The number one adversary of man
- He will continue until he is cast into the lake of fire.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

John 10:10a The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

Job 1:7; 2:2 And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

(2) The Strategy... Lies and Deception

- The Solicitor is the same today as he was from his Fall from Heaven
- The Solicitor is disguising himself as an angel of light while all the while he is the angel of hell
- The Solicitor is disguising himself as a speaker of truth, while speaking nothing but lies
- The Solicitor is a liar and the father of lies

(3) The Seduction

- Lust of the Flesh
- Lust of the Eyes
- Pride of Life

If Satan uses the same deceptions for both the Sinless Adam and Eve and the Sinless Son of God do you really believe Satan is not using the same deception on sinful mankind today?

The Solicitor's Objective

- To get people to believe that God doesn't tell the truth
- To get people to believe they have a right to question God
- To believe they have a right to doubt that God has told them the truth
- He solicits people to believe God lies and he (Satan) tells the truth

John 8:44, You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTED

VERSE 1

"Indeed, has God said you shall not eat from any tree of the garden?" **Key Point** "Indeed, has God said..." Look back at **Genesis 2:4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 18, 19, 21, 22, 3:1** and notice what word Satan leaves out when he addresses Eve – **Lord!** In all the preceding verses "**Lord God**" is used to make reference to God **Gen. 3:8, 9, 13, 14, 21, 22, 23!** The word "Lord" is what puts the emphasis on God's Sovereignty and Satan hates the sovereignty of God. He will not acknowledge Him as Yahweh, Yahweh the eternal I am, he calls Him Elohim which is a more generic word for God, and he drops the term "**Lord**" because he will not affirm His sovereignty. It's that sovereignty that he sought (**Isaiah 14**) to overthrow in his rebellion. It is that sovereignty that got him thrown out of heaven, along with the rest of his fallen angels. And so he really in a demeaning way refers to the one who has now been clearly identified as the Lord God simply as God.

So Subtle - "Let's talk about God's prohibition – ANY TREE" - Notice it is not the one tree (*the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*) but any or every tree this is where solicitation to temptation comes initially. He takes Eve's mind away from the blessings of God and focuses her on the prohibition. The assumption is we have a right to render human judgment on what God commands and provides - that's where things begin to come apart. **James 4:11b-12** – *When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy...*

VERSE 2

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Eve is now Fully Engaged – **Proverbs 4:23** *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.* God gave us our souls and we have a great responsibility to keep it, protect it from getting harmed or causing harm, protecting it from sin and committing sin. To entertain evil in any way is to neglect our responsibility to keep our hearts and Eve has open her heart to sin.

Verse 3

"God said you shall not eat from that tree in the midst of the garden, or touch it lest you die."

The Fall Occurs

We are witnessing Eve's perception of God narrowing and is making Him appear harsher (or touch it). She also left out the word "**surely.**" In this one verse she has both left out a word and added to His prohibition.

Revelation 22:18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Eve is already moving to not trust God - beginning to see Him as restrictive and narrow. The Fall Did Not Take Place When Eve took the fruit but the moment her heart had changed toward God!

Sin begins in the mind - moves to the heart - then into an action.

Eve stopped loving the Lord her God with all her *heart, soul, mind and strength!* Loving Him means believing Him and trusting Him. Eve believed Satan was telling her the truth and maybe God wasn't. And that Satan was offering her the true fulfillment, the true satisfaction and that God was holding back from her. Anything less than loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength is sin. **Luke 10:27** *So he answered and said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, 'and 'your neighbor as yourself."*

Sin Has Entered Our Heart When

- One does not completely, unreservedly, and wholeheartedly trust in the wisdom and absolute goodness of God

- One does not believe that the purposes and the commands of God are for our best and highest joy

WHY EVE!

Eve why didn't you PRAY and seek God...Why didn't you say to Satan - God has made His command very clear - I uphold the Word of God – I honor God - I will trust God. – The Same Reason Abraham didn't seek God before going into Egypt (**Gen. 12:10**) or before taking Hagar to be his wife (**Gen. 16:3**)! The same reason we fail to seek God. Free Will!

VERSE 4

Going For The Kill – Blatant Attack. *"The serpent said to the woman, Ye shall not surely die." God had said, " the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."*

Now you know **the truth about Satan. Whatever God says, he says the opposite. He's no longer subtle, "God told you a lie." Satan's Wants You to Question God**

Verse 5

Satan says, *"Because God knows that in the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened and you'll be like God, knowing good and evil."*

The Slippery Slope

The Subtle Suggestion that Satan is,

- more devoted to her joy
- her freedom
- her fulfillment
- her satisfaction
- her enlightenment

Satan = Freedom

God = Bondage

"By clever and persevering use of propaganda even heaven can be represented as hell to the people, and conversely the most wretched life as paradise." Adolf Hitler

So, if...1) God's laws don't seem reasonable to you, 2) if they seem restrictive or narrow, 3) and if God is into bondage rather than freedom, you have every right to **doubt God's goodness!** **That God's Character Is Flawed** - holding back from you something incredibly good - He's

jealous and doesn't like rivals and He doesn't want you to be competition but just His automaton.

In Satan's scheme, to be like God we must first disobey God. In God's scheme, to be like God we must obey God.

REVIEW

- First - you question God
- Second - question God's goodness
- Third - believe that the real satisfaction is in the sin
- Forth - hedge on the absolute character of Scripture and its authority
- Fifth - hedge on the fact that you are going to have to pay a consequence for your sin
- Sixth - asking why God would be so restrictive

WORD

Daniel 7:13-14 - *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

WORSHIP

Revelation 5:13-14 *And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.*