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Genesis 3:1-5

“Satan’s Subtle Seduction”

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In Chapter 3 of Genesis, we find ourselves studying one of the most tragic chapters of the Bible because it deals with the fall of humanity. But it is also one of the most important chapters in all of the Bible because it explains not only what went wrong with the human race, but offers the solution for the mess we find ourselves in. Pastor Gary mentioned that, “if you don’t get this chapter, the rest of the Bible, and life in general, won’t make much sense.”

In the first two chapters, everything was grand. God created the heavens and the earth, the land and the seas, the plants and animal life, and He called it all good. Then He created male and female in His own image and He called it very good. But, it all changed. Satan entered the scene with the intention of deceiving mankind and ruining their relationship with creation and the creator. Adam and Eve fell prey to the serpent’s beauty, craftiness, and deception, and sin entered the human race. The result has been chaos, confusion, and consternation within the world and human history ever since.

It is important to note this is not the first time there was sin. Genesis 3 recounts for us the “Original Human Sin,” but the story of sin goes back further than this. God created two kinds of beings: spirit beings – angels, and human beings – people on earth. At some unspecified time, there was war in heaven. Satan led a rebellion against God because he no longer wanted to be *with* God, but wanted to *be* God. This was the “Original Sin,” and it’s interesting to note that this same sin of wanting to *be* God instead of *with* God is at the core of man’s rebellion against God.

Satan looses the war with God and he, along with 1/3 of the angels who rebelled with him, was kicked out of heaven. So, Satan turned his attention towards mankind, God’s most precious creation, in an attempt to “*kill, steal, and destroy*” them. (John

10:10) For the first time, man was given a choice as to which kingdom they would chose. On one side is the Kingdom of Light, controlled by God, and on the other side is the Kingdom of Darkness, controlled by Satan. One is where righteousness reigns, the other where evil reigns. One results in life, the other results in death. And both sides are pursuing mankind with everything they have.

The reason this background is so important is to remember there is an ongoing battle for mankind. God is tirelessly working and maneuvering to show you that His kingdom is best for you and is the kingdom you were always intended to be a part of. He so wants you to choose His kingdom over the kingdom of darkness that He sent His son, Jesus, to die on the cross for your sins to provide that way back into His kingdom. However, Satan is working as well to deceive mankind that you don't need God's kingdom or God's ways. You can have your own kingdom and be your own God. The truth is this is a deception. Man is *already* part of the kingdom of darkness by default because we are all decedents of Adam. And as man continues to reject God, man continues to align himself with Satan and his kingdom.

The Good News is that God has provided a way out of the kingdom of darkness through Jesus Christ! **Colossians 1:13** tells us, *"For [God] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves..."* Every one of us has the ability to choose Jesus! We have a choice.

Another advantage of this study in Genesis 3 that Pastor Gary brought to light is the craftiness of Satan to deceive those who are *already* in fellowship with God. Adam and Eve were in fellowship with God and yet were enticed and even deceived by the schemes of Satan. So, there is a warning here for us to have our eyes open to the darkness of our day and the deception that surrounds us. This section of scripture sheds some light on the subtle seductions Satan will use.

Satan Seems Beautiful & Approachable

1. **Genesis 3:1b** - *"...He said to the woman..."*
Genesis 3:2a - *"The women said to the serpent..."*
 - a. Eve was not afraid of the serpent like most of us would be. Terror does not exist between man and animals until after the flood: (**Genesis 9:2**) *"the fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth..."*
 - b. We know that this serpent was Satan because **Revelation 12:9** identifies him as *"that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray..."*
 - c. Satan will try to disarm you today as he approaches. His words may seem harmless and even charming if we are not discerning.
2. **Genesis 3:1a** - *"Now the serpent..."*

- a. The Hebrew word here for “serpent” is nachash. Nachash is the root word for “copper” or “bronze.” So, he is no doubt very stunning and beautiful in appearance. Satan appears as a shiny, beautiful being. He is not terrifying or ugly.
- b. [Ezekiel 28](#) tells us that every precious stone adorned his body.
- c. [2 Corinthians 11:14](#) explains, “...*Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*”
- d. This should not surprise us. Anyone trying to deceive you will try and be convincing, suave, and subtle. They will not freak you out or scare you. They will try and be beautiful and charming... and that’s what Satan was; that’s what Satan is.

Satan Deceives People by Distorting Their View of God

3. [Genesis 3:1b](#) - “*He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”*
 - a. God did not tell Adam he could not eat from any tree in the garden. In Genesis 2:16-17 God tells Adam he can eat from *any* tree in the garden except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - b. God is a good and gracious God who gives incredible liberty and freedom and only minor restrictions. And those restrictions are to protect us. They are for our good!
 - c. Satan would have us to believe the opposite; that God is one of incredible restriction and little liberty.
 - d. Satan desires to distort man’s view of God so that they will disobey the will of God and stay in his kingdom of darkness.
4. [Genesis 3:2-3](#) - “*...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.’ ”*
 - a. Eve added to the Word of God! By adding to the Word of God, she added greater restriction than God intended. That is **religious legalism**.
 - b. Religious legalism happens when rules are added in the attempt to keep the existing rules and thereby become more holy.
5. [Genesis 3:4](#) - “*‘You will not surely die,’ the serpent said to the woman.*”
 - a. Satan contradicts the truth of what God had said and therefore calls him a liar.
 - b. To remove the consequences God has attached to disobedience is religious liberalism.

