

“Our Ancient Foe”
Genesis 3:1-6

Introduction:

1. Let's Begin Tonight:
 - By Opening Our Bibles Again:
 - To Ephesians 2!
 - Where - Earlier This Year:
 - We Saw The Three Spiritual Enemies:
 - That We All Face:
 - In Our Lives:
 - Especially As Christians!
2. Those Enemies Are:
 - The World, The Flesh, And The Devil!
 - Even As The Apostle Paul Tells Us There:
 - “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; / Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: / Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others!”
2. So - Again:
 - Our Three Main Enemies Are:
 - The World - And:
 - “The Course Of This World!”
 - The Devil - Who Is:
 - “The Prince Of The Power Of The Air!”
 - And - The Flesh - Even:
 - The “Lusts Of Our Flesh!”
 - In Which We Seek To Fulfill:
 - “The Desires Of The Flesh And Of The Mind!”
 - It Is These Three Enemies:
 - That Caused The Old English Puritans:
 - To Write The Prayer In Their 1549 Book Of Common Prayer:
 - That Includes - “From All Deceits Of The World, The Flesh, And The Devil, Good Lord, Deliver Us!”
 - And - This Is Still:
 - What We Need To Pray:
 - In Times Like These!
3. Before We Start Looking At:
 - Our Enemy - The Devil:
 - Who Martin Luther Called:
 - “Our Ancient Foe!”
 - I'd Like For Us To Do:
 - A Quick Review:
 - Of How We Are To Fight Against:
 - The Other Two Foes:
 - That We've Already Looked At!
4. To Fight The Foe:
 - Of This World - And:
 - Its Worldliness:
 - We Considered Five Things:
 - That We Need To Remember!
 - The First Thing We Need To Remember:
 - Is That We Have Been:
 - Sent Into This World:
 - By The Lord Jesus!
 - And - We Saw This In:
 - Jesus' Prayer To His Father:

- In John 17:18 - "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world!"

- The Second Thing We Need To Remember:

- Is That We Need To Pursue Biblical:
- Separation From This World!

- And The Apostle Paul:

- Was A Good Example Of This:

- When He Said - In Galatians 6:14 - "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world!"

- The Third Thing We Need To Remember:

- Is That We Are:

- Strangers & Pilgrims:

- In This World!

- Or - As Abraham Described Himself:

- Back In Genesis:

- As Strangers & Sojourners:

- In This World!

- The Fourth Thing We Need To Remember:

- Is That We Are Meant To Be:

- "Spectacles Unto The World!"

- Which Is How The Apostle Paul Described Himself & The Other Apostles:

- In 1 Corinthians 4:9!

- Where He Said:

- "We Are Made A Spectacle Unto The World, And To Angels, And To Men!"

- Which Means That We Have Been Left In This World To Be:

- A Different Kind Of "Theater" And Show Christ:

- To This World!

- And - The Fifth Thing We Need To Remember:

- Is That We Are To Live As:

- Saints In This World!

- And - In Titus 2:11:

- We Learned That The Gospel:

- Teaches Us That:

- "Denying Ungodliness And Worldly Lusters, We Should Live Soberly, Righteously, And Godly, In This Present World / Age!"

- So - Even As We Pray:

- For The Lord To Deliver Us:

- From This "Present Evil World!"

- We Need To Pursue After:

- Holiness In These Ways!

- And Show The World:

- That The Lord Has Made - And:

- Is Making A Big Difference:

- In Our Lives!

- This Is How:

- We Can Experience Greater Victory:

- In Our Battles Against:

- The World!

5. But Then - To Fight The Foe:

- Of Our Flesh:

- We Looked At 6 Weapons:

- That Are At Our Disposal:

- As We Depend On The Lord - And:

- Dwell With The Holy Spirit:

- Day By Day!

- The First Weapon Is:

- The Weapon Of Denial!

