

Genesis 3.1-6

“Lies and Lust”

Gen 3 > Subject of JOKES, FILMS, CARTOONS & Widespread Misunderstanding

1983 Ringili Diocesan Training Center, Arua, Uganda

One of 1st LECTURE to Seminary Students / Study of PENTATEUCH

Genesis 3 “What did Adam and Eve do wrong here?”

THEY HAD SEX / 2.25 “they were both naked” / SIN WAS SEX

African Church Leaders gave NEW INSIGHT INTO FAMILIAR PASSAGE

This chapter is the pivot on which the whole Bible turns. W.H. Griffith Thomas

1. Content / 2. Characters / 3. Challenges / 4. Complexity / 5. Comfort

1. Content of the Scripture

WHAT KIND OF DOCUMENT BEFORE US? TYPE OF LITERATURE?

Many MODERNS NOT Consider Gen 3 RELIABLE History, Propositional Truth

a. Fable? Talking Serpents occur only in Fables / AESOP’S FABLES

UNUSUAL SITUATION / only 1 other talking animal in all Jewish History

FABLE told to COMMUNICATE a MORAL > Story not a Moralism

NOT A TALKING SNAKE / “Serpent” / UPRIGHT not crawling on belly

NOT SURE WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE / Not a Snake AS WE KNOW IT

NOT AN APPLE / Some Confusion / Latin words similar

Apple = Malum / Evil = Malus / Genitive Case – Both Words = Mali

KNOWING KIND OF FRUIT NOT Change our UNDERSTANDING

b. Legend? / Heroic People doing Heroic Acts // King Arthur, Paul Bunyan

Adam & Eve / GREAT CANDIDATES FOR BEING HEROES

Tremendous Intellect / Terrific Strength / Tantalizing Beauty

BIBLE NOT describe Adam slaying Dragons / Eve discovering Holy Grail
Normal Man & Woman in Normal Garden / Sinning > All Too Normal Way

c. Myth? harder to define than Fable or Legend / **Story tells Religious Truth**

One Man built his Career as student of Myth / British scholar C.S. Lewis

“I have been reading poems, romances, vision literature, legends, and myths all my life. I know what they are like. I know that not one of them is like this.”

C.S. Lewis on the Bible

d. Parable? / Technique of Master Teacher / Lord Jesus Christ

Comes to a POINT with Clear Lesson > DRAWS CONCLUSION // NOT GEN 3

Genesis 3 // like Fox News > God Deliver's. We Decide.

Reader MUST INTERPRET Historical NARRATIVE / draw conclusion

WHAT Literature? History of beginning of Human Race / 1st Sin / Consequences
REAL SPACE AND TIME EVENT / REAL AND TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS –

TIME SPAN between Creation of Adam / Command Given / Challenge of Serpent

LENGTH of TEST Period – Limited Test of Loyalty? What if Adam Passed?

ORIGIN of Possibility of Evil? / How Holy God can use Evil for Good?

Wherever the Bible touches upon anything, it does so with true truth, but not with exhaustive truth...where it speaks of the cosmos, science, what it says is true... where it touches on history..it speaks propositional, objective truth...But it does not answer every question that we might ask about any of these matters.

Francis Schaeffer

NARROW Focus of Bible – SINGLE FOCUS Purpose:

...you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus

2 Timothy 3.15

2. Characters in the Story

a. Familiar Hero & Heroine

ADAM – God’s Chief Gardener / Namer of the Animals / Image of God

EVE – Beautiful Helpmeet / Loving Wife / Intimate Life Partner

b. New Character v. 1 “Now the serpent” / Moses makes GREAT EMPHASIS

1) Creature of God / Not Pre-Existent / GOD MADE ALL THINGS

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1.1

v. 1 ...serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made
LORD not TYPO – YAHWEH – COVENANT Lord – Creator, Judge, Savior
SOVEREIGN over ALL THINGS including SERPENTS, SNAKES, SINNERS

2) Named by Adam

So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. Genesis 2.20

More than Labeling = Study & Interpret / Learn what COULD & Could NOT DO

3) Ambitious / Steadily Climbs up the FOOD CHAIN

1st MEET SERPENT – ALREADY Equal to Man – Engages in a Dialogue

THEN BECOMES - Higher than Man – Instructs him in Real Truth

NEXT HE IS - Equal to God – Offers alternative Morality and View of Reality

FINALLY - Better than God – Tells Man Truth God hides because God is Jealous

4) Identified in the New Testament

BIBLE did not FALL OUT OF HEAVEN as COMPLETED DOCUMENT

God gradually revealed His truth to His people / Full Revelation given in Christ

Adam & Eve Did NOT KNOW Full IDENTITY of Serpent / Maybe MOSES Did?

