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**MOUNTAIN SPRINGS CHURCH**

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**The Fall Of Man**



**Genesis 3:1-24**

**Introduction:**

- When God's six day work of creation was complete, everything in the world was "very good."
- There was nothing out of order, no pain, no suffering, no disease, no struggle for existence, no disharmony, no sin-above all-no death.
- But things in our world today are not "very good."
  - In the physical realm, everything wears out
  - In the living animal world, animals compete against animals for existence
  - In the human world, we have wars and rumors of wars
  - Culturally one civilization after another seems to rise for a time, the decline and die
  - In the spiritual realm, each individual finds it easier to do wrong than to do right; easier to drift downward than to struggle to move upward
  - Crime, divorce, murder and hatred are on the rise
- The problem of the existence of evil in the world created by a holy loving God has baffled and exercised the minds of theologians and philosophers through out the ages
- Where did evil come from? How can a loving God permit such things? When did it all begin?
- The only true and reasonable answer is found here in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Genesis. The Apostle Paul referred to this in Romans,
  - Romans 5:12  
12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned- NIV
  - Adam was the first human to sin, thus bringing sin into the world, but sin did not begin with Adam, it began with Satan, Lucifer

**Ezekiel 28:12-15**

**Isaiah 14:12-14**

**12 How you have fallen from heaven,  
O morning star, son of the dawn!  
You have been cast down to the earth,  
you who once laid low the nations!**

**13 You said in your heart,  
"I will ascend to heaven;  
I will raise my throne  
above the stars of God;  
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,  
on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.  
14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High."**

**NIV**

**So Lucifer, the "day-star" became Satan, the "adversary" or "accuser"**

**Genesis 3:1**

- Since his own rebellion, Satan has been using 1/3 of the angels of heaven to fight the things of God
  - These angels are demons and they work to undermine the works of God
- Hebrews 1:14
- 14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?
  - But these "angels of darkness" are doing the very opposite, using their power to attack and undermine God's work
  - Demons can possess people
  - Demons can harass people
  - Ex. Over the years, I have cast out hundreds of demons who infiltrated people through deception, injustice and sin...
- Satan has reasoned that the best way to destroy faith in God, the best way to take our eyes off seeking God is to create another God...to cause us to change the center!
- Satan figured out that if man thinks of himself as the center of the universe, he will quickly rebel against God! If man can see himself as god, he will quickly rebel

- Evolution is one of Satan’s grand strategies:
  - Evolution is all about natural processes creating man, with no need for God.
  - Evolution is about “superior races” ruling over weaker races...Hitler, Stalin, and Mao figured that out.
  - Evolution deceives us into thinking we can control our lives and our world
  
- It appears that the serpent is probably standing upright at this time (compared to 3:14)
  
- There has been some speculation that the animals at this time had the ability to converse with man. Today, there is a great gulf between the barks and moo’s of animals and talking, but originally we don’t know.
  
- At one time, God did open the vocal chords of Balaam’s donkey to communicate (Num. 22:28)
  
- So, it is entirely possible that the serpent is standing upright, is beautiful, can communicate like all the animals at this time, and “was more cunning than any beast of the field”
  
- We must remember that the animals have a friendly relationship with man...there has never been any deception, any fear, or any concern about any of the animals
  
- Now don’t take what I am saying too dogmatically, but it may have happened this way...
  
- This might help us understand how Eve could have been so easily duped and naively accepted the temptation

The first temptation by Satan hasn’t changed much over the years...God is really not as good and loving as you thought!

- Sin always begins with questioning the Word of God or the goodness of God
  
- Sin always begins with a question, a doubt, a regret that you are missing out on fun and happiness

3:2-3

- Eve assures the serpent that he is wrong and has misunderstood God's intentions
- However, her response gives us indication that the very question by Satan has a deadly effect upon her. She both adds to and subtracts from God's actual words!
- She says, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden"
- But God has said, "of every tree of the garden you may freely eat"
- God has said that only from one tree could they not eat!
- Eve adds, "nor shall we touch it..." God never said that! God had not forbidden them to not touch this tree!
- This seems to be Eve's developing resentment toward God...that she is somehow missing out
- It is always dangerous to add to or subtract from what God has said! We have today eastern and new age cultists (that add to) and modern liberals (that subtract from)
- God means exactly what he says! We can trust God' Word!

