

THE FIRST QUESTION ON RECORD

Text: Genesis 3:1-6

I. THIS FIRST QUESTION GIVES US OUR FIRST INTRODUCTION TO SATAN, THE ADVERSARY OF MAN.

- A. From this time on, man is frequently warned to be on guard against Satan's strategy, treachery, & deceit.

[We are taught to be forgiving] lest Satan should take advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices. (2 Cor. 2:11).

Put on the whole armor... (wiles, schemings) Eph 6:11

[The person under consideration for appointment to the eldership] must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach & the snare of the devil. (1 Tim. 3:7).

- B. In his first appearance Satan plays the role of a religious advisor.

1. The command, "You shall not eat" was a religious taboo. Only so because God said so.
2. Satan set himself up above God: go ahead & eat.
3. Many are surprised to find Satan engaging in religious activity; think one religion is as good as another. The word of God tells us otherwise.

- a. He has his synagogues, Rev. 2:9; 3:9
- b. He has his ministers. READ 2 COR 11:14-15
- c. He has his doctrines, 1 Tim. 4:1
- d. This is the explanation for all the confusion that exists in religion today. 1 Cor 14:33

- C. Notice Satan's skill in perverting Scripture.

1. Flatly denies God's word, Gen. 3:3-5
2. Other times twists, misapplies, etc. Note Temptation of Jesus, Matt. 4.

II. SATAN'S MOTIVE IN ASKING THE QUESTION,.

- A. Not to receive information. He knew what God said.
- B. But rather to give him an opportunity to oppose God.

III. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF APOSTASY WAS PREACHED, vs. 4-5.

- A. The devil's lie lead to death, both physical & spiritual.
James 2:27; Isa. 59:2
- B. Millions of marble shafts stand today as monuments to the devil's lie: "You will not die."
- C. This dangerous doctrine is still with us. We should use God's word to defeat it at every turn. Rev 2:5; Gal 5:4; LK 8:13; James 5:19-20

IV. MAN AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH SATAN WAS PERFECT AND SINLESS. Gen 1:26-27

- A. Adam & Eve were sinless. Satan cannot work thru a sinless person. But once Eve had sinned, he used her to entice Adam.
- B. He worked thru Judas. Thru Ananias & Sapphira.
- C. He works thru us anytime & every time we'll allow him to do so.

VI. WE SEE IN THIS ENCOUNTER, MAN AS A CREATURE ENDOWED WITH THE POWER OF CHOICE.

- A. The power to choose the right carries with it the danger of choosing the wrong.
- B. Man still has the power of choice. Deut 11:26-28; Josh. 24:15; Rev. 22:17

VII. MAN STANDS BETWEEN GOD & SATAN. The nearer he gets to one, the farther he is from the other. James 4:7-8

VIII. GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESIST SATAN.

A. Try the spirits; test the “winds of doctrine.”

1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11; John 5:39

B. Put on the whole armor of God. Eph. 6:13-17

C. Be watchful. Be careful.

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

Jonestown, TX, January 21, 1968

Springhill, LA, August 13, 1972

KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, August 19, 1973

Exton, PA, September 4, 1988

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 19, 1999