- Which Means That We Need To Learn:
 - To Deny The Desires Of Our Flesh:
 - More And More!
 - As We Are Told In:
 - Romans 13:14 - "Make Not Provision For The Flesh, To Fulfill The Lusts Thereof!"
 - The Second Weapon Is:
 - The Weapon Of Detesting:
 - Our Flesh With A Holy Hate!
 - "Hating Even The Garment Spotted By The Flesh!" (Jude 23)
 - The Third Weapon Is:
 - The Weapon Of Discarding:
 - Our Old Flesh!
 - Which Means That:
 - As You Put Off:
 - Your Old Man!
 - You Put On:
 - Your New Man:
 - Of Jesus Christ!
 - The Fourth Weapon Is:
 - The Weapon Of Decontaminating:
 - Our Flesh:
 - As We Are Told To Do In 2 Cor. 7:1!
 - And Use All The Means:
 - God Has Given Us To:
 - "Cleanse Ourselves From All Filthiness Of The Flesh And Spirit, Perfecting Holiness In The Fear Of God!"
 - The Fifth Weapon Is:
 - The Weapon Of Destruction:
 - And - Mortification:
 - Of The Members Of Our Flesh!
 - Because Of What We Found In Romans 8:13:
 - "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live!"
 - And - The Sixth Weapon Is:
 - The Weapon Of Disposal:
 - Which Simply Means That:
 - We Need To Learn To Dispose & Yield:
 - Our Flesh To God:
 - Completely & Wholeheartedly!
 - And - These Are The Ways:
 - That We Can Experience Even More Victory:
 - In Our Battles Against:
 - Our Own Fallen Flesh!
 - As We Continue To:
 - Depend On The Lord - And:
 - Dwell With His Spirit!
6. Well - The Reason Why:
- The World & The Flesh:
 - Are Such Great Enemies:
 - To Our Souls:
 - Is Because They Remain Under The Power:
 - Of Our Third Enemy:
 - Which Is The Devil Himself!
 - And - Though We Will Look At:
 - The Devil In Various Ways:
 - It's Probably Good For Us To See How:
 - The Devil First Became:
 - Our Enemy - All The Way Back In The Garden Of Eden!

- So - Let's Open Our Bibles To:
 - Genesis 3 - Where We Have:
 - A Real, Historical Account:
 - Of Our Earliest Parents:
 - Meeting With The Devil:
 - For The First Time - In The Form Of A Serpent!

7. And - In Genesis 3:1-6:

- We Read These Inspired Words:
 - "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? / And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: / But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. / And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: / For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. / And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat!"
- Now - Even Though:
 - This May Be A Familiar Story:
 - To Most Of Us!
 - There Are Many In This World:
 - Who Have Never Heard Of It!
 - And Yet - It Provides The Answer:
 - To So Many Questions:
 - That Have Been Asked:
 - Since The Beginning Of This World!
 - Questions Like:
 - Why Is There Evil:
 - In This World:
 - To Begin With?
 - But - This Also Provides The Answer:
 - As To Why:
 - The World & The Flesh:
 - Have Become Such Great Enemies:
 - To God's People As Well!
 - Because - The Devil:
 - Came To Eve In The Garden:
 - To Deceive Her & To Tempt Her:
 - To Sin Against God!

8. Now - In 2 Corinthians 2:11:

- Paul Tells Us This:
 - "We Are Not Ignorant Of His - That Is - The Devil's - Devices!"
 - Which Are His Thoughts & Ways:
 - Of Doing Things!
- But - I Wonder If Paul Was Alive Today:
 - Could He Write The Same Thing:
 - And Have The Same Assumption:
 - About Today's Church!
 - Are We "Not Ignorant" Of The Devil's Devices?
 - Or - Have We Become "Ignorant" Of Them?
 - Well - Even Though The Devil Is Very Subtil And Deceptive:
 - He's Not Very Original!
 - He Continues To Use The Same Devices:
 - To Deceive & To Tempt People:
 - Including Christians:
 - That He Used At The Very Beginning:
 - With Adam & Eve!

9. So - Our Purpose For Learning More:

- About The Devil:

- As Our Enemy:
 - Is Not To Just Satisfy Our Curiosity!
- No - Our Goal Is To:
 - Learn More About His Devices:
 - So That We Might:
 - Do Better At What James Tells Us To Do In:
 - James 4:7 - "Resist The Devil, And He Will Flee From You!"

