

**Great Controversy Series**  
**Satan's First Great Deception is STILL Deceiving**  
**Chapter 33 - The First Great Deception**  
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“With the earliest history of man, Satan began his efforts to deceive our race. He who had incited rebellion in heaven desired to bring the inhabitants of the earth to unite with him in his warfare against the government of God.” GC 531

Adam and Eve lived in perfect harmony of God's law and truth. They had freedom, happiness, and eternal life. They were a united pair with God in whom Satan hated with a passion. **His main objective was to deceive Adam and Eve in rebelling against God and setting up his Satanic kingdom on earth!**

**Genesis 2:9**

9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

**What main warning did God give Adam and Eve concerning the tree of knowledge of good and evil?**

**Genesis 2:16-17**

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:  
 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

**What did God mean when He said “surely die”?**

Die [Hebrew] mûth [*mooth*] (**H4191**) A primitive root; to *die* (literally or figuratively); causatively to *kill*: - X at all, X crying, (be) **dead** (body, man, one), (put to, worthy of) death, **destroy** (-er), (cause to, be like to, must) die, kill, necro [-mancer], X must needs, slay, X surely, X very suddenly, X in [no] wise.

Surely [Hebrew] same word mûth [*mooth*] (**H4191**)

**So in other words God said “for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt die (mooth) die (mooth).”**

**In our English language there are only a very few exceptions in which a word can be repeated after itself. So the translators used the English word “surely die” instead of saying “die die” to put emphasis of the meaning of the words.** If the translators said “die die” at the end of the sentence many English readers would lose the meaning of the seriousness of the statement because most would think that it is a typo or mistake instead.

**Why did God warn Adam and Eve that if they ate from the tree of knowledge and good and evil that they would “die die”? Why did he repeated “die die” (mooth mooth)?**

**Romans 6:23**

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The payment for sin, the disobedience of God's law (1 John 3:4), is death. Death means cease to exist -no longer breathing nor having ANY form of conscious or awareness after death. More on that later.

**The reason why God said “die die” in Genesis 2:17 is to emphasize two phases of death.**

1) First “die” is the natural results of disobedience. **This is known as the “first death”** in the Bible. As a result of Adam's disobedience, ALL his posterity is faced with the first death.

**Romans 5:12**

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

2) Second “die” is God's final punishment of the wicked who rejected the plan of salvation and held on to sin. **This is known as the “second death.”** This death is eternally permanent with no opportunity of live again – totally forever cease to exist.

**Revelation 20:6**

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Those who have lived in Christ Jesus and die the first death will rise again in the first resurrection!

**1 Thessalonians 4:16**

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Notice the qualifier to raise again from the first death – only those who are “in Christ” death is like a sleep and will rise again at the second coming of Jesus Christ. This is also know as the first resurrection.

All those who remain in sin will die the first death, the natural consequence of sin. Matter of fact, if there are those who are wicked at the second coming of Jesus Christ will be killed by the brightest of His coming and suffer the first death.

**2 Thessalonians 2:8**

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.

**Right before hell fire also known as the lake of fire, God will resurrect the wicked to receive their final punishment of rejecting Jesus and holding on to sin. This is known as the second resurrection.** All the wicked will be resurrected during the second resurrection and be punished with the Devil and his angels in the lake of fire.

**Matthew 25:41**

41 **Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand (the wicked), Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:**

**Revelation 20:14-15**

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Those who suffer the “second death” have no opportunity to live again. They were punished with “everlasting fire” with everlasting results, the wicked will be dead forever. They will not be burning in hell forever and ever. That is a straight lie from the Devil. There will be NO third resurrection!

**Daniel 12:2 sums the first resurrection and the second perfectly.**

**Daniel 12:2**

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

## **Those who are in Christ will not suffer the second death!**

### **Revelation 2:11**

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

**Review: “Surely die” = “die die”**

- 1) The first “die” is the “first death”, the natural consequence of sin that affects all people.
- 2) The second “die” is the “second death”, God's punishment of the wicked with the lake of hell fire – eternal death.

Only those living in Christ at the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ will not experience the first nor the second death.

