

# ***TEMPTATION AND THE FALL***

## ***GENESIS 3:1-5***

Here we go, an attempt to explain the seemingly unexplainable, a question the world has wrestled with for thousands of years—in 2 minutes or less. 😊

- Why did God create Satan, this serpent?
- Why is there evil in the world?
- Why didn't God stop Satan or Adam and Eve from their obviously misguided path?

***God gave His Creation free will to love Him or not!***

# ***THE BEGINNING OF THE FALL OF MAN***

When God's six-day work of creation was complete, everything in the world was "very good."

- There was nothing out of order, no pain, no suffering, no disease, no struggle for existence, no disharmony, no sin, and above all no death.
- Something is terribly wrong with God's perfect creation today—the cumulative effect of thousands of years of poor choices.
- Enter man's answers: Atheism and Dualism.

# ***WHAT IS THE TEMPTATION TO SIN?***

It is the enticement to do what God has said not to do; all humanity is susceptible to it and it does not come from God! But, it is a by-product of free will.

- Key scriptures: **ROM. 5:12, 8:20-22; JAMES 1:13-15**
- Before man brings sin into the world, he must be persuaded to sin by an agent *external to himself*, since there was as yet nothing within his own nature to lead him in such a direction.
- **Temptation began with Satan, the serpent.**

# ***THE NATURE OF THE SERPENT***

Satan—the serpent—was more clever than any of the other animals, meaning Satan was a created being.

- The Bible later identifies that “*old serpent*” as none other than the devil himself (**REV. 12:9, 20:2**), who has led an age-long spirit world rebellion against God and His plans for mankind.
- He is Lucifer spoken of in **ISAIAH 14:12-15**.
- He is the King of Tyre. **EZEKIEL 28:11-19**
- He was a fallen angel—a cherub.

# THE GREAT DECEPTION

Soon after this, however, Lucifer's "heart was lifted up" because of his beauty, and he corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness. **EZEKIEL 28:17**

- *"I will be like the Most High,"* he said in his heart. **ISAIAH 14:14**
- Satan is the *"deceiver of the whole world"* (**REVELATION 12:9**) and has deceived himself most of all by believing his own lies. **ISA. 14:13**

# THE POWER OF BITTERNESS

People were to be uniquely “*in the image and likeness of God*” and also were to be able to reproduce their own kind, neither of which blessings was shared by Lucifer or the angels. He resented God and Man.

- **Talking animals** . . . seriously! Demonic spirits have the ability, under certain conditions, to indwell or “possess” either human bodies or animal bodies (**LUKE 8:33**); and Satan on this occasion chose the serpent as the one most suitable for his purposes.

# ***SIN BEGINS WITH DOUBTING GOD***

If one studies each situation closely enough, we will find that sin always begins by questioning either the Word of God or the goodness of God . . . or both.

- In response, Eve altered God's word. It is always dangerous to alter God's Word, either by addition (cults) or by deletion (liberals).
- God can always be trusted to say exactly and only what He means. **DEUT. 4:2; PROV. 30:5; REV. 22:18-19**

# ***DON'T YOU BELIEVE HIM!***

Satan now was ready for the “kill.” Come, Eve, ***you will not surely die!***

- *“You shall be as gods.”* This was the same temptation that had led to Satan’s own downfall. **ISAIAH 14:13-14**
- The same temptation comes to us today, of course, over and over, in various guises.
- Don’t give in to the “father of all lies,” “resist” him (**JOHN 8:44; JAMES 4:1-10**) and he will flee!