

Garden of Eden Part 4: The Serpent (Presented on 6/17/2017)

The following text is based on a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Smcgn9hMrM&t=54s>

***Portions of this sermon message have been edited to better transcribe the message. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in red. Therefore, it is recommended that this document be printed in color.**

We are in week 4 of our series The Garden of Eden. We were in chapter 2 last week and are going to break into chapter 3 today. What is interesting about this week is that we get introduced to a character. We are going to find out that Adam and Eve were not alone in the garden. There is someone else present, and we are going to find out who that is right away in Genesis 3:1—**Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.** We are not going to get very far today because we are really going to dig into this—there is an unbelievable amount of prophetic mystery embedded in this text.

The first thing I want to do is identify the serpent. I want to identify who this serpent is. Over the years people have come to me with amazing creativity in thought about who the serpent is. They have ideas such as the serpent was literally a snake and was in the garden at that time. That would mean that snakes could talk which is an interesting perspective. Well, today we're going to hammer this down. We're going to identify who the serpent is. I am going to tell you right now that when you recognize who the serpent is, the truth of who he is, it's going to totally change what you take away from this series. It is going to change your life because it is applicable today, and you're going to see that.

The next thing I want to do is dig into the Hebrew. In the Hebrew, the word serpent is שׁוּרָן, *nachash*. There's no divine revelation here; *nachash* simply means snake or serpent.

Here's what's interesting: that's not all it means. It has another definition. The tricky thing about it is that because of the way the Strong's is organized, whether in the Strong's, Blue Letter Bible, or whatever you use, what you will find when you pull up the word "serpent" (H5175) is the definition for שׁוּרָן, *nachash*, which is just serpent.

Unfortunately, there are times when the same Hebrew word has another meaning. So if you are just using Strong's, you will miss this. Here is the other definition for "serpent" from Strong's H5172: to hiss, whisper a (magic) spell: generally to prognosticate: divine, enchanter.

This is what *nachash* is in the Hebrew. *Nachash* is someone who literally embraces witchcraft or sorcery to accomplish their goals. This is what they do.

Here is something interesting: There are three guys who all came out of Satanism, the occult, who all have the identical testimony. What drew them into the occult was the power. They all wanted the power and ability to influence the affairs of mankind according to their own will. That is *nachash*; that is someone going out to cast a spell, to impose his will, upon the people. One of the men's testimony was

that he loved to cast curses upon people; he loved to put curses on Christians. This is what he wanted to do. He wanted power, control, and manipulation.

This is what is being described when we look at the serpent. Don't look at it as just a serpent. This is *nachash*, a divine or an enchanter. That's what's being conveyed here.

I want to take this a step further so that it has been clarified beyond a shadow of a doubt. I want to identify who this serpent is and crystallize this. In Revelation 12:7, this is what we read—⁷ **And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old.** When you look at this word “old” in the Greek, it's ἀρχαῖος, *archaios*. The stem of that word means ancient or old. The stem of the word means one thing: beginning. That is what the Apostle John, who wrote Revelation, meant when he said—**In the beginning was the Word.**

This word *archē* takes you back to the beginning. So when you look at this in the Greek, the serpent of old, or *archē*, you find that John is taking us back to one place: to the beginning. We need to go back to the Garden of Eden. Do you see how he utilizes the term “serpent?” It is interesting how the beginning of the Bible begins with the serpent, and when we get to the very end of the Bible, that title comes back again. That kind of takes you back to the fact that the Lord does declare the end from the beginning.

Let's look at the serpent from the beginning; who is he? As we continue in Revelation 12:9, we find this—[he is] **called the Devil and Satan.** This is who he is.

Most people, as they get into Genesis 3:1, look at this and insist that this was a literal snake because Scripture states that he was more cunning than the beasts of the field; therefore, it has to be literal. However, we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the serpent is the Devil. And one thing I know scripturally is that he was not a literal snake. Read Ezekiel 28:14; what does that say? It says— **You were the anointed cherub who covers [the Mercy Seat].** Have you ever seen the Ark of the Covenant and the true Cherub, the true angels, covering it? Satan was one of them. Do you want to know why Satan was the most beautiful angel and why he had such glory and wisdom? Because he was covering the Throne of God; God's glory was emanating to him first. That is powerful! This is who we're dealing with. Satan is not literally a snake; there is more at play here. As we get into this further, you're going to see this.

