

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS – #3

Genesis 2: So, what did EVE do? She wrongly attributed to God --something God did not say!

She puts words in God's mouth: Of how this ONE Prohibition emphasizes GOD's narrowness by saying, "You cannot even touch it",

Are we getting the picture? -The serpent is trying to get EVE to the PLACE where she BEGINS to THINK, and BELIEVE that the serpent is telling the truth, and God is not.

That one little 5-word phrase indicates that EVE is buying into what she perceives as GOD's narrowness!

Well, my, my, my! Welcome to the 21st Century!

Remember — They both received a clear command: just ONE Prohibition—it wasn't vague.

Let me say this: As soon as someone, anyone, be it a preacher, a teacher, or a church denomination that does not completely and wholeheartedly, without reservation, trust in the inerrant, infallible, all-sufficient Word of God as the ONLY truth standard - – soon, mistrust and doubt enters

Eve began to believe that GOD was not telling her the truth

Gen 3:2-3 -What does Eve do next? She makes it worse ---by adding to what GOD said, "Or touch it."

What are the RESULTS? Whenever God's Word is **compromised and deemed unacceptable**, we begin spiraling downward, as Paul declares in Romans.

The primary mission --of the enemy of the souls of all men and women (1) to attack God's people, the offspring of the seed of the Woman, and (2) to **discredit GOD'S revealed TRUTH!**

We've identified the LIAR – "...For he was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him" **John 8:44**

We've identified the Battlefield -and it all began **with a conflict, a struggle** over "who's telling the truth"!

A recent 2023 poll — 55% of adults—**said their test** for whether something is right or wrong depends on the situation or circumstances, while **20%** said we have an absolute standard by which to decide what is true and right. **68%** believe it's possible to live a moral life and have good values without the Bible

And that dilemma keeps on ticking --- we see this when people twist, manipulate Scriptures, **2 Pet 3:16** --to make it say what they want it to say – **Eisegesis**

We are living in an unprecedented time --when the Scripture is misused and twisted more than ever, from pulpits to podcasts to social media, Bible verses being lifted out of context

In Gen 3:3, remember **Eve corrected the serpent**, but then she added **her own subtle distortion by saying God said**, 'You must not eat from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and **you must not touch it**, or you will die.

Matthew 4:3-4 – "Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, **IF** you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread, but He answered, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceeds from the mouth of God."

v5The devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, **v6** and said to Him, **If** You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down, for it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'

IF is a primary Greek conjunction; a first-class conditional sentence– as such, it should be translated as "**if** you are, and I know you are.

Thus, the temptation is --whether Jesus will act independently of the Father and use His power as the Son of God for personal gain and comfort.

Question: Does Jesus take the comfortable way out of difficulty? **NO**. He quotes the revealed will of the Father as recorded in **Psalm 91**

To follow Jesus' example, we need to **(1) KNOW** the revealed will of God, **(2)** reject all teaching that contradicts Scripture, and **(3)** thus obey what God commanded

Why Half-Truths Are More Dangerous Than Lies --A blatant LIE is easier to recognize. Half-truths contain a piece of truth but omit the fullness of God's Word—and are far more seductive and dangerous.

Genesis 3:1 The Bible calls the serpent *"more subtle than any beast of the field,"* and his favorite tactic? Mixing truth with error until the two are nearly indistinguishable.

Define half-truth? It's a statement that contains a portion of the truth while hiding or denying the full truth. Its purpose is to mislead by what it says *and* what it leaves out.

Genesis 3:4–5 -In Eden, the serpent told Eve: "You shall **not** surely die: For God doth know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened..."

That sounded spiritual. Enlightening. And even promising. In a way, it was partially true:

- Their eyes were opened – Gen 3
- They did come to know good and evil, v22

Built upon a deadly lie: "You shall not surely die. Notice how Satan mixed revelation with rebellion—and he wrapped the poison in a promise.

Half-Truths in the Wilderness -In **Matthew 4**, Satan quoted **Psalms 91** to Jesus: "He shall give his angels charge concerning thee... lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." **Matthew 4:6**. Yes, those were actual verses. But again, he left something out.

Psalm 91:11 says: “He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep you in all thy ways.”

Satan conveniently drops “in all thy ways”—the qualifier that meant “as you walk in obedience.” He used Scripture to tempt Jesus to act outside the Father’s will.

Even Jesus—though the Living Word—refused to engage in proof-text theology. He answered with the balance of truth: “It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” **Matthew 4:7**

How Half-Truths Enter the Church -False teachers rarely deny every doctrine of Scripture.

Most affirm Jesus; they quote the Bible and talk about love. But if you listen closely. There’s always something missing—or something that is exaggerated.

Examples include:

- Preaching faith without repentance **Luke 24:47**
- Promoting salvation without Baptism
- Promoting grace while ignoring godliness **Titus 2:11–12**
- Offering healing without holiness, **Hebrews 12:14**

Why Half-Truths Are So Dangerous

They sound scriptural - People let their guard down - They inoculate against the full truth; a twisted gospel gives false hope.

They lead to disobedience. Eve *saw* that the tree was good, took, and ate—based on a twisted word. **They often appeal to something good.** The desire for wisdom, love, grace, unity—but severed from truth.

How to Guard Against Them

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” — **John 17:17** - “Every word of God is pure...” — **Proverbs 30:5**

The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth (John 16:13)

We guard ourselves by:

- Reading full passages, in context, not isolated verses, comparing Scripture with Scripture -**Asking:** Is this teaching faithful to the character of God?
- Looking for what’s **missing**, not just what’s said

Word for the Overcomer:

Be alert for the “almost gospel”—the kind that flatters the flesh but ignores the cross.

Test every spirit. Love the truth, even when it wounds. For truth is not just a doctrine—it is a Person. And His name is Jesus.

Jesus responded --by quoting Scripture in its proper context: “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test’” **Matthew 4:7.**

Satan used a **partial truth**, hoping to entice Jesus into sin, but Jesus recognized the distortion, and He corrected it with the full truth of God's Word.