### **Test of Loyalty**

God created Adam and Eve with the freedom of choice. The test was in the midst of the garden of Eden. God placed the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the midst of the garden of Eden as a test of loyalty. When they obeyed God and ate from the tree of life they were choosing God as their master. But when they disobeyed God's command and ate from the tree of knowledge, they choose Satan as their master.

### **Satan's Only Access**

Satan's only access to tempt Adam and Eve at the beginning was ONLY at the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He could not roam the earth. In order to even tempt them to sin, one of them had to get close enough to the tree so he could use his flattery and attraction to deceive one to disobey God.

God warned Adam and Eve about Satan's access to the tree of knowledge of good and evil! Satan was restricted to the tree. As he saw Adam and Eve enjoy their beautiful garden home in happiness and peace, he was filled with indignation and jealousy of the happy couple. He can see the happy couple go to the tree of life and pluck and eat. He saw how happy and peaceful they were together. He hated every moment of it! He thought every cunning of deceptive strategies to lure the couple to the tree!

Satan probably sang as a beautiful bird to allure them. But as long as they were together, he was not getting any results! You can imagine that he looked at every expression and words of the couple trying the figure out the best method to entice them to rebel against God. Satan's case seemed hopeless because the couple was always together. In the cool of the day he can see them conversing with God face to face, laughing, smiling, singing, and enjoying each other company. Day after day Satan waited and waited for a moment to strike.

### **Eve's Deadly Curiosity**

With great delight that moment came when he saw Eve wondering closer and closer to the tree. He could not believe it, she was by herself! She began to look at the forbidden tree with curiosity. Satan knew that this was the moment he was waiting for and that he could not blow it. This maybe his only chance. **His goal, create doubt in Eve's mind, then she will be open to his deceptions and rebel against God!** So Satan used the dazzling, but subtle creatures of God creation, the snake, to do the world's first puppet entertainment show to tempt Eve.

“Had Satan revealed himself in his real character, he would have been repulsed at once, for Adam and Eve had been warned against this dangerous foe; but he worked in the dark, concealing his purpose, that he might more effectually accomplish his object.” GC 531

### **Disguised as a beautiful creature how was Satan able to create a dialogue with Eve?**

**Genesis 3:1**

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

While Eve is getting closer and closer to the tree with her curiosity Satan asks her a question that directly challenges God's truth.

God's truth was explicitly clear:

**Gen 2:16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

**Gen 2:17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

In verse 17, God uses the word, "but" as a conjunction to reveal a clear exception to what was previously said. In other words, God's truth reveals that they could freely eat from every tree in the garden, except from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This was an explicit exception and the only exception.

Notice in Genesis 3:1 Satan also uses a conjunction of his own, "yea" to try to refute God's explicit command of God. "Yea" in Hebrew and in English can mean, "but, indeed, also". **Satan uses "yea" to refute God's truth, but mixes with truth. Let's look.**

**Covert Negative**

Yea or but... "hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" This was a very crafty question.

**Is Satan's question true? Yes, they could not eat from every tree of the garden. Even though the question is true, but it is grossly misrepresented.**

The technique that Satan uses in the phrase of his question to Eve is known as a **covert negative, covert meaning hidden. In other words, a twisted truth.**

Satan took what God said and twisted the truth! He ignores the positive statement that they may freely eat from every tree. **He focuses on the "not eat" to try to twist the truth, creating a covert negative to create doubt in Eve's mind.**

"How artfully had Satan approached Eve in Eden! "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Genesis 3:1. Thus far the tempter's words were truth; but in his manner of speaking them there was a disguised contempt for the words of God. There was a **covert negative**, a doubt of the divine truthfulness. Satan sought to instill into the mind of Eve the thought that God would not do as He had said; that the withholding of such beautiful fruit was a contradiction of His love and compassion for man." Desire of Ages, p. 118

**How do we know that Eve was mesmerized and hooked by Satan's covert negative question?**

She responded! Once she responded, Satan knew that she actually doubted God's truth. He knew that she is set up for a grand deception to eat from the forbidden tree. Let's look at her response to the snake, Satan.