I want to point something out here before we leave this passage: we have talked about the serpent of old, and that he is the Devil; he is Satan. One characteristic is given here that's attached to the serpent: he deceives the whole world.

Think about this: he's a liar, he's a thief, and he's a murderer. He has a lot of attributes we could talk about, but there's one particular attribute that is associated with the title *nachash*: deception. Why? Because he casts his spells.

With that said, see if anything looks familiar here as we go back to Genesis 3:1—**Now the serpent was more cunning.** The very first attribute mentioned in Scripture regarding HaSatan is his deception. Now look at what it says—**the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field.** This is getting back to what I was saying: this is why people seem to think that Satan has to be a literal snake because he is associated with the beasts.

Well, I will tell you there is no question in regard to the word *nachash*, and you need to pick up on it. *Nachash* is directly associated with the beasts here; there is a relationship. But notice this relationship has a particular dynamic: the serpent is elevated above the beasts. This is the dynamic of the relationship: he's more cunning than the beasts, so he's given a position of elevation.

Why does this fascinate me? It fascinates me because of the coincidence we find when we go to Revelation: we find the very same relationship being described. Let me take you to Revelation 13:2—**Now the beast**. Isn't that interesting? We began in Genesis talking about beasts, and how do we end? With Scripture talking about beasts.

I want to be clear on something as you look at Revelation 13:2. It is not one beast; it is in the plural. There are multiple beasts mentioned. The one being mentioned is the first beast in the singular; however, there are multiple beasts because the word that is stated is in the plural.

Continuing from the beginning of Revelation 13:2—**Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power**. The dynamic of the relationship is such that the Devil is higher than the beasts; they serve Him. This is the relationship.

Continuing in Revelation 13:2-4—**The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast**. So they worshiped the dragon who we know is *nachash*, the serpent, who gave authority to the beast (there's that relationship)—**⁴ So they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"**

So, we notice that there is an absolute direct link between the serpent and the beast. But what I want you to further understand is that it is in the particular context of what? War. There is a war over worship. If you understand anything, understand that this battle is about worship; the battle is over the souls of people. This is what we see; this has always been the story.

Go back to the Garden of Eden. Try to understand what is at stake. What is happening in Genesis 3 is a battle for the souls of humanity. The Devil wants one thing: he wants to be worshipped.

Think about Matthew 4 when Satan comes against Yeshua. They are battling by using Scripture, and Satan tells Yeshua— **All these things [kingdoms] I will give You if You will fall down and worship me (Matthew 4:9)**. It's what he wants; that's his desire.

Let me take this a step further. When we jump to Revelation 13:15, we discover that all the people who worship the Devil receive something. It is something that we call today the mark of the beast. And this association of the worship of the beast and the mark of the beast needs to be noted, so I want to jump ahead to Revelation 13:15—**He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed**.

There is something that I want you to pick up on here. Most of us read this and all we're thinking about is that people are being killed. What I want you to notice is that when we flip this around, we notice that the enemy, the Devil or serpent, has no power to take your heart.

Think about this for a second. Out of the heart comes worship. The Devil has no ability to force you to worship him. He can kill you in this life because you refused to worship him, but he doesn't have the ability to force you to worship him. It angers him, and you need to recognize this. Many people say that "The Devil made me do it." The Devil cannot force you to worship him. You have to willingly give your heart because the heart is the direct conduit to worship.

Now, John continues in Revelation 13:16—¹⁶ **He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads.** So the worship of the beast is explicitly tied to the mark of the beast in that if you choose to worship the beast you receive the mark. It's that simple. The mark is evidence of whom you follow, and it is literally put in a specific place. And one thing I can tell you is that every single person is marked. You either carry the mark of the beast, or you carry the mark of the Lord.

Now, because most people don't understand what the mark actually is, they believe that it is going to be imposed during the Tribulation alone and is something that's reserved for the Tribulation. That's not necessarily true, and I say that scripturally. The further we dig into this and talk about this the more you'll understand why it is that the people of today can accept the mark right now.

I want to challenge you with this before I show you: do you really believe that all the generations of evil people that have existed going back to Cain and moving forward, and all the people who are awaiting judgment are going to be cast into hell? Do you believe that of the sudden there is going to be judgment of all the evil and wicked people, but apparently there are going to be different classifications? So the people who are being cast into hell will have the mark of the beast, but this other group of people was just evil; therefore they will not be going to hell? We've got to start thinking logically here.

