DECEPTION 101

We begin our study in Genesis 3, a passage which describes the deceptive methods Satan has used successfully in the course of human history. A careful study of the chapter reveals that the issue at the beginning was not merely over a tree but rather over authority. The test was whether Adam and Eve would render their allegiance to God’s Word and His authority or to the serpent’s word and his authority.

Satan did not reveal his true identity as an angel because he knew that God had warned Adam and Eve that a fallen angel would attempt to lead them into sin. Eve was expecting an angel, not a serpent, and for this reason Satan used a serpent as his medium and, through five methods, enticed Eve and then Adam into sin. The only protection for Adam and Eve against the wiles of the crafty ancient serpent was to obey the Word and authority of God without question.

Satan told Eve two related lies. The first was that if she disobeyed God’s explicit commandment, she would not die. The second was that if she ate the fruit, she would not need to depend on God to distinguish between good and evil, because she would be like God, and her own wisdom would enable her to make that distinction.

This chapter is not a mere historical account of the ancient past. In the course of six thousand years of experience, Satan has fine-tuned his deceptive craftiness. This lesson will show that the selfsame methods that Satan used at the beginning he will use at the end, “to deceive, if possible, the very elect” (Matt. 24:24).
Read Genesis 3 from the translation of your choice. Write out Genesis 3:1–6. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

- **Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas
- **Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you
- **Draw Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Genesis 3. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

What parallels can we draw between Satan’s methods and arguments in Eden and those he used with the angels in heaven?

What was Jesus’ example against these methods?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead01-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying all of Genesis 3? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What are barriers to the voice of God’s Word today? How can we overcome these barriers?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead01-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

2 Corinthians 11:1–4, 12–15
John 8:44
Matthew 4:1–11
Psalm 91:11, 12
Revelation 12:7–9
1 John 3:8

What other verses come to mind in connection with Genesis 3?

Review your memorized verse from Genesis 3.
What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

How do we know if our view of Jesus has been tarnished or not?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on Genesis 3 again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead01-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what can you personally and practically implement to prevent deception?

What are practical applications you can implement in your social circles?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/dead01-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Why does love necessitate freedom of choice?

Did God explain to Adam and Eve why they could not eat from one particular tree? If not, why not? How dangerous is it to delve into what God has not revealed? (cf. Deut. 29:29)

Why did Satan ask Eve the captivating question, “Has God said that you cannot eat of any tree of the garden”? How does Satan plant doubt in our minds in a similar way?

How did Satan’s words to Eve, “You will be like God, knowing good and evil” reflect Satan’s original temptation of the angels in heaven? (cf. White, The Great Controversy, 499.)

Which two lies does God reveal that Satan will tell again at the close of history?

How can we increase the volume of God’s Word in our lives?

Two Voices, Two Authorities