6. Satan loves to misrepresent God and therefore deceive people into holding an extreme view of God. He is good at getting people to live in the extremes.
 - a. That He is a legalistic God of rules who loves to steal your fun and joy. A killjoy.
 - b. Or, that He is a permissive God of no consequences who doesn't care what you do.

7. Those that really know God and have a relationship with Jesus understand that it is through this relationship that one finds balance and wholeness to life!

Satan is Sneaky & Crafty

8. **Genesis 3:1a** - *"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made..."*
 - a. The word **crafty** means cunning and deceptive. There is something very sneaky and slick and subtle and secretive about Satan.
 - b. Nachash also has the meaning "to divine" - the idea of using sorcery or witchcraft - that's Satan's nature.
 - c. Satan is today still influencing our culture using slick and subtle ways to make demonic and evil things not only acceptable, but also intriguing and exciting.

Question: Are your eyes open to the darkness of your day and the deception that surrounds us?

9. **2 Corinthians 2:11b** - *"... For we are not unaware of Satan's schemes."*
 - a. Quote from Pastor Gary: "I ask you to sincerely pray and consider the ways that media has taken satanic, demonic, evil things and ideology and main streamed it into our culture."

10. There has been a normalization of things related to sorcery, witchcraft, divination and the occult.
 - a. According to JK Rowling, author of the *Harry Potter* book series, a major theme in the series is death: "My books are largely about death. They open with the death of Harry's parents. There is Voldemort's obsession with conquering death and his quest for immortality at any price, the goal of anyone with magic."¹
 - b. James Cameron, the producer & director of *Avatar* (highest grossing film to date)

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter

admitted the influence of Hinduism in making the movie. It presents pantheism—that God is nature and nature is God. Answering a question from Time magazine in 2007, “*What is an Avatar anyway?*” James Cameron replied, “It’s an incarnation of one of the Hindu gods taking a flesh form.”²

- c. Barnes & Noble webpage of recommended reading for teenagers - <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/teens-teen-books/379003056/?r=1>
 - i. ***Silence*** – Paranormal Romance Genre about a fallen angel falling in love with a girl.
 - ii. ***Fallen*** - “*Dangerously exciting and darkly romantic, Fallen is a page turning thriller and the ultimate love story.*”
- d. Quote from Stephanie Meyer, Mormon and author of ***Twilight*** series:

“I woke up (on June 2, 2003) from a very vivid dream. In my dream, two people were having an intense conversation in a meadow in the woods. One of these people was just your average girl. The other person was fantastically beautiful, sparkly, and a vampire. They were discussing the difficulties inherent in the facts that A) they were falling in love with each other while B) the vampire was particularly attracted to the scent of her blood, and was having a difficult time restraining himself from killing her immediately.

...Though I had a million things to do (i.e. making breakfast for hungry children, dressing and changing the diapers of said children, finding the swimsuits that no one ever puts away in the right place, etc.), I stayed in bed, thinking about the dream. I was so intrigued by the nameless couple’s story that I hated the idea of forgetting it; it was the kind of dream that makes you want to call your friend and bore her with a detailed description. (Also, the vampire was just so darned good-looking, that I didn’t want to lose the mental image.)

...All this time, Bella and Edward were, quite literally, voices in my head. They simply wouldn’t shut up. I’d stay up as late as I could stand trying to get all the stuff in my mind typed out, and then crawl, exhausted, into bed ... only to have another conversation start in my head. ... Eventually, I got a pen and notebook for beside my bed to jot notes down so I could get some freakin’ sleep. It was always an exciting challenge in the morning to try to decipher the stuff I’d scrawled across the page in the dark.”³

- 11. We have developed a fascination and a preoccupation with things of the supernatural that are often demonic in nature. Media has moved Satanic ideology and themes and made them mainstream.

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Themes_in_Avatar

³ <http://www.stepheniemeyer.com/twilight.html>

12. **Ephesians 5:8-11** - *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”*
13. **Philippians 4:8** - *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovel, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.”*
14. **Philippians 1:9-10** - *“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ...”*
15. **Ephesians 6:10-11** - *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read **Genesis 3:1-10** to provide an overview for this study.
3. Did this study help bring to the front of your thinking the truth that everyone who has not received Christ is in the kingdom of darkness? That they are aligned with Satan and his kingdom? That there is no middle ground? How does this truth impact your relationships and your witness?
4. Is Satan’s physical beauty surprising to you? How does his beauty impact your perception of him?
5. How does Satan try to disarm our culture today in order to seem approachable and normal?
6. How many of you know someone who has an extreme view of God? Either they believe He is a killjoy, or that He is permissive? How have you been able to explain to them the balance a relationship with Christ brings?
7. The word crafty means cunning and deceptive. Are your eyes open to the darkness of your day and the deception that surrounds us?

8. Do you think it's true that even Christians have developed a fascination and a preoccupation with things of the supernatural that are often demonic in nature?
9. In what ways has the Church possibly fallen prey to some of Satan's subtle and charming schemes?
10. How can we become more discerning in order to not be subtly enticed or deceived by Satan? Look at the following verses and discuss:
 - a. [Ephesians 5:8-11](#)
 - b. [Philippians 4:8](#)
 - c. [Philippians 1:9-10](#)
 - d. [Ephesians 6:10-11](#)

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).