I want to go into what's going to happen: all the evil people are absolutely lumped together, and they're all going to the same place: Gehenna, or hell, where they are going to burn. And the reason is that they all had the mark of the beast.

I want to dig into this deeper, and what I want to show you begins with the mark of the Lord. When we look at Deuteronomy 6:4-6—**Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one!** ⁵ **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.** ⁶ **And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.** We know that most of you can recite this by memory because every Shabbat we say these words. What is the passage talking about? It is talking about the Torah; it's talking about the commandments of God. We just got out of Deuteronomy 5 where these Commandments that were given were personally heard by the Israelites with their own ears. Now we come to Deuteronomy 6:4-6, and we're told that we are to love the Lord and keep His Commandments. All the words that He has spoken, we are to do them. This was the Covenant. Go back and read what the Israelites said. They said that "All that the Lord has spoken we will do."

This is the Covenant, and these are the Commandments. This is what has been commanded to Israel. I want you to tie this together: love is directly associated on a biblical level to obedient. It is tied to God's Commandments. Yeshua said—**If you love Me, keep My Commandments (John 14:15).** Yeshua took that right from the Ten Commandments. Go home and read the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:6— **but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My Commandments.** Mercy is given to those who love Him with their whole heart, their whole mind, with all their strengths. But what does that look like? It is obedience to His Commandments.

Let me continue on in Deuteronomy 6:7-8—⁷ **You shall teach them** [the Commandments of God] **diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.** We are to be meditating on these things; we are to be saturated with the Commandments of God. They are supposed to be pouring out of us. This is what we are to talk about all day long. Think about what is being commanded here!

Continuing on—⁸ **You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.** This is the very place that we are told the mark of the beast will be: on the hand and on the forehead. It is interesting that the mark of the Lord goes on the very same places!

So you think about why that is. All of us will bear a mark. It is going to be on our hand and on our forehead.

But why would it be the hand or the forehead? Because the head is the meditation. We are either going to be children that meditate on His Word as we walk by the way, as we lie down, and as we rise dwelling on His goodness and praising Yeshua for what He has done for our sins—or we are not. We should be thankful in heart and not be complaining. This is the meditation of the righteous.

On the other side you have on the forehead the meditation of wickedness, bitterness, hatred, idolatry, covertness, immortality, lust, and pornography being played out in the mind. All of these things are being meditated on by the wicked. That's why Yeshua sends a scary warning that if a man even looks at a woman to lust, he has committed adultery. That is a breach of the Commandment of God. Ask yourself who you are following.

Then you look at the mark on the hand, and the hand represents the actual doing. **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves (James 1:22).** Paul says the same thing in Romans 2:13— **for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified.** This is the reality.

So here we see that the mark of the Lord and the mark of the beast go in the same place: on the hand and on the forehead. And whatever mark you receive, the mark of the beast or the mark of the Lord, that is the mark that testifies of whom you worship. This is explicitly tied to the Commandments of God or to the Commandments of the Devil. And we know that everything outside of the Commandments of God is a commandment of the Devil.

Look at Romans 6:16—**Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey.** Period! Do you want to know who you serve? Figure out who you obey. Do you obey the dictates of your own heart? Do you obey HaSatan, or *nachash*? If so, you're obeying the serpent. If you believe the Commandments of God, Yeshua is your master. He's your King. You are a slave to whom you obey!

This is the battle that rages; this is the battle that takes place over souls. It is all over the worship of the Lord. God desires His creation to worship Him. That's what we've been created for. The Devil, who wants to be God, wants the same thing, and he rose up to be God in God's place. The Devil is attempting to take as many souls as he can. This is what he desires.

Let me take you to Revelation 12:17—**And the dragon was enraged with the woman.** I'm going here for a little different reason. I want you to know who the dragon hates and who he has gone to. He has gone to the woman. Go back to the garden. Who did the serpent go to? The woman.

So, I am telling you this prophetic mystery: Eve is a representation of the bride of Yeshua, and that is very real. And there's a lot more to say about this, but we're not going to get into it today.

