

The Temptation

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Genesis 3 tells the story of the temptation of Eve in the garden of Eden. It is a well known story that we need to look at from time to time. Being tempted is not a one time thing, but is a part of life that we have to face as long as we live in this body. The person who thinks that they are strong and beyond being tempted is only fooling himself. **1 Corinthians 10:12**, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

Consider the methods that Satan uses to tempt someone. It would seem that Eve was alone when she was tempted. It was not accidental that Adam was somewhere else when Eve was approached by the evil one. Still she knew what God had commanded and if she had held to that she would have been alright. When any of us have given in to some temptation, we knew better, but did it anyway. We need to be

careful that we don't set ourselves up for a fall.

Eve was near the tree that was forbidden to her. If not, she allowed herself to be led to it. Things that are sinful should be avoided as much as possible. If it is not for us, why should we expose ourselves to it? If we tolerate being around something that hurts us spiritually we shouldn't be surprised when it brings us problems. In **Genesis 13** Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom. The next that we hear of him, he is in Sodom. How much better it would have been for him and his family, if he had stayed away from that evil place?

Satan didn't let Eve know his intentions when he approached her, if he had she would have run away. No deceiver states his aims to the one he is trying to trick, but makes the person feel like he is trying to help them in some way. Eve was led to believe that she would be better by rejecting God's command. Many people today believe that God is holding mankind back from life's pleasures. They think that if you live by the bible that you can't have any fun at all. Satan's lies still

deceive many into thinking this way.

Once the doubt had been planted, things moved along quickly. Eve began to look at the tree with fresh interest. It looked good and after looking it over she decided to eat of it. She made this decision. Satan may tempt a person, but that is all he can do. The person makes the choice to either fall for the temptation, or to cling to God and flee the evil thing.

Eve gave in to the lies of Satan and disobeyed God. She was first to do this, but she would not be the last. Adam was the primary target and Eve was used to get him to eat of the tree. Those that we love can sometimes do us more harm than others because we trust them. Eve gave to Adam and he did eat. Did she not realize what she had done, or was she wanting him to share in the rebellion against God? Beware, temptations can come from various places and people. Remember Satan wants us to think that it is alright for us to accept. It is up to us to know what God has said and to resist that which is evil.

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AHAB, THE SON OF OMRI, SEVENTH KING OF ISRAEL (B.C. 919-896), WAS A MAN WHO, ALTHOUGH HE HAD GOOD INSTINCTS, BEHAVED WICKEDLY DUE TO THE EVIL INFLUENCES OF HIS WIFE JEZEBEL, A PHOENICIAN PRINCESS AND PRIESTESS OF THE HEATHEN GODDESS ASTARTE. JEZEBEL MEANT TO INSTALL THE WORSHIP OF ASTARTE THROUGHOUT ISRAEL WITH AHAB'S HELP AND ONLY THE PROPHET ELIJAH STOOD TO DEFEAT HER, PREDICTING ALSO THAT AHAB WOULD BE DESTROYED FOR TRYING TO HELP HER, NO MATTER WHAT PRECAUTIONS HE TOOK AND, ALTHOUGH AHAB WAS CAREFUL TO DISGUISE HIMSELF ON THE BATTLEFIELD SO AS NOT TO BE A CONSPICUOUS MARK FOR ENEMY ARCHERS, IN HIS LAST BATTLE WITH BENHADAD OF SYRIA, A RANDOM ARROW HIT BETWEEN THE JOINTS OF HIS ARMOR, KILLING HIM, THUS FULFILLING ELIJAH'S PREDICTION (1 KINGS 21:19).

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