10. So - We First Meet The Devil:
- In The Garden Of Eden:
 - In Genesis 3:1 - As He Posed Himself As:
 - A Serpent - Which Was - Under His Possession:
 - "More Subtil Than Any Beast Of The Field Which The Lord God Had Made!"
 - And Though:
 - We Might Have Many Questions About:
 - The Possession Of The Snake - And Even:
 - About The Beginnings Of The Devil:
 - This Is Not How The Bible Begins!
 - It Simply Begins With:
 - The Devil - In The Form Of A Serpent:
 - Speaking To Eve:
 - Using Words That Were As Crooked:
 - As The Snakes Body!
 - And So - The First Main Way & Device:
 - The Devil Uses:
 - To Deceive & To Tempt Us Is:

1. *To Question God's Word!*

- Because - The Very First Thing Out Of His Mouth:
 - In 3:2 - Are Those Familiar Words:
 - "Yea, Hath God Said?"
 - Or - "Did God Really Say" - What:
 - You Think He Said?
- This Is Still:
 - One Of The First & Most Frequent Devices:
 - The Devil Uses:
 - To Keep People Away From:
 - The Truth About God - And:
 - The Truth From God!
- He Questions The Very Truth:
 - Of His Word - Because:
 - The Devil Knows:
 - Both The Purity & The Power:
 - Of God's Word!
 - He Knows That God's Words:
 - Are Pure Words:
 - Even As Jesus Tells Us In:
 - John 17:17 - "Thy Word Is Truth!"
 - He Knows That God's Words:
 - Are Powerful Words:
 - Even As Paul Tells Us In:
 - Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword!"
 - And - The Devil Knows That:
 - God's People Knows:
 - These Same Truths:
 - About His Word!
 - And So - He Keeps On Using This Device:
 - To Question God's Word - And:

- To Cause Us To Doubt God's Word - And To:
- Keep Us From Its Purity & Power!

- Another Way The Devil Uses:
- To Deceive & To Tempt Us Is:

2. ***To Question God's Will!***

- Which Is What He Also Does:
 - In 3:2 - When He Continues To Ask Eve:
 - "Hath God Said, Ye Shall Not Eat Of Every Tree Of The Garden?"
 - Or - "Did God Really Tell You That - You May Not Eat From Every Tree?"
- After All - Didn't God:
 - Back In 2:15 - Put Adam & Eve:
 - Into The Garden:
 - In Order To Dress It & To Keep It?
 - And Now - God Is Keeping Them:
 - From Enjoying:
 - The Fruits Of Their Labor?
- The Devil Wanted Eve:
 - To Think That God & His Will For Them:
 - Was Anything But Good! But Instead:
 - Was Arbitrary & Capricious!
 - Even As John Gill Once Wrote:
 - "That A God Of Such Goodness Could Ever Deny You Such A Benefit, Or Restrain You From Such Happiness; He Can Never Be Your Friend That Can Lay Such An Injunction On You!"
- And This Still:
 - Is One Of The Devil's Favorite Devices!
 - Not Only To Keep Unbelievers:
 - Under His Spell - But To Get:
 - Believers To Doubt The Goodness Of God & His Will!
 - Of Course - At This Point:
 - In 3:2-3 - Eve Tries To Correct:
 - What She Thinks Is The Serpent's Mis-Understanding:
 - Of God's Word To Her & Adam!
 - Which Was Certainly:
 - The Right Thing To Do!
 - To Fight The Devil's Words:
 - With God's Words!
 - And Is What Jesus Himself:
 - Would Do When He Was Tempted:
 - By The Devil In Matthew 4!
 - But - The Devil Would Not Back Down - And:
 - He Would Not Rest:
 - Until He Had His Prey!
 - Which Is Another One Of His Devices!
 - He Doesn't Give Up Easily!
 - And So - He Continues To Deceive & To Tempt - And:

3. ***To Question God's Wisdom!***

- In 3:4 - He Even Outright Contradicts:
 - What God Told Adam & Eve Back In 2:16-17!
 - God Said There:
 - "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: / But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die!"
 - And Now - The Devil Says Directly:
 - "Ye Shall Not Surely Die!"
 - As If To Say:
 - God Doesn't Know:

- What He's Talking About!
 - Now, Even Though:
 - What The Devil Says Is:
 - A Direct Contradiction To:
 - What Jesus Says:
 - He Wants Eve To Question:
 - The Omniscience And Wisdom Of God!
 - And - To Suggest That:
 - God Himself Is Wrong:
 - About What Would Happen:
 - If Adam & Eve Ate The Forbidden Fruit!
- This Is A Device:
 - That We See The Devil Continuing To Use:
 - In That He Gets People To Think That:
 - What God Calls Evil:
 - Is Actually Good! And:
 - What God Calls Good:
 - Is Actually Evil!
 - As If God - Who Is:
 - The Source Of All:
 - That Is Good & Right & True:
 - Is Wrong!
 - And Yet - The Devil Goes Even Further:
 - In His Conversation With Eve:
 - To Get Her Also