**How does Eve respond to Satan in trying to correct his question?**

**Gen 3:2** And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

**Gen 3:3** But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

When you analyze Eve's response you can see that she began to doubt God and His truth. **How do we know, she also misrepresents God's truth, by not only misquoting it but putting more emphasis and focus on the forbidden tree. She bought into Satan's covert negative question.**

You can imagine that God said with joy and a smile, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.” But when he said that “when sincerity and But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” You can imagine that he said it with the sternness of a parent, but with the sincerity of a friend.

**But when Eve responded to the snake her response was filled with doubt.**

In the first part of the sentence, she left out the word “freely”. God said, that they can “freely eat”. This is very important because God used the word, “freely” to reveal that God gave man the true freedom to live and enjoy the goodness of God as a result of obedience to truth.

When Eve omitted the word “freely”, Satan knew that she doubted God's truth. He knew that she interpreted his incredulous question to mean that God was holding something back from them and that He actually had them in bondage! **She also probably said with some sarcasm in her voice.**

**In the second part of the response to Satan's question Eve places more emphasis on the forbidden tree by adding to the Word of God.**

Let's look at verse 3 again: Eve said “But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, **neither shall ye touch it**, lest ye die.”

**God did not say anything about touching the fruit of the forbidden tree.** Don't miss this. By adding the words, “neither shall ye touch it” she made it appear that God was unreasonable and stern. In other words, she is interpreting to the snake, “The fruit of the forbidden tree is so deadly to us that even if we touch it we will die!” God did not say this.

Eve's response in verse 3 was probably the same way a friend responds to “juicy” gossip. Satan knew he had a sympathizing new friend, all he had to do next is to deceive her into eating from the forbidden tree.

**Lesson:** Whenever you omit any truth from God's Word or add to it (human reasoning) in response to Satan's first phase of temptation, you are in doubt and now open for the deception. You will fail.

**In verse 3: At the very end of the sentence Eve also deleted another word from God's truth, “surely”.** God said “surely die” meaning die die. Die meaning cease to exist. The first die, the first death. The second die, the second death. Eve just says “die.” **What death was she referring to? She is now confused. Her confusion and conversation with a snake reveals to Satan that Eve was in full blown doubt of God's truth and really doesn't believe that she will actually die, cease to exist.**

At this point Satan knows her thinking is twisted and doubtful to God's truth so he is ready to pounce with an all out lie. Eve was set up for the world's first great deception that still exists today!

**What did Satan say to Eve next after she deleted “surely” from die?**

**Gen 3:4** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall **not** surely die:

Satan knew that Eve was now his friend that he can sympathize and talk to. In other words, “Girl, honey child, you are right, I agree with you, you will **not** surely die.” Or “you will not die die” This is in direct opposition to what God said. Satan insinuates that she will not really die, but maybe continue to live in another place. In other words, God is not really going to allow you to cease to exist. This is Satan's first great deception.

**Lesson:** Satan's temptation's always contradict God's truth! Don't yield.

Eve should have caught that straight up lie, right away, but she was spellbound by doubt of God's truth, she now she is easily deceived. Her discernment to detect lies was gone.

“Had Eve refrained from entering into argument with the tempter, she would have been safe; but she ventured to parley with him and fell a victim to his wiles. It is thus that many are still overcome. They doubt and argue concerning the requirements of God; and instead of obeying the divine commands, they accept human theories, which but disguise the devices of Satan.” GC 531

### **What were the final results?**

“He (Satan) declared that they would become like God, possessing greater wisdom than before and being capable of a higher state of existence. Eve yielded to temptation; and through her influence, Adam was led into sin. They accepted the words of the serpent, that God did not mean what He said; they distrusted their Creator and imagined that He was restricting their liberty and that they might obtain great wisdom and exaltation by transgressing His law. {GC 532.1}

Satan promised them great wisdom and freedom, but they already had great wisdom and freedom! Because of disobedience, Satan took away from Adam and Eve, what they already had.

### **What did God tell Adam will happen to him as a result of his sin?**

#### **Genesis 3:19**

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

God reveals here that Adam will die the “first death” and cease to exist by returning back to dust in which he was made. Is there any hint that he will live on in another place? No. Does God say that Adam will go straight to heaven after death? No.