So, we continue on in the verse. We have the Devil coming to the woman, and then—**he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the Commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus [Messiah Yeshua] (Revelation 12:17).**

I want you to understand this: he despises the woman, the bride of Yeshua, who is specifically defined as keeping the Commandments of God and having the testimony of Yeshua. They believe the Father raised Him from the grave so that we can be forgiven and there can be atonement. These are the things that the Devil despises.

This should help put the story into context as we look at Genesis 3:1 because you don't get this by simply reading the story. You need to understand that the Devil presents himself very differently. Inside he is seething with raging hatred for the woman. He has come to steal, kill, and destroy her. This is what he has come to do.

Now getting back to our story in Genesis 3:1—**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'?"** Did you catch what Satan said? It is very important to point out that the first words ever recorded in Scripture by *nachash*, the adversary, was that. What does Scripture record as the very first statement by him? He calls the Commandments of God into question. He says—**Has God indeed said?** He is trying to put Eve back on her heels by suggesting, "You need to contemplate whether this really makes sense or not. Let's just think about this. Is it practical?" He is attempting to put Eve back on her heels to contemplate the legitimacy of the commandment. That is the first thing he does!

What does the Devil want? Worship. How does he get us to do that? By listening to him. That's how he gets the worship. He gets us to turn our backs on hearing the voice of God and instead listen to the voice of *nachash*.

We're in trouble if we listen to the voice of *nachash*. Every single attack from the adversary, and I promise you this, every single attack in your life that you experience from *nachash*, from the serpent, has required compromise on the Commandment of God. Every single time; every single attack!

And here's the frightening part: it's never presented as compromise. No, no, no! He does not come and say to you, "You know, you should really rebel against God; you should really turn your back on God." His approach is far too cunning; it's far too sophisticated. He knows his success would be nothing if that's how he's going to come to the Christians. He comes and presents a blessing. He has you believe that disobeying the commands of God is liberty; it is freedom. He has you believing that you are being set free from these commands.

He goes on and tells other lies, "This is necessary. Other people may not understand your situation, but it is necessary that you reject the commands of God. Yeah, it doesn't exactly line up with the Word, but

you don't have a choice.” That is one of the Devil's favorite lines. Or he tells it to you in your heart that you don't have a choice. He tells you that obedience is too hard, it's too oppressive, and it costs too much.

You think about that. How many of us have heard these lies? Every one of us here has heard these lies! Our adversary is so clever; he is so diabolical. I wish he would come as an enemy, but he doesn't. He comes as a friend.

Satan, *nachash*, comes as a friend; he comes as a solution to my problems. Whether it's drugs, alcohol, porn addiction, or whatever, he comes as a solution to my problems. The things that I'm struggling with, he's got the solution.

Remember what Paul told us in the 2 Corinthians 11:14-15—**For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light... his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness.** This is how he comes to us.

What does that mean? It means you better wake up, and you better immerse yourself in the Word of God because you're going to need it. You are going to need it because you are not going to see Satan coming. What you're going to see is a minister of righteousness. What you're going to see is an angel of light. You will see him as your friend and a solution to your problems.

Hebrews 4:12 says this—**For the word of God is living and powerful.** It has power! It is amazing to me when I hear the reason all of these people are drawn into the occult. They're drawn in because they want the power.

You want power? The Bible is the power you want. You don't want to jump on the other side of the tracks. You want to jump on God's side of the tracks and realize that every time you open the Bible there is great power against the enemy, the serpent, *nachash*. It gives us eyes to see and ears to hear; this is the voice of God. It will cast light on darkness.

I used to live in Florida when we were younger. When my dad got saved, he was in a rock-n-roll band making obscene amounts of money. Then he got saved and left the rock band. As a result, we were poorer than dirt. We lived in a cockroach infested shack that really wasn't fit for anyone to live in. What you didn't want to do is wake up at 2 o'clock in the morning to go to the bathroom and turn the light on. If you did, you would find the bathroom covered in cockroaches. It was terrible. But you couldn't see them at night. And I was just thinking about it: you don't want to turn the light on because you don't want to see them.

And I think about this since that time. I think about how the Devil is so crafty and maneuvers into our hearts and into our lives in order to get us to start practicing things we shouldn't be doing, looking at things we should be looking at, and hearing things we shouldn't be hearing. And we don't want to turn on the light.

So here's what happens when you go to the Word: the light gets turned on, and you see all of the demons move toward you, and you see all the plays of the Devil clearer than you can see right now. This is what happens.

