

Encounter Bible Study  
Lesson 5  
Genesis 2:16,17; 3:1-8

DID GOD REALLY SAY....

I. The Command and the Tree

- A. "Good and Evil"-probably just a way of saying "everything".
- B. WHY did God command them not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?
  - 1. Was there something wrong with what the tree gave? But if the tree is the knowledge of good and evil and God knows good and evil and He is holy, then the knowledge of good and evil is not a bad thing in and of itself.
  - 2. Walton: the tree would have use in the future
  - 3. Motyer: tree put there as a boundary.
  - 4. Keller: A test of obedience. Adam and Eve are given a command, but not told WHY, what is wrong eating of the tree

II. The Serpent.

- A. How is he described? Crafty, not sinister or magical-shrewd or cunning. Neutral as regards morality. Described as just one of the wild animals
- B. Relationship to Satan and Evil
  - 1. The serpent is here not clearly identified as either
  - 2. NT passages DO make this link:  
  
Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet  
  
Revelations 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down-that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him.

3. No answer given to the origin or evil or of Satan in this passage!

C. OT understanding of Satan

1. Term Satan actually has Hebrew origin-used both as verb and noun. Refers to adversaries.

2. Conclusion: (Walton) We can't really rely on Genesis to enhance or inform our understanding of the OT view of Satan but the NT views the serpent as Satan and so ought we.

III. The Temptation

A. Where was Adam? He was right there!

B. The Strategies

1. Creates mistrust in the authority of God's Word

a. He exaggerates the original command: Did God REALLY say you can't eat of ANY tree?

b. He encourages questioning of a command: Did God REALLY say you can't eat the fruit of your OWN garden?

2. Openly assaults the goodness of God

a. God's truthfulness- you won't REALLY die

b. God's love and goodwill-God doesn't REALLY have our best interests in mind.

c. God's sufficiency and character-you can be just like God

d. God's motivation-implies God wants to keep us down

IV. The Results-Sin!

Since the fall people have continued to ask, "Did God REALLY say...? Does God REALLY love me? Is He really for me? Did He really say...."

R and R question

IN what areas of your life are you failing to trust God's love, His goodwill toward you, His superior wisdom?

## References

Keller, Tim. Notes on Genesis, Redeemer Presbyterian Church. 2006.

Kidner, Derek. Genesis. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, Tyndale Press. 1967.

Motyer, JA Editor, David Atkinson, Author. Commentary on Genesis, Zondervan. 2001.

Walton, John H. The NIV Application Commentary on Genesis. Zondervan, 2001.