

The Eyes of Them Both Were Opened

God had already given the man and woman the knowledge of good and evil. They knew it was good to eat from every tree in the garden and evil to eat from one tree. However, the devil was very shrewd, “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made” (Gen 3:1). He deceived the woman into believing she was blind from the true knowledge and that her “eyes shall be opened” (3:5). And once they both were truly blinded, they were convinced that they could now see, “And the eyes of them both were opened” (3:7). It’s one thing to be blind and know it, but an even greater deception to be blind and we think we can see, “If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!” (Mat 6:23).

“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**” (3:6). She knew it was evil to eat from that tree but was deceived into seeing it as good. This is the devil’s most sacred tactic—reversing the sides by convincing us that evil is good and good is evil, “Woe unto them that **call evil good, and good evil**; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto *them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*” (Isa 5:20-21). Spiritual blindness is being wise in our own eyes—how we see ourselves rather than how God sees us. We think we know better than Him.

It was called “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (2:9, 17), not because it gave the knowledge of good and evil but because it gave another knowledge. “And the LORD God said, **Behold, the man is become as one of us**, to know good and evil” (3:22). God was essentially saying “Oh look, the man is now playing God!” Mankind is now like a rebellious teenager that thinks he knows better than his parents! Rather than good and evil defined by God, we define it for ourselves.

Not to glorify our enemy but simply to be realistic, is it possible that the devil is far more cunning and subtle than we ever realized? Could he have orchestrated religious systems so entirely deceptive and convincing that those we trust as men of God are not, while dissidents and nonconformists to the systems truly are? Could it be that evil and good are reversed—that we’re blind while thinking we can see?

“But I fear, lest by any means, **as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty**, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. **For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or *if ye receive another spirit*, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him.*” (2Co 11:3-4). Trinitarianism is another Jesus—a Jesus that is God Himself, a Jesus that wasn’t begotten of God but has always existed, a Jesus that didn’t become flesh but was covered with flesh.

In the same passage Paul went on to say, “And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel [messenger] of light**. Therefore *it is* no great thing if **his ministers** also be transformed as **the ministers of righteousness**” (2Co 11:14-15). Satan’s subtilty was to transform himself into a messenger of the truth to deceive Eve, and this is how his ministers operate today. They’re incredibly subtle, crafty, and shrewd by appearing to be “the ministers of righteousness” in every regard: preach compelling messages; voice eloquent prayers; fight against false religions; labor and toil in service; rejoice and cry with the flock; foster and adopt children; reach out to the community; send and support missionaries. But there’s one very big problem—they preach another Jesus!

“And the great dragon was cast out, **that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world**: he was cast out into the earth, and **his angels [messengers]** were cast out with him” (Rev 12:9). The serpent not only deceived Eve in the beginning, but deceives the whole world by his messengers today. They blind us from the truth in the Scriptures by teaching a false theological system, skewing Bible translations, fudging definitions of words in lexicons, and undermining our confidence in understanding the Scriptures for ourselves. They keep us dependent upon them and blinded by convincing us we can see. And those that try to lead us to the truth in the Scriptures are labeled as heretics that should be avoided. It’s just the same old serpent—calling evil good and good evil.

Within the context of having opened the eyes of a man born literally blind, Jesus told the Pharisees metaphorically, “If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now **ye say, We see**; therefore your sin remaineth” (Jhn 9:41). We’re blind so long as we insist that we can see. We only see by allowing Jesus Christ to open our blind eyes by hearing Him, agreeing with Him, and obeying Him.