

The Woman Saw the Fruit of the Tree and Ate It

3: 6

DIG: How can something "good" - the beauty, nourishment or wisdom conveyed by the fruit - be "wrong" when it feels so good? What does this imply for our "if it feels good, do it" society? Why do you think Adam ate the fruit? *Could* he have resisted? What *should* he have done? Do you think Adam is more, or less, responsible than Eve?

REFLECT: Can you think of three harder words to say than, "I am sorry?" How easy is it for you to admit you were wrong? To forgive others? If you say you are sorry and are forgiven, does that mean there are no consequences for your actions? Why or why not? What do you believe about God? Is He for you or against you? What do you base your decision on? Experience? Scripture?

Sin always takes you further than you wanted to go, and always costs you more than you wanted to pay (James 1:13-15). Had Eve resisted from the start, she would not have fallen; for it is a universal truth that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us (James 4:7). Nothing is more certain than the Adversary powerlessness to overcome us apart from our own consent. If we resist, he runs away; if we give in, he wins. It is this simple fact that points to our ultimate responsibility for our actions.

Once Eve started to doubt Elohim's goodness and His intentions towards her, it was a very slippery slope to the Fall. Sin starts in the mind, and then transfers to the heart, which results in action. The three aspects of the forbidden fruit that seduced her correspond perfectly to those in First John 2:16 and Jesus' response to the ancient Serpent during His temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13).

First, the fruit of the tree was good for food, which is the lust of the flesh in First John 2:16 NKJ. One day, of course, Messiah would come into the world and He would be tempted in every way, just as we are - yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). During His temptation, the deceiver said to Him: If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread. Jesus answered: **It is written, "Man does not live on bread alone"** (Luke 4:3-4). Unlike Eve, who did not rely on God's spoken word when confronting the devil, Messiah quotes Deuteronomy 8:3.

Secondly, it was pleasing to the eye, which is the lust of the eyes in First John 2:16. In the wilderness, the Enemy of souls said to Yeshua: I will give You all the kingdoms of the world and all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be Yours. Our Savior replied: **It is written, "Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only"** (Luke 4:5-8). Again, Christ quotes from the TaNaKh in Deuteronomy 6:13.

Thirdly, it was also desirable for gaining wisdom. The Hebrew word for **desire** or **desirable** is *nechmad*, which has the same root meaning as *covet*. Here is the essence of *coveting*. It is that attitude that says, "I don't have this and I need this in order to be content." This is the **boasting of what he has and does** which is the essence of pride as seen in First John 2:16. During the Lord's forty days of temptation, the **deceiver** took Him to Yerushalayim and had Yeshua stand on the highest point of the Temple (see my commentary on **The Life of Christ Bj - Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness**) and said to Him: **If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: "He will command His angels concerning You and guard You carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. But Jesus answered: It says, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test"** (Luke 4:9-12). Once again, Yeshua ben David confronted the **great dragon** with Scripture (from Deuteronomy 6:16).

Rabbi Sha'ul warns us that the same thing can easily happen to us today. **I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpents' cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ (Second Corinthians 11:3).** None of us is immune from the clever wiles of the **devil**, who prowls around like a **roaring lion looking for someone to devour (First Peter 5:8).**⁵⁸ Therefore, like **Messiah**, we need to use Scripture when confronted by him. There is power in the Word of **God**.

For mankind to be genuinely free, there has to be an option. The choice is to obey or to disobey **God**. In the case of **Adam and Eve, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil** symbolized that choice. And to obey **God** is to love **God**, but that love needs to be voluntary. You really can't force someone to love another. And many times by trying to *force* love on someone, that person ends up hating the other. It is the same with **Elohim**. **He** wants us to love **Him** because we have made a decision to do so. Now **the LORD** could have created us as little robots. We could throw up our hands and say, "Praise **Him**, praise **Him**," but with no love in it. We wouldn't want to be loved that way and neither does **God**. **He** wants us to love **Him** because we *choose* to love **Him**. So **He** created us with a free will; free to love **Him** and have a relationship with **Him** or free to reject **Him** and have no relationship. Free to obey **His** Word or to **sin**. It is clear then, that **ADONAI** did not *create sin*. **He** merely provided the options necessary for human freedom, options which could *result in sin*.⁵⁹

She took some and ate it. The only **fruit** mentioned in the context is the **fig tree** in **3:7**. The traditional interpretation is that **the fruit** was an apple. This may have first started due to the common sound of *malus*, the Latin word for evil, and *malum*, the Latin word for *apple*.

She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it (3:6). Eve became to **Adam**, what **the serpent** had become to **Eve**. But incredibly, **Adam was with her** all along and did nothing to stop **her**! In fact, **he** didn't put up much of a fight at all. **Eve** doesn't even need to *try* to tempt **him**. **She** merely gives it to **him and he ate it**. **Adam** was supposed to guard and protect the Garden, while **Eve** was supposed to help **him**. But there was an unmistakable reversal of roles with the helper *leading*, and the protector *following* (see **Bf - Your Desire Will Be For Your Husband, and He Will Rule Over You**). And though **they** both seem equally guilty, there was a clear distinction between **his sin** and **hers**.

Some have suggested that what **Adam** did was out of love for **Eve**, choosing to share **her sin** and guilt rather than leaving **her** to face **God's** judgment alone. This would be consistent with the typology, suggesting the truth that **Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25)**. However, this motive would almost make **Adam** appear noble in sinning, and the Bible never implies such a thing. **His sin** was deliberate, wicked and inexcusable.⁶⁰ The Scriptures clearly place the responsibility of the Fall on **him**. **Eve** was deceived (**First Timothy 2:14**), but **Adam sinned** with full knowledge; for **him** it was an act of rebellion. **Therefore, sin entered the world through one man, Adam (Romans 5:12a)**.

When **Adam** sinned, *all mankind sinned*, and because **his** first **sin** transformed **his** body and soul, all mankind's bodies and souls were transformed. **His** perfect, sinless body, which would have endured forever if **he** had not sinned, was changed. Now **he** had a **sin** nature, to be inherited down to you and me today. Now **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:22)**. As a result, when we are born (because we are descendants of **Adam**), we are born with this same **sin** nature. The world thinks that we are born *good*. And for an Adolph Hitler, or a Saddam Hussein to kill millions of people, something had to go drastically wrong. But the Bible teaches that when we are born *we have inherited Adam's sin nature*, and for us to have a right standing before **Elohim**, something has to go drastically right; we must accept **Messiah's** death on the cross for our **sin** and accept **Him** as our **Lord** and **Savior**. Make no mistake about it, **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ (Romans 8:9b)**. Therefore, there are only two kinds of spiritual food. There is **devil's food** and **angel's food**, and if you aren't eating one, you're eating the other!

Adam's sin breaks **the Covenant** that **God** had **with Adam** (1:28-30 and 2:15-17). Speaking of unrepentant Isra'el, **Hosea** says: **Like Adam, they have broken the covenant; they were unfaithful to God (Hosea 6:7)**. The result was spiritual death.