4. ***To Question God's Own Work!***

- In 3:5 - The Devil Adds:
 - "For God Doth Know!"
 - And Even Though:
 - The Serpent Admits That:
 - God Knows More Than Eve & Her Husband Knows!
 - There Is A Silent Suggestion:
 - That Perhaps:
 - God Came To This Knowledge:
 - In The Same Way:
 - They Could Come To This Knowledge!
 - And - What Did God Know?
 - 3:5 - "That In The Day Ye Eat Thereof, Then Your Eyes Shall Be Opened, And Ye Shall Be As God's, Knowing Good And Evil!"
 - How Did God Know This?
 - Perhaps He Once Was:
 - As They Are Now!
 - In The Mormon Religion:
 - This Is One Of The Doctrines:
 - They Hold To - And Was Declared By One Of Their Early Presidents:
 - Lorenzo Snow!
 - When He Stated:
 - "As Man Is, God Once Was; As God Is, Man May Become!"
- And - This Is One Of The Devil's Great Devices!
 - To Bring God Down:
 - To The Level Of His Creation:
 - As If He Was No God At All!
 - And He Only Became God:
 - Even By Means Of The Very Tree:
 - He Was Trying To Keep From:
 - Adam & Eve!
 - And So - God Was Selfishly:

- Holding Back From Them:
 - What He Wanted To Hold Onto:
 - All By & All For Himself!
- Because He Knew:
 - The Devil Said:
 - That Once They Ate The Fruit:
 - They Too Would Be “As God!”
- This Is Probably The Best Way:
 - To Translate This Verse:
 - Because He Uses The Same Word For God Here - As He Did:
 - In The First Part Of The Verse!
- “God - Elohim Knows:
 - That The Day You Eat Thereof:
 - That You Will Be As Elohim - God!”
- And So - This Was The Real Reason:
 - Why God Was Holding That Tree & That Fruit:
 - Back From Them!
 - Because He Knew That:
 - They Would Become:
 - Like Him!
 - And So - It Wasn’t Out Of:
 - Care For Them - But:
 - Out Of Care For Him!
 - Even Out Of Jealousy & Insecurity!
 - So - The Serpent Questions:
 - The Very Nature Of God:
 - As Creator!
 - Which Is Still:
 - What He Does:
 - In Getting People:
 - To Worship The Creature Over The Creator:
 - Including Themselves!
 - But Then - After The Devil:
 - Planted The Seeds Of Doubt & Deception:
 - Into The Mind Of Eve:
 - Her Own Thoughts Took Over:
 - And Led Her:

5. To Question God’s Worth:

- And True Value:
 - Over The Fruit Of The Tree:
 - That Was Standing Before Her!
 - Because - We Are Then Told:
 - These Familiar Words:
 - 3:6 - “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat!”
 - When Eve “Saw” The Tree & Its Fruit:
 - It Means That She Didn’t Just:
 - Glance At Them - But:
 - Gazed At Them!
 - Inspecting Them:
 - More Closely - And:
 - With Greater Scrutiny:
 - As She Mulled The Serpents Words In Her Mind!
 - And Even Though:
 - The Tree Of Life:
 - Was Also In The Midst Of The Garden - The Fruit Of Which:

