



Reflections

*Are You Trusting
That Old Serpent?*

3-14-10



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Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said: 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;³ "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said: 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:1-6 NKJ)

The Serpent! Snakes! Just say the words and people tend to react very strongly. Some say they like snakes, others loathe them, some even claim to be fascinated by them. They do not, however, usually elicit neutral responses. Their colors, their movements, their potential for harm or death, all conspire to create varied reactions from those who see them. Some are giant constrictors, others are venomous, many are large and aggressive while some are more secretive. All, however demand instant attention. It is little wonder that Satan chose to appear to Eve as the serpent in order to focus her attention on the lies he would bring to deceive her to disobey God. He was cunning, beguiling, and apparently attractive enough to deceive Eve into believing his lies and to partake of the forbidden tree. We are familiar with the next set of events as God placed a curse on the Serpent, on Eve, on Adam and even on the Creation itself.

We might be "tempted" to condemn her for her gullibility and to scoff at her believing such lies, but let's not be too hasty to cast the first stone. Let's first examine ourselves. Ask yourself some key questions. **Do you believe in evolution?** God said He created the heavens and the earth. **Do you believe that abortion is a matter of choice?** God declares that He will hold one who sheds man's blood accountable. **Do you believe that pre-marital sex is acceptable?** God has declared that all immorality is forbidden, including adultery, fornication, and homosexuality. When we look at ourselves and examine carefully the lies of that old serpent that do, in fact, find influence in our world view we see that, we too, have been too easily influenced by his lies.

How many times have we had doubts about the Scripture because we

have been taught to believe in the evolution-based world view so prevalent in today's society? When we read the Biblical account of the creation do we not sometimes struggle to accept it lest we appear to be non-intellectual? The reality is that God's Word is absolutely true and the fictions created to try to explain creation without Him are lies perpetrated by that old serpent the Devil. How do we compare with Eve so far?

What about the clamor over the so-called woman's right to choose to kill her unborn child in order to continue a lifestyle that has no room for him. In the events leading up to the birth of Jesus there was no room for him either. The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 139 ...**For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.** ¹⁴ **I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.** ¹⁵ **My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.** ¹⁶ **Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. (Psalm 139:13-16 NKJ)** When God's Word describes the development of the unborn to be His works, will He not hold accountable those who destroy that life?

When we face our own deceptions that have given us "permission" to be disobedient to God's declared Word, do we not follow the same path that Eve followed in the Garden of Eden? We can see the deception embraced as she first looked at the tree, saw that it was good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and desirable to make one wise and then she took of the fruit and gave it to her husband who chose to participate in this rebellion against God. Whether it is choosing to believe in the evolution heresy, the abortion lie, the immoral lifestyles of the day, or even to make idols of material goods, power, or other parts of the creation, are we not trusting the Serpent to be true rather than God? James declares in his no-holds-barred style**Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4 NKJ)**

To buy into the lies of that old serpent the Devil and to follow his false ideas regarding God and His Word, is it not to trust him? He is declared to be the father of lies, evil in nature and intent, and going about like a lion seeking prey to devour. Why would we choose such a one to trust? The better, and only way to be safe is to... **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;** ⁶ **In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJ)** **Pastor Doug**