### 3:4-5

- Now we move to the central strategy of Satan in all of his temptations...you are the center of the universe!
- You can be like God! The same temptation that brought Lucifer down!
  - As soon as one begins to deny God's Word,
  - add to and subtract from God's Word,
  - deny God's goodness and love,
  - question His omniscience and power,
  - the next logical step is to elevate yourself to godlike status!
- This leads to us using man-made ways to be like God. From such temptations has come every religion of the world. All religions, with the exception of Christianity, teach that man can work his way to heaven:
  - Buddhism
  - Krishnaism

- Taoism
- Hinduism
- Judaism
- Unitarianism
- Cults like: Children of God; Jehovah Witnesses and Mormonism...Mormons actually teach that you will be gods someday
- Even Christianity in America is in trouble: Most recent Barna Report:
  - Secularists, liberals, and Muslims do not need to fear conservative Christians, says Dave Shiflett in the Wall Street Journal. Christians, he says, are not all that interested in converting sinners to Christ. They don't really even believe that there is such a thing as heathen, tending to believe instead that every religion is equally valid (Word Magazine 12-6-03)
  - The research seems to validate what Mr. Shiflett is saying. In a recent poll taken by George Barna, 26% of people who call themselves "born again" believe all religions are equally valid
  - 50% believe that a life of good works will get you into heaven
  - 35% do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead
  - 52% do not believe that the Holy Spirit is a living entity, yet 55% believe in the devil! But only 55%!
  - 33% accept same sex unions and 39% say it is morally acceptable for couples to live together before marriage
  - Christianity is conforming to the dominant secular culture!
- Satan always tempts us with a grain of truth! In one sense, Satan's words were true...their eyes were opened and they did know good and evil.
- But Satan is the great deceiver: he never tells us the whole story; he never explains the consequences!
  - Yes, your boss is a hard taskmaster, but is the answer to just quit?
  - Yes, you do struggle with your singleness, but is the answer to just get married?
  - Yes, you are lonely, but is the answer to sleep around?
  - Yes, you can't seem to communicate in your marriage, but is the answer to walk out?

- Satan is still tempting the same old way! A little truth...a big lie!

The next few verses are some of the most important in the scripture. Remember, Eve did not have to sin, she chose to. Adam did not have to follow her in her sin, but he chose to...

### 3:6

- Satan's temptation began with pride, but has now moved to the allure of the eyes
- All temptation is the same today:
  - "when the woman saw" Temptation begins with the thought, but quickly moves to the eyes
  - "was good for food" appealing to physical appetites
  - "pleasant to the eyes" esthetic senses
  - "desirable to make one wise" appealing to one's pride for knowledge and spiritual insight

- 1 John 2:16

16 For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.  
NIV

- Sound familiar? Nothing has changed in 6,000 years
- This is the same temptation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam, Jesus, who was "tempted in all points, but did not sin"
- Remember the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness?
  - Luke 4:1-12
  - Vs. 3-4...Satan appeals to his physical appetites of hunger
  - Vs. 5-8...Satan appeals to the covetousness and esthetic emotional desires, offering possession of the world
  - Vs. 9-12...Appealing to spiritual pride, offering worldwide recognition by doing something spectacular!
- Nothing has changed. It is all the same deceptions

- But it is significant that Christ overcame the wicked one by the power of God's Word
- Jesus just kept quoting the scriptures, the promises of God
- Instead of quoting and claiming God's Word, Eve doubted, questioned, modified, and then rejected God's Word, in favor of the temptation of the body, soul, and spirit!
- But we have been given power to overcome the enemy in our lives! If you know Christ today, you can conquer Satan!
- 1 John 2:13-14
- 13 I write to you, fathers,
- because you have known him who is from the beginning.
- I write to you, young men,
- because you have overcome the evil one.
- I write to you, dear children,
- because you have known the Father.
- 14 I write to you, fathers,
- because you have known him who is from the beginning.
- I write to you, young men,
- because you are strong,
- and the word of God lives in you,
- and you have overcome the evil one.
- It all begins with humbling yourself, repenting, turning to God, and living for Him
- Jesus is the only answer to your sin, temptations and lust
- John 14:6
- 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. NIV
- 1 John 5:4
- 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. NIV

Romans 10:17

17 faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. NIV