

YES, HAS GOD SAID?

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to look the attack upon the Word of God the Bible ever since the beginning of time. It began in the in the Garden of Eden when Satan also known as the Devil came to Eve and tempted he to disbelieve what God had told her and Adam.

This account is given to us in Genesis 3:1-8, "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. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden."

The first important point to take note of is the question Satan asked Eve and what it implied. He said, "Has God said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" In order for us to best understand the significance of this question we must understand what it was that God had spoken to Adam and Eve previously. In Genesis 2:16-17, "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

God clearly told Adam and Eve not to eat of one specific tree and what the consequences of disobeying His Word would be. Satan began with questioning what God had said "Has God said?" implying that either God had not really said or meant what He had said. Then to confuse things even more, he added "of every tree" rather than of one specific tree.

This bringing the Word of God into question attempting to cast doubt upon both His Word and character is a tactic Satan has used through the ages. Satan knows the Word of God is true and is the Truth and all those that trust in it will be saved. So he does everything he can to bring it into question and discredit it.

In Jesus' day after He had said some things that were too difficult for the multitudes to accept, they all turned away from following Jesus leaving only a handful of disciples. Jesus turned to these few and asked in John 6:67 "Do you also want to go away?" To this Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Consider with me an important fact of history regarding the Word of God. Think of all the attempts to change; dilute; minimize; discredit; even outright destroy the Word of God over the years. There was a time in Russia; China; Vietnam; the former eastern block countries; many parts of the middle east; etc where every Bible was confiscated, banned, burned and destroyed, some of these are still doing this. Others attempts to

destroy and discredit the Word include those considered to be “experts” proclaim that the Bible cannot be trusted; certain parts really didn’t happen; that much of what is said should not be taken literally rather symbolically.

None of these attacks and attempts to destroy the Bible has succeeded and never will. Jesus said, “Though Heaven and earth pass away My Word will last for ever.” God has graciously given to us His Word that we may know ourselves; His character; and the way to salvation. Read your Bible, if you do not have one I will be pleased to send you one free of charge.

Drew Macintyre is associate pastor of Calvary Chapel of Alpine and can be reached at 619-445-2589, or ccalpine@juno.com