JESUS DID – Refers to this scene in the Garden / Jesus calls the serpent DEVIL
 Jesus: “the devil...He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth,
 for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a
 liar and the father of lies” John 8.44

JOHN DID - “that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole
 world astray” Revelation 12.9

It is fitting that Satan should first appear in scripture in disguise...he comes as a
 serpent for his subtlety. Warren Austin Gage

WE READ THIS STORY WITH INSIGHT OF THE NT / Unmask the Serpent

3. Challenges of the Serpent

Three chapters in from the beginning of the Bible the serpent appears for the first
 time; three chapters in from the end of the Bible he is seen for the last time. The
 results of his work are seen on every page in between. John Philips

Satan AFRAID to Challenge God – Even AFRAID of Man > Attacks the WOMAN

a. Doubts

1) about the AUTHORSHIP of this message? v. 1 "Did God really say...?"

Are you really sure it was God? Maybe another source? Too much pizza last night?

2) about the AUTHORITY of this message? v. 1 "Did God really say...?"

Question of SERPENT is MISSING Very IMPORTANT – 4 Letter Word - LORD

2.16 “the LORD GOD commanded the man” / 3.1 “the LORD GOD had made”

Moses declares God as Lord / Master / Covenant Ruler / Rightful Authority

SERPENT does NOT MAKE THIS CLAIM – MERELY GOD, NOT LORD

“perhaps he did make this place, but it does not give him right to tell us what to do”

3) about ACCEPTABILITY of message?

v. 1 `You must not eat from *any* tree in the garden'? INCORRECT Quote

The LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"

Genesis 2.16,17

Serpent turns this POSITIVE STATEMENT into a NEGATIVE DISTORTION

From "free to eat from any tree" To "you must not eat from any tree"

CASTS DOUBT ON GOD'S GOODNESS / "God is COSMIC KILL-JOY"

GOD WANTS TO RESTRICT YOUR FREEDOM / TAKE AWAY YOUR FUN

GOD IS NOT GOOD / DOES NOT WISH THE BEST FOR HIS CREATURES

God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food." Genesis 1.29

Woman DID NOT AGREE AT FIRST – Raising DOUBT put her on DEFENSIVE

vs. 2,3 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, `You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

d) about APPLICATION of Message v. 1 'from any tree in the garden'

MAGISTERIAL and MINISTERIAL Authority of the Word of God

SPEAK where Bible Speaks // SILENCE where Bible is Silent

LAST Sunday after Service – Enjoyed Subway Sandwich w/ 6 Beautiful Women

That AM - Opened Big Mouth preached Many Words about Man & Woman

1 Woman – Great Questions, Hard Questions > Israel and Arab Neighbor Nations

SILENT – Could have spoken MY Personal Political Ideas – Not Extensive

MINUTES before was MARK the Preacher – MINISTERIAL Application of Word

Perhaps my APPLICATION/INTERPRETATION Wrong – tried BIBLE Based
 I do not have CLEAR Verses I Think give Specific Guidance Israel/Arabs Today
 I did not want 6 Sisters to Confuse Mark the PREACHER for Mark the Politician
 SPEAK where Bible Speaks // SILENCE where Bible is Silent

SILENT > Learned from THEIR Wisdom and INSIGHTS

Serpent WRONGLY Taking MAGISTERIAL Authority over Eve, misusing Word
 God: LIBERTY in His LAW / Serpent: BONDAGE in FALSE BOUNDARIES
 MINISTERIAL Authority – Faithfully APPLY Word, No More, No Less

Marriage – 1 Thing about WHO to Marry > ANOTHER Believer

MINISTERIAL Authority to Apply – Not Unequally Yoked to Unmarried People
 MAGISTERIAL Authority recommend YOU should marry YOU

Work – Be Responsible – For YOURSELF – FAMILY – DEPENDENTS
 SILENT Where to Work, Live, SPECIFICS of your LIFESTYLE

Alcohol Consumption – ONE Biblical RULE – Do NOT Get Drunk

Elders in ICF KZ 1) ‘Drink to Glory of God’ 2) Not Saved if Touch a Drop!

