



## Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

# Short Study 008: The Temptation of Eve

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Read Genesis 3:1-6.

The first human couple were given a garden paradise in which to live in great freedom. Only one restriction was placed upon them which was not to eat the fruit of the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*. However, under temptation to become as wise as God, they disobeyed this one command.

Notice the tactics used by the Tempter for he may still use them today against you and me. He played on Eve's human nature, a nature which is described by the Apostle John (read 1 John 2:16). Notice the stages of the temptation process which were designed to cause Eve to loosen her hold on God's Word and listen to her own human nature:

- (1) Raising a Doubt about God's Word:** "*Did God **really** say that?*" (paraphrase of v1). Not an outright denial at first – just enough to set Eve thinking.
- (2) Inviting Discussion,** with the subtle addition of "*every tree*" to God's prohibition. Eve fell for it and entered into discussion with the Tempter. This is a dangerous thing to do, for Satan has had a lot of experience in winning people to his point of view through discussion. Eve added something to God's prohibition too in her reply; can you spot it? (v3). What should we do instead of debating with the Tempter? (See James 4:7)
- (3) Denial of God's Word:** "*You will not surely die*" (v4). In other words, "*God didn't mean it when He said that.*" Do you think God always means what He says?
- (4) Distortion of God's Word and God's intention:** "*God is with-holding that fruit from you because He doesn't want you to become as wise as He is*" (paraphrase of v5). Read Psalm 84:11 to see how untrue was the devil's accusation, but note the condition!
- (5) Raising Discontent:** Eve was now left thinking in terms of "*Every tree bar one is not enough. I am being sold short of something here.*"
- (6) Awakening Desire:** "*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 ...*" (v6)

The Tempter had done his work. The next step was Eve's, and she ate the fruit (end of v6). To complete the alliteration, we might call this final step **Disobedience**.

**To think about:** How should Eve have responded to each stage of the temptation (1) to (6) above? Which way do **you** respond to similar tactics of the Tempter?

**To dig deeper:** Compare Eve's temptation with that of Jesus, in Matthew 4:1-11. If you have time, read a Bible Commentary on both these accounts.