

## Chapter 3

Vs 1 Strong's Hebrew Number 6175 'subtle' subtle, shrewd, crafty, sly, sensible  
Satan manifested himself as a serpent. Perhaps he chose that creature because it most matched his own craftiness in capturing his prey. Now he uses that subtlety to capture Eve. A snake will swallow its victims alive. His trickery gets Eve to question what God had said, what was passed down to her from Adam. He waited till he caught her alone and near the tree. He turned a positive thing of God into a negative by his insinuations. He works the same way today. 2Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ...

Vs 2 She starts off right. The command of God gave them abundance and many choices as it does today. Her mistake is talking to this guy in the first place. Did all the animals talk? Why didn't she say, "Hey, who are you? and why don't you ask God Himself?"

Vs 3 Now she adds "touch it" and every since man has been adding to the commands of God, book upon book, commentary upon commentary. Makes you wonder how the Pharisees who studied this were caught up in the same trap.

Vs 4 Satan's tactic is to get us to doubt the truth of what God has said. He says the opposite. He points to the forbidden fruit and says it is not forbidden and the reasoning of God is faulty. He always comes along the line of "the wages of sin is not death - for there is pleasure in sin". Every temptation challenges you to doubt the heart of God.

Vs 5 Then the real twisting is his attack on the heart of God. He is calling God a liar for selfish motivation to remain superior. That is exactly what Satan is up to but he tries to make God look like him. An evil heart will do the same. It can't see its own faults and paints others with the sin that it is most guilty of itself. Today the New Age is promoting the same lie. You are a god! They had not experienced evil and knew nothing of it. That was a blessing. There is partial truth in what Satan is saying. We often desire what we don't have, even when it is not good for us. There is so much of human nature in every line here.

Vs 6 Lust of the flesh - good for food Lust of the eyes - pleasing to the eyes Pride of life - desirable for gaining wisdom. That is the sum total of worldliness. 1Jn 2:16 Sin is not satisfied with being alone, she now has to take it to her husband. Instead of being a suitable helper she has become the leader and instigator of his demise. Some would ask where Adam was, but he could not watch her every minute. He faithfully relayed the message of God and she chose to eat. His sin was in letting her lead him to do the same. He chose, just as she did, to doubt God and disobey the command He had given them in all His goodness. From this verse, from this bite, death entered the world and all the suffering and evil that the world has experienced with it. The consequences of our every action - good or evil - have repercussions will only one day at His return fully know.

Vs 7 Opened to lust and knowing evil. They covered themselves because their minds were already perverting the goodness of God into wicked thoughts and desires. They are making their first attempt at religion. How do we deal with sin? Cover it up, try to keep it out of mind. It doesn't solve the problem - the heart.

Vs 8 Sin causes you to hide from God. God is still there but you do not want to commune because you know He is holy and you are vile.

Vs 9 God knew exactly where they were, but they needed to recognize where they were spiritually.

Vs 10 Sin brings fear of wrath with it. Adam is trying to understand his condition. He knows he is busted, but tries to make sense of what has happened without looking at his own heart.

Vs 11 Where did this sense of nudity come from? What has changed the way you see the world around you? Now God asks Adam to face his sin and prompts him to confess and repent.

Vs 12 Job 9:20 Sin has so entangled his heart so quickly that he blames God and his wife, anyone but self. Adam took it! Eve didn't cram it down his throat.

Vs 13 Eve follows her husband's example. Way to go Adam! You could have repented and encouraged her to do the same. She blames Satan. I was tricked! Yes, Eve but you willingly were tricked. It was you that looked and contemplated, desired, and acted. Satan did not have to twist your arm. He found a willing rebel like himself.

Vs 14 Each one who had a role in the rebellion will face the consequences of that rebellion. Satan used the snake form and so the snake lost whatever mode of transportation it had and now has to writhe on its belly to move. The picture is of Satan no longer having the freedom to move about as he once did, now he is limited further. He will eat dust - every time he tries to hinder the work of God he finds he is only helping his cause. As Satan accuses the saints they find the only place to hide is in Christ, not the creation but the Creator. When he afflicts us we draw near to God.

Vs 15 The Proto-evangel, the first promise of a Savior. My wife has enmity toward snakes but I think this is more along the lines of the Seed (one person descended from Eve) will finish him off, but in the process be wounded by him.

Vs 16 The woman previously would not have had pain in birth, but now will. Before she was more independent, but now because of her leading role in the rebellion, will find her heart - her desire is toward her husband. She will submit to his leadership. I have seen women who are head strong and try to get out from under this. They claim they are free from the curse. Well then, was your last delivery pain free? The harder they

try to be the boss the more problems they create in their home making their family and themselves more miserable.

Vs 17,18 Adam - did not take the role God gave him. Now he labors, and I know of very few who truly enjoy everything about their jobs. The frustration drives us to God. The exhaustion causes us to go to Him for strength. The thorns were placed on Jesus head when He took the sin of the world and its curse upon himself.

Vs 19 In the end we die and the body goes back to dust. We would have lived eternally without the transition of death, but now all must die.

Vs 20 Of all living men, or as his wife the queen over the earth?

Vs 21 The fig leaves were man's way of hiding sin, covering it. That was a total failure. Religion will never hide sin and in the end tends to exaggerate it. God must shed the blood of an innocent so they would be properly covered. Here too we see a shadow of Christ to come. I would guess they were clothed in lamb skins. Of all the animal skins today, wool is the most common.

Vs 22 Like us in the sense that He knows good and now knows evil, but with Adam and Eve it is experiential. If he now took of the tree of life he would live forever in that state of sin. Now death is a necessity to escape finally the body of death that is cursed. In some way the sin nature is connected to the physical body.

Vs 23 Now the first farming couple find what it is like to have to really work to live. They did not appreciate all that God had prepared for them so now they will see how good he was to them by doing without. This often happens in our lives.

Vs 24 Until the flood this garden was guarded by an angelic presence so that no man in his sinful state might take of the tree of life. Jesus is the tree of life, but He had not yet made a way - and even then the body must be done away with so that we might have our heavenly bodies.