

Sunday, March 2, 2014

From the book **“The Ministry of Salvation” (9)**

The Devil’s Warfare

1- The dialogue between Eve and the serpent ended with Eve falling into temptation, at what point Eve should have ended the conversation?

2- What was the approach that the serpent (Satan) used in the conversation with Eve?

We learned in the previous article how evil entered into the world. In this article, we will address the topic of spiritual warfare that confronts us from the Satan. In order for us to understand the fall of mankind and how the serpent approached Eve, we need to reference the book of Genesis: *“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?’” And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 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.’” Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. 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.’” 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)



The starting point was a dialogue that the serpent started with Eve when it asked her about God’s commandment, as though he didn’t know it: *“Has God indeed said, ‘you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”* Eve answered explaining to the serpent the divine commandment, and that the result of disobeying is death. The serpent started to question the truthfulness of God’s commandment saying: *“You will not surely die.”* **This was the precise moment that Eve should have finished the conversation and should have rebuked the serpent because it questioned God’s statements.**

We should notice that this is a typical approach that the Devil uses with man, questioning the truthfulness of God’s commandment and the faithfulness of his promises.

Thus, the Lord Jesus said to the Jews: *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”* (John 8:44)

The devil, described by the Lord Jesus, is *“a liar and the father of it.”* He always claims that God’s statements aren’t true. He presents false perceptions of the truth, as when the serpent told Eve: *“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.”*

St. Paul warned us from this deception saying: *“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”* (2Cor 11:3).

Through Satan’s deception which is driven by his envy, death entered into the world, as it was mentioned in the book of Wisdom: *“But by the envy of the devil, death came into the world: And they follow him that are of his side.”*(Wisdom 2:24-25).

Therefore, it was said in the book of Revelation, at the second coming of the Lord Jesus, that Satan will be punished for his deceptions and lies through which he tried to tempt the people: *“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”* (Revelation 12:9).

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