MINISTERIAL – Drunkenness, Witness, Testimony, Purity, Contentment, Heart
 MAGISTERIAL – Rules and Regulations about Christian Uses of Alcohol

MATURITY in Walk with God – You are TRUSTED by God to make Wise Choice
 RESPONSIBILITY before God for CHOICES you Make – in ALL Areas of Life

b. Debates > C.S. Lewis – God in the Dock / God ON TRIAL

2 Bold Creatures / Dare to Debate God’s Authority / Act as if was their Right

God has moved from His Throne to DEFENDANTS CHAIR in Human Courtroom
 FIRST EXAMPLE of Open Minded PLURALISM / Any Idea is EQUALLY TRUE
 Difference between EXPLAINING Biblical Teaching and APOLOGIZING FOR IT
 Explain to Muslim what Bible means in declaring “Jesus Christ is Son of God”

Dare not APOLOGIZE to Muslim for that Divine Reality – Jesus is GOD!
 Jesus Could have DEBATED Devil in the Wilderness Temptation / Fully Qualified
 DOES NOT DIGNIFY EVIL ONE WITH DEBATE \ REBUKED with Scripture
 v. 3 the tree that is in the middle of the garden

And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were
 pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of
 life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2.9

Reference to CENTRALITY AND LOCATION NOT DESIREABILITY

PARAPHRASE OF EVE’S WORDS -

God allows us to eat those Lousy, Mealy, Dry Apples sold by STREET Vendors
 BUT THOSE CRISP JUICY APPLES in JENNY LU’s are NOT FOR YOU
 Forbidden Tree THE TREE // All other trees HAD LOST THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

c. Distorts (Here the woman helps SERPENT do his work)

vs. 2,3 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the
 garden, but God did say, `You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle
 of the garden, *and you must not touch it*, or you will die."

TOUCH = more than just mere feeling / Touching to possess and CONSUME

God said to him (King Abimelech) in the dream (about Abram’s wife Sarai),
 "... That is why I did not let you touch her." Genesis 20.6
 Wanted to do MORE THAN BRUSH HER CHEEK

EVE – “YOU CAN’T GRASP this Wonderful Fruit FOR CONSUMPTION”

EXAGGERATION of God’s Commands / WINDOW INTO HER HEART

Perhaps – Feeling that God’s Commands too Strict, too Severe

Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. Proverbs 30.6

It is a sad answer, for it reveals a heart all too willing and ready to listen to what the tempter had to say. It shows that Eve’s love to God and her confidence and trust in Him had begun to waver.”
E.J. Young

d. Denies – Blatant Denial of God’s Truth

Serpent’s Hits made Eve’s Legs Wobbly / Now he’ll Deliver the Knock-out Punch
Challenge to NEW LEVEL, Pin pricks of Doubt to Sledge HAMMER OF DENIAL

v. 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.

Begins with Powerful Negative – “NO, it is not true, you will not die”

Be Set Free from that NEGATIVISM / Danger of Warped Personality?

SOMEONE ALWAYS RESTRICTING YOUR FREEDOM / Open Your Mind

NOW EVE MUST MAKE A CHOICE / Someone is Right and Someone Wrong

What is at stake here? // WHAT WAS THIS SIN?

1) THEY HAD SEX? 2) Eating Apples? 3) Drunkenness?

4) Dancing? Some Xtians do not believe in pre-marital sex because it might lead to
Dancing

REAL ISSUE – Does God speak Truth? Can the Judge of Earth be Trusted?

God’s enemies today are treading the same path: His Word is either added to,
altered or flatly denied. A.W. Pink

e. Delusion - PRIOR TO THIS – THEY KNEW ONLY THE GOOD

v. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

REASON FOR Prohibition – God is Jealous of You / You will be as Good as Him

HALF TRUTH – Now they will know both Good AND Evil

NOW KNOW GOOD AND EVIL / but Not Like God

GOD – loves good and hates evil // MAN – loves evil and hates good

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. Isaiah 5.20,21

Satan would have been COMPLETELY Truthful to Say – “You will be like ME”

VERY UNLIKE GOD – “eyes opened” HIDE from His Holy Presence

4. Complexity of Sin

a. Look Becomes Lust EVE FELL INTO SPIRITUAL “QUICKSAND”

v. 6 the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye

WHAT’S WRONG WITH THIS – THERE’S NO HARM IN LOOKING

PEOPLE THAT BELIEVE THAT – never heard of Advertising

Captivating Pictures in Glossy Magazines not just Modern Art

SOMEBODY PAID BIG MONEY FOR THEM – Look: WE Spend MONEY

PEOPLE THAT BELIEVE – No Harm in Looking - Never heard of Pornography

Naked Pictures help people do many Stupid & Expensive things / BIG \$ Industry

Pornography Industry – \$25 to 30 Billion a Year

It’s ALL ABOUT LOOKING / LOOKING that EVOKES DESIRED RESPONSE

JOHN “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”
1 John 2.16

JESUS “I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart”
Matthew 5.28

UNFORTUNATELY, for EVE, & ALL OF US, LOOKING JUST BEGINNING

b) Desire Becomes Decision v. 6 “and also desirable for gaining wisdom”