So in Hebrews 4:12 we find this—**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner**

of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Even when your own heart is telling you that something sounds so good and it's so right, the only way you're going to know the truth is if you go to the Word. You need to filter everything through the Word. And I promise you it will refine those wrong intents with fire; it will wash them with the water of the Word. The only thing that comes out is pure truth in that there will be no sin; there will be no corruption. This is why we need the Word of God. This is why we need to immerse ourselves in the Word.

Continuing on in Genesis 3:2 we find that Eve is going to answer the Devil's question—**Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?** (Genesis 3:1) In verse 2, this is what we read—**And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, [meaning the Tree of the Wisdom of Knowledge] God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'** "

This is awesome! Eve just responded to the Devil who was trying to put her on her heels by calling into question the commandment of God. She comes out with Scripture literally quoting the Word of God. How else would you describe it? She is quoting Scripture; she is quoting the Words of the Lord to Satan. And so much so that she doesn't leave out the warning. She even reminds Satan that the Lord also told us—**'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'** "

Well, how does the Devil respond to this? You're going to notice that the Devil just doesn't run off all scared and frightened saying, "Oh no! She quoted Scripture to me." Turn back to Matthew 4; when Yeshua quoted Scripture to the Devil, the Devil came right back; and he came back again, and Yeshua kept fighting him with the Torah.

So what I'm saying is that as Christians there are times when we get into the realm that we just think we're so powerful and this is just wonderful. And the reality is we think like this, "You know Devil, I got an appointment today. So here's the deal: if you could attack me from 2 o'clock to 5 o'clock, go ahead because I'll be prepared; I am prayed up. I'm going to be ready for you. But after that, that's enough. That's it. I don't have time for this, and I just don't want to deal with it."

I'm going to tell you right now that he is going to be relentless against you whether you want to acknowledge it or not. This is war! What happened in the garden is war; what happens in our life is war. He is going to come at you, and you're going to have to resist him time and time again. And you're going to have to learn how to fight. We don't want to fight because we're lazy.

How do I know this? I know because I don't want to fight because I'm lazy. I'm tired; I'm exhausted of fighting a spiritual war. I'm going to tell you right now that I'm fried. I am totally burnt out. That's why — **he who endures to the end will be saved (Matthew 10:22)**. He is talking about the perseverance of the Saints. The Devil is trying to wear out the Saints. This is the reality.

So, as we continue in Genesis 3:4-5, I want to make special note of how the Devil responds here because he's going to go in for the kill. This is a kill shot. Verse 4-5—**Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ 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."** Do you see what Satan just did? He is a very clever adversary. He just went in and removed the fear of God by saying—**you will surely not die**. He totally strips the fear out of the equation, "Eve, there will be no consequence. Don't worry about that. I know God said that the penalty will be death, but it's just not true. It's OK."

I'm going to tell you right now that the life blood of your protection, to keep you from sinning, is the fear of God. You need that fear; it is not optional. Look at what Proverbs 16:6 says—**In mercy and truth, atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the LORD, one departs from evil.** That's how we depart from evil. We need the fear of the Living God.

Let me ask you a question: if you are *nachash*, the serpent, and you want to go after the Church, how might you do that? What might be your strategy? Could it be the same strategy that we saw used against Eve in the garden? Yes! Satan is going to go into the Church, and he's going to remove the fear of God. I challenge you to look at modern-day Christianity. What do you see? That is exactly what has happened. Satan has brought in angels of light; he has brought in ministers of righteousness, and they through love, liberty, and grace have removed the fear of God out of the Church and have told the Church that you—**will surely not die.**

These days we find that there are no consequences for not listening to the Torah. They will tell you that it is actually a blessing because the Torah is a curse. They state that we are under grace; we have liberty with freedom from the Law of God; therefore, stay away from the Torah.

People, the Church needs the fear of God. The question is how? By the fear of the Lord one departs from evil. So how do I get that? How do I achieve this fear? If it's so instrumental, the bullet-proof vest; and the life blood, how do we get it?

We can find that answer in Deuteronomy 31:10—**And Moses commanded them, saying: "At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, ¹¹ when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.**

Every seven years, everyone, including the strangers, the little children, the wives, and the sisters, everyone was to go up at the end of seven years for one purpose: to hear the Torah. Listen what it goes on to say—**Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully observe all the words of this law (Deuteronomy 31:12).** How do we get the fear of the Lord? Start reading His Torah. If you start reading the Torah, I promise you that fear will not be a problem.