- Was Free For The Taking!
- She Took Her Eyes Off Of:
 - What Was Truly Good For Her:
 - And Fixed Them On:
 - What Was Highlighted By The Devil:
 - Instead Of God!
- And - What Did She Determine?
- First - That The Tree Was:
 - “Good For Food!”
 - Which Is What Was Said:
 - About All The Other Trees In The Garden:
 - Back In 2:9 - “ Out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food!”
 - And Now - Upon Closer Examination:
 - The Forbidden Tree:
 - Looked The Same:
 - As Every Other Tree:
 - God Had Made!
 - With No Difference - And:
 - With No Distinction!
 - As If God’s Specific & Explicit Commandment:
 - Made No Difference At All!
 - And This Is Also:
 - One Of The Devil’s Devices!
 - He Wants Us To See Everything:
 - As The Same!
 - And - Completely Ignore The Fact:
 - That It Is God’s Words & Commands:
 - That Make The Difference:
 - Between What Is Holy & What Is Common!
 - God’s Word Is What:
 - Gives Us The Distinction:
 - Between What Is Right And What Is Wrong:
 - In This World!
 - So - Even Though The Fruit:
 - Of Tree Of The Knowledge Of Good & Evil:
 - Was Truly Food!
 - It Was Not Good:
 - For Food - Because:
 - God Said So!
 - What Else Did Eve Conclude About The Tree & Its Fruit?
 - That It Was Also:
 - “Pleasant To The Eyes!”
 - That Is - It Was Pleasing & Desirable:
 - Not Just To:
 - Her Natural, Physical Eyes!
 - But Also - And Especially To:
 - Her Spiritual Eyes:
 - And Innermost Desires!
 - Of Course - This Was Similar To What Was Said:
 - About All The Other Trees That God Made:
 - Back In 2:9 - That They Were:
 - “Pleasant To The Sight!”
 - This Meant That:
 - They Were Delightful:
 - In Their Appearance!
 - According To:
 - God’s Own Standards:

- Of Beauty & Glory!
- But Here - Eve Was Convinced That:
 - The Forbidden Tree & Fruit:
 - Was “Pleasant To The Eyes!”
 - Which Meant That:
 - They Were Able To Satisfy:
 - Her Own, Personal Standards:
 - Of Beauty & Taste!
- This Shows Us That:
 - The Devil Will Try To Get Us:
 - To Experience Discontentment:
 - With The Things That God Gives To Us:
 - That Are Full Of Beauty And Goodness - Because:
 - He Made Them That Way!
- And - Instead - The Devil Wants To Get Us:
 - Crave & Thirst For:
 - Those Things That Appeal To:
 - Our Own Desires & Definitions:
 - Of Beauty & Goodness!
 - This Really Does Describe:
 - The Lusts Of The Flesh!
 - The Desires Of Our Own Hearts!
- And - There Was Something:
 - In The Devil’s Words:
 - That Stirred Up An Unholy Desire:
 - In Her Pure & Innocent Heart:
 - For Something Other:
 - Than God Had Provided For Her!
- And Then - As Eve Continued To:
 - Look On & Contemplate:
 - The Usefulness Of The Forbidden Tree & Fruit:
 - She Also Saw That It Was:
 - “A Tree To Be Desired To Make One Wise!”
- Even - As Wise As God!
 - And She Came To Believe That:
 - By Eating The Fruit From This Tree:
 - She Would Get What God:
 - Had Kept From Her!
- So - She Wanted To Be:
 - As Wise As God!
 - And Even Though She & Adam:
 - Would Experience The “Knowledge Of Good And Evil!”
 - Any Wisdom They Gained:
 - Would Be To Their Shame:
 - And Disgrace!
- These Too Are The Devices:
 - Of The Devil - After He Plants:
 - The Seeds Of Doubt & Deception:
 - In Our Minds:
 - About God’s Word & Will & Wisdom & Work & Worth!
- And - When We Determine:
 - In Our Own Hearts That:
 - There Is Something More Valuable & Desirable Than:
 - Who God Is & What God Provides - This Is How It Will Always Go!

Conclusion:

1. 3:6b - “She Took Of The Fruit Thereof, And Did Eat, And Gave Also Unto Her Husband With Her; And He Did Eat!”

- In A Greedy Fashion:
 - She Reaches Out Her Hand:
 - And Takes The Fruit - And:
 - Forsaking God - And All Of His Goodness To Her:
 - Eats!
- And Then - She Reaches Out:
 - To Adam - With The Partially Eaten Fruit:
 - Still In Her Hand:
 - “And He Did Eat” As Well!
- 2. And - From This Moment Forward:
 - The Devil Gives Birth:
 - To Our Other Two Enemies:
 - The Fallen World & Our Fallen Flesh!
 - Because - Of The Sin:
 - Committed By Adam & Eve!
- 3. This Is What:
 - Our Enemy, The Devil:
 - Does Best & Loves Most!
 - To Use All The Devices & Deceit He Can:
 - To Tempt Us & Bring Us To The Point:
 - Of Deliberate Disobedience & Sin Against God!
- 4. And - This Is Where - And How:
 - It All Began!
 - May The Lord Help Us:
 - To Not Be Ignorant:
 - Of These Devices:
 - Of Our Ancient Foe!

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