MORE SHE THOUGHT ABOUT IT / MORE LIKED THE IDEA

James outlines progression – “each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire is conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death”
James 1.14,15

Eve was faced with a choice, she pondered the situation and then she put her hand into the history of man and changed the course of human events. Francis Schaeffer

WISDOM OF JOSEPH – Ran away from Potiphar’s Wife / Ignored her Enticement

“Flee the evil desire of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” 2 Timothy 2.22

“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” James 4.7

c) Sinner Becomes a Seducer

SURPRISE! v. 6 “her husband, who was with her” STRONG, SILENT TYPE

EVE was Eager to Share HER NEW DISCOVERY / Now her Eyes are Opened

Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. "Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. And when you choose some of their daughters as wives

for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.
Exodus 34.16

Two great drives are built into man. The first is his need for a relationship with God, and the second is his need for a relationship with the opposite sex. A special temptation is bound up with this sexual drive. How many young women are there who are faithful as Christians until they come to a certain age and feel with their whole being, without every analyzing it, the need for marriage and are then swept over into marrying a non-Christian man? And how many men are there who are faithful until they feel the masculine drive and give up their faithfulness to God by marrying a woman who carries them into spiritual problems for the rest of their life? I look upon such young men and young women as I see them going through this, and I cry for them, because in a way there is no greater agony than suddenly to fall in love and then to realize that one must say no to this natural drive because it leads in that particular case to a severing of our greater relationship – our relationship to God. While what happened in the Garden of Eden was a space-time historic event, the man-woman relationship and the force of temptation it must have presented to Adam is universal.
Francis Schaeffer

d) Choice Becomes a Chain

Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner
1 Timothy 2.14

Eve had EXCUSE / Adam NO EXCUSE / Chose to Eat w/out Serpent's Influence
Should have beaten Serpent / NOW SERPENT BEATS THEM into FOLLOWING
EVE ate FIRST – ADAM'S Eating BROUGHT FAULT to the WHOLE WORLD
Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man... Romans 5.12

For since death came through a man... For as in Adam all die... 1 Corinthians 15.20,21
Male CHAUVANISTS BLAME Women for Problems > God blames the MAN

JESUS "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave a sin" John 8.34

God HOLDS ALL MANKIND GUILTY / because of act of One Man

Why is it that sin is universal, that there is no empire, no empire, no nation, no family free from this awful disease? Reject the Divine explanation and no satisfactory answer is possible to these questions. A.W. Pink

5. Comfort for the Saints

All our poverty results from this transgression, and its relief will require the Son of Glory to empty himself of celestial splendor. All our misery is traceable to this rebellion, and for this disobedience the Son of Man will be known as a Man of Sorrows. Warren Austin Gage

Prof. John Gerstner preached a strong message like this about sin at one church
 Afterward a woman listener said “You make me feel this small”
 (Holding her thumb close to her index finger)
 GERSTNER “*But, Madam, that’s too big. That’s much too big. Don’t you know that that much self-righteousness will send you to hell?*”

Sin does not make us Sinners / We Sin because in Adam we are Sinners
 A & E > Were GUILTY – CONDEMNED – SEPARATED from God!
 WE MAY BE ANGRY AT WAY GOD STRUCTURED WORLD / option?

Scientists Challenge God – We can make Better WORLD – Start with Better Man
 Go Back to Garden Try their Best – Plan Stops God says “Bring your OWN DIRT”

IF Given Own Chance / How Long maintain Clean Slate – NO MISTAKES
 TRY Determine our own destiny / ONE CRACK AT IT / Blow it, you’re LOST!
 LIKE ANGELS / THOSE WHO FELL / INESCAPABLE JUDGEMENT
 Adam & Eve / Perfect in Perfect Environment / FAILED TEST on OUR Behalf
 THANK God He OPERATES World w/ REPRESENTATIVE PRINCIPLE

No HOPE UNLESS He SENT a BETTER Adam, Second, Last, Righteous Adam

“For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!”

Romans 5.15

Thus, where sin abounded, grace superabounds, and we rejoice in the glory of God's perfect redemption.
W.H. Griffith Thomas

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
Romans 8.33-37

Children of A & E GUILTY > v. 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

Children of A & E CONDEMNED > v. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Children of A & E SEPARATED from God – Sin is Separation > v. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

IF you HOLD On to These Promises: Come what may >

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Genesis 3

1. Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2. The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3. but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4. "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6. When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.