

MISQUOTING AND DISOBEYING GOD'S WORD!
GENESIS CH3:1-7

ILLUSTRATION

We've all heard it done. Someone says something that sounds like Scripture and declares it came from the Bible. The problem is, these words are NOT found in Scripture! Here are some examples:

1. **“God helps those who help themselves.”**
2. **“Money is the root of all evil.” (Based on 1st Timothy Ch6:10)**
3. **“God moves in mysterious ways.” (Based on Job Ch11:7-8)**

SATAN MISQUOTES GOD'S WORD! V1

As we come to Genesis 3, all is well, remember Genesis Ch1:31 “God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good” God did not create anything evil! Suddenly, when chapter three starts, here is this serpent and he is clearly evil!

He is calling God's Word into question! “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” The serpent is being devious, deceitful and destructive! God had said in Genesis Ch2:17, “For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” But the serpent says in Genesis Ch3:4-5: “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” We can see that the serpent is evil, but who is he and how did he become evil? The fullest answer is given in Revelation Ch12:9:

The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world — he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Jesus says of this serpent in John Ch8:44, that he is both a liar and murderer:

He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

So the serpent in the garden is the devil (which means - *slanderer*), and Satan (which means - *accuser*), and the deceiver of the whole world. Jesus calls him “the evil one” (Matthew Ch13:19) and “the ruler of this world” (John Ch12:31; Ch14:30; Ch16:11). The Pharisees call him “Beelzebul, the prince of demons” (Matthew Ch12:24). Paul calls him “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians Ch4:4) and “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians Ch2:2). That's the one we meet in Genesis Ch3. ***He is already evil, already a deceiver, already a murderer when he appears in the garden of God.***

WOMAN MISQUOTES GOD'S WORD! V2-5

In the dialogue between the serpent (aka – Satan/Devil) and the woman, they are not only both sinning by misquoting God's Word, the title also for God changes, leaving out the personal name for God, this is deliberate! The woman instead of correcting the serpent, sadly, goes on to revise God's Word in 3 instances:

1. Diminishing God's Word! - The woman leaves out the word “every” from Ch2:16, making her revised version “less” (v2)
2. Adding to God's Word - The woman adds “neither shall you touch it” (v3) suggesting that God is so harsh, that you only have to touch it and you die!
3. Softening God's Word - The woman softens God's Word “Lest you die” (v3), which is different to Ch2:17 “you shall surely die”

What should Eve have done? Well, she could have nudged Adam, who was with her (v6) and involved him!

MAN AND WOMAN ACT ON THE MISQUOTES OF GOD'S WORD! V6-7

Moses records for us, brilliantly, the “thought processes” of Eve!

1. Good for food!
2. Delight to the eyes!
3. Desired to make one wise!

Moral autonomy! I'll decide what is right – Justification! No need for God, “I can make my own standards of what is right and wrong!”

We need to remember God's order – Adam is meant to follow God, as he is created first, then Eve, and both are meant to have dominion over all the creatures (Gen Ch1:28). ***Everything is now upside down! Eve followed the snake, Adam followed Eve and no-one followed God! According to the plural use of the word “you” in Ch3:1+4, Adam is not only with Eve (v6), but unlike Eve is not deceived! 1st Timothy Ch2:14 says “and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor”. Adam took with “his eyes wide open” so to speak, after seeing that Eve did not die! In sinning they both realise that they are naked, and decide to cover over their shame!***

APPLICATION

Expect evil. “Do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you” (1 Peter Ch4:12).

Expose evil. “Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them” (Ephesians Ch5:11).

Endure evil. “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (1st Corinthians Ch10:13).