Do you now understand why Satan would want to come in and take the Torah away from the Church and to take the Law out the Church? There's no mystery here. This is strategy, this is calculated, and this is deadly. This is exactly what is happening in the Garden of Eden: strip the Law and there is no fear. And at that point you will buy the lie—**you surely will not die.**

Isaiah says in 8:20—**To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.** So when these angels of light and these ministers of righteousness are coming to you, if they're not preaching the fear of the Lord or encouraging you to keep the Commandments of God, they're not preaching Jesus. If they are not doing those things, they are "preaching another Jesus," as Paul would say; they are preaching another gospel that is completely foreign to the Bible.

Yeshua warned us to be aware of the false prophets; all his disciples warned us to be aware that they would come to us in sheep's clothing. They don't come to us as wolves; they come to us as ministers of

righteousness. And Paul says they will not spare the flock. They will kill everyone in their path; there is no mercy; in the war that we are in, there is no mercy.

Jeremiah 23:16—**Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD. (The Bible is the mouth of the Lord. So when somebody tells me that three quarters of it is gone, I have a problem. I'm not going to listen to them.) ¹⁷They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The Lord has said, "You shall have peace" '; and to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'** "

Does this sound familiar? It sounds just like what the serpent said—**you shall surely not die (Genesis 3:4)**. And all these ministers who campaign as ministers of righteousness who are false prophets, these are people trying to play off as prophets of God and as teachers of God. They will tell you that even though you walk away from God's commands, it is OK because you're going to have peace. They tell you that no evil is going to come on you—**you will surely not die**.

Do you know what the definition of a false prophet is? The Bible gives this definition as you get later on into Jeremiah 29. A false prophet does what his master has done to Eve: he gets you to trust in a lie. Think about that. He gets you to trust the lie. That's why I'm saying that all these sins that we're dealing with in our lives have got to be exposed. You have to expose them.

And the other thing we notice in Jeremiah 29 is that they teach rebellion against the Lord. So it's not just trusting in the lie, they teach rebellion against God. They teach that you should not listen to the Word of God and don't listen to the Torah because that's evil. Pick your poison. Whatever sin you're dealing with, the Devil has sold it to you.

Going back to Genesis 3:4—**Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ 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."** When you look at Satan's approach here, the first thing he did was to call into question the commandment of God. The second thing he did was strip out the fear. He does the third thing here, and when you look at it, this one is diabolical. What does He tell Eve? **You will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

How scary is that? What he did is that he just told the absolute truth. How is that possible? Because we know that when Adam and Eve fell, what was the response of the Lord—**Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil (Genesis 3:22)**. The Devil told the truth.

Now this is really scary because when you go back to Genesis 3:4, you notice that you have a lie—**You will not surely die**, and then you have the truth—**you will be like God knowing good and evil**. What did Satan just do? He just took a lie and wrapped it in truth.

And this is his mode of operation. This is what he does. He tells you the lie that the Law has been done away with; then he tells you the truth—because Christ died for you he fulfilled it. Therefore, you don't have to obey it.

He takes a filthy lie, and he wraps it in a beautiful truth, and he will package it beautifully. This is what he does.

What does Peter talk about in 1 Peter 2:15-16? He talks about the wicked men who would come on the scene, and they would use liberty as a cloak for wickedness. These false prophets and teachers literally taking liberty and freedom and cloaking it over wickedness. This is what they do. It is very scary stuff.

What does John say in his Gospel of John? **No lie is of the truth (John 8:44).**

So the Devil has formulated some very seductive and very believable arguments. Especially in these days with what we see him doing with the Church. Because of that, I am going to advise you at this time that you need to get into the Word of God. It's time you get off of the internet and start reading the Word.

I have never seen so much utter confusion in my life. I couldn't even imagine this in my wildest imagination what the internet has done. It just blows me away.

People will say, "Well, Daniel, Corner Fringe is on the internet, and that is very helpful." That is great, but if it comes to you being sucked into the internet all day long, and that's how you're getting fed, get off. Stop watching Corner Fringe, and read the Bible. This is what we're called to do, and that's my purpose in ministry. I'd rather have you turn the internet off and get into the Word because the confusion that the Devil is actually creating here is mind-boggling.

People do not know up from down. I don't know how else to say it.

We're going to close on that.