### **Why were Adam and Eve kicked out of the garden of Eden after they sinned?**

#### **Genesis 3:22-24**

- 22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:
- 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.
- 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Food from the plants that God created sustains life, but the tree of life extends life. Without access to the tree of life ALL sinners will be subject to the first death, cease to exist!

**Only those who accept the plan of salvation of live in Christ are subject to the first death, but will not suffer the “second death” and will once again have access to the tree of life in heaven!**

#### **Revelation 22:2**

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

**Satan's first great deception of the immortality leads to false doctrine that is taught by the majority of the Christian world.**

- 1) All “Christians” go to straight to heaven right after death
- 2) All the wicked will to go hell after death and burn in hell and be tortured forever and ever
- 3) God will not destroy the wicked, but will accept the wicked into heaven

These are all lies that misrepresent the Word of God and the character of God! The first great deception is still successfully deceiving, but what does the Bible say?

### **What happens to a person when they die, both in the first and second death?**

Death is the opposite of life:

**Genesis 2:7**

7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

“Breath” (Hebrew) = n<sup>o</sup>shâmâh [*nesh-aw-maw'*] = a *puff*, that is, *wind*, angry or vital *breath*, divine *inspiration*, *intellect* or (concretely) an *animal*: - blast, (that) breath (-eth), inspiration, soul, spirit.

The Breath of Life that comes from God is not oxygen it is His breath that can only give life and vitality. It is the breath of life from God that sparks all the functions of the body into motion. It sparks the lungs to take in oxygen and the heart to pump the blood to sustain our life.

Form + Breath of God = Living person

Form – Breath of God = Dead person

**Psalms 146:4**

4 His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

Even though God's breath of life sparks life in us, it cannot be transferred to anybody else from us. Our breath sparked by God's of breath of life returns back to God at death. This not a disembodied ghost!

Breath that sustains our life is a different Hebrew word than the Breath of life that comes only from God that sparks life.

Breath (sparked by the Breath of Life – nesh-aw-maw) = rûach [*roo'-akh*] From [H7306](#); *wind*; by resemblance *breath*.

**Ecclesiastes 9:5, & 10**

5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any *thing* that is done under the sun.

10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

**Psalms 115:17**

17 The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

**Satan's first great deception that thou shalt not surely die, or die die or immortality of the soul has been carried throughout the centuries not only through pagan and false religions but greatly through professed Christianity.**

A great minority of ministers and professed Christian still believe Satan lie that the death are not really dead. They believe that they are in heaven singing with the angels or in hell burning forever throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. In other words, they really don't believe in death, they believe in natural immortality of the soul. They believe that will not suffer death nor subject to death, even though that is in direct opposition to the word of God!

**Acts 2:29**

29 Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

**Acts 2:34**

34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

### **Do humans have natural immortality?**

No. Only God is immortal, not subject to die the first or second death! Satan and his demons are not immortal. They will be destroyed with hell fire in the very end.

### **1 Timothy 6:15-16**

- 15 Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;  
 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.

### **Who did Jesus promise eternal life to?**

#### **John 3:16**

- 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Only the righteous true believers in Christ will receive eternal life, immortality.

### **When will the righteous receive eternal life or immortality?**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:51-54**

- 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,  
 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.  
 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.  
 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

**If those were taken to heaven after death, why would Jesus need to come back to earth a second time? But what does the Bible say?**

#### **John 14:1-3**

- 1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.  
 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.  
 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there ye may be also*.

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**

- 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:  
 17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.  
 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The dead in Christ are raised to life at the second coming. They are not in heaven before that time.

**Does God promise immortality or eternal life in any form to those who reject Jesus and remain in sin?** No!

#### **John 3:18**

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

God does not offer the wick eternal life or immortality after death in any form either in heaven or hell. The condemnation or punishment for the wicked is hell fire, the second death!

### **Will any of the wicked go to heaven?**

#### **Ephesians 5:5**

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Why will God force the wicked to heaven when sin hates God and His law. The wicked will hate heaven because it will not be pleasing to their wicked character. Out of love God will destroy all the wicked.

### **Will God destroy sin and the wicked who hold on to sin?**

#### **Malachi 4:1**

1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

#### **Revelation 19:20**

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

#### **Revelation 20:15**

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

### **What is God's main message now?**

#### **Ezekiel 33:11**

11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

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