

THE SABBATH SCOOP

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The Consequences of Adam & Eve's Sin

Every decision and every action has consequences. What was the result of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit?

By Gregory Dullum

Adam and Eve gave up a perfect existence in a perfect place with a perfect relationship with God because Satan was able to deceive Eve, and she was able to convince Adam to sin along with her.

Sin Has Consequences

Every decision we humans make—every action we take—has consequences. That's why Christ taught us to "count the cost" (Luke 14:28).

Sin (disobedience to God's instructions) has consequences. *Ultimately*, it leads to DEATH. This has been revealed several times in the Bible. God told Adam, "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gen. 2:17). God tells all of us through the prophet Ezekiel, "The soul who sins shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). Paul was inspired by God to write in the New Testament, "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

Death is not the ONLY consequence. God created everything, and He established laws to govern how things work. When we live according to God's laws, things work well for us, because we are in harmony with the way things were intended to work. When we disobey God's laws, we run contrary to the way things were intended to work, and we suffer consequences that result from doing things wrong.

Pounding a nail into a board with a hammer works because that is doing things the way they were intended. Trying to pound a nail into a board with a screwdriver or a pliers may be possible, but it's much harder to do; it takes more effort and strength; and could result in physical injury to you, damage to the tool, a bent nail and a dented board. And in the end, the nail may not stay in the board, so all that time and effort doing things wrong was wasted.

What consequences did Adam and



Drawing from Animals selected by Jim Harter

One result of Adam and Eve's sin was that the serpent was caused to travel on his belly and eat dust all his life.

Eve face for their sin of eating the forbidden fruit?

Besides facing the death penalty, their sins brought physical consequences. God pronounced their punishment, beginning with the serpent, for he was the instigator.

Consequences for the Serpent

"Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life" (Gen. 3:14).

The traditional view of this verse is this: Because Satan appeared in the form of a serpent, *all serpents* were cursed. Their legs (and wings if they had them) were removed and they were doomed to crawl on their bellies. "The ordinary view of the effect of the curse is, that by sudden and signal miracle the appearance and the gait of the serpent tribe were changed from what these were at first; that from originally walking erect, and being a model of grace and elegance in form, it was doomed to

creep in a prostrate attitude on the ground, and became a type of all that is odious, repulsive and low, so that it is now branded with infamy" (*A Commentary, Critical, Experimental and Practical on the Old and New Testaments* by Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset and David Brown, 1945, vol. 1, p. 56).

However, today's serpents are so *perfectly designed* and created that some people doubt that serpents ever had wings or legs. Also, serpents don't actually eat dust—they eat insects and small animals. They usually elevate their heads and are no more apt to swallow dust than any other animal (*ibid.*).

If indeed God chose to change the anatomy of all serpents following his curse, *He could have done so!* God does not do anything half way. He would have changed whatever needed changing in the creature's anatomy so it would fit into the ecological cycle of life. He would not have changed its anatomy in such a way that it could not survive and would then become extinct. In my mind, it's *very possible* that God made this physical change *as a reminder throughout history* of MAN'S FIRST SIN.

However, cursing *ONLY physical* serpents leaves the *real culprit* UNPUNISHED. It was not any old serpent of the field that deceived Eve. It was "that old serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world" (Rev. 12:9). How does this punishment apply to Satan? It applies if we take God's words *figuratively*.

"Just as going on the belly indicates lowness of rank in the scale of animal existence, and to bite or lick the dust is a common metaphor for the conquest and ignominious humility of a proud, presumptuous foe, so both these phrases are to be understood as intimating that Satan, from being originally an

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Adam and Eve

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‘angel of light,’ belonging to a higher order of intellectual beings, and formed for pure and exalted objects, would become a wretched creature, grovelling in the dust of the basest pursuits, and doomed to a condition of perpetual meanness and ignominy” (ibid., pp. 56-57).

God continued speaking to the serpent, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel” (Gen. 3:15).

There is a physical fulfillment of this curse, in that women (and many men) have a hatred and fear of snakes. The greater fulfillment is the ongoing conflict between Satan and the human race. The woman’s Seed (with a capital “S”) is referring to Jesus Christ. It is the first Messianic prophecy in the Bible. Once man had sinned, there was a need for a Savior to save man from his sins! Satan would “bruise Christ’s heel” by causing his human existence to end in crucifixion (Acts 2:36). That would NOT *put an end* to God’s Son born of woman; for He would rise triumphantly from the grave three days and nights later (Mat. 12:40). He would ultimately “bruise Satan’s head” by casting him into “a lake of fire” where he can no longer influence anyone and will be tormented forever (Rev. 20:10).

Consequences for Eve

God now turned to Eve and pronounced her punishment. “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you” (Gen. 3:16).

While animals seem to give birth with comparative ease, women usually give birth only through great pain (John 16:21). Modern medicine has alleviated much of that pain with epidurals and other numbing medication.

Eve was *already* SUBJECT to Adam, for she was created *as a helper* for him (Gen. 2:18). However, as a result of Eve’s sin, all the world became a cruel patriarchal society in which men rule with rods of iron and women are often not considered helpers but slaves. In many cultures today, wives are not considered people but property. This is a consequence of Eve’s sin.

Consequences for Adam

God now pronounced punishment upon Adam. Let us pay special attention to how God describes Adam’s sin: “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife,

and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’ ” (Gen. 3:17). Adam was NOT guilty of *listening to Satan*. He was guilty of *listening to his wife*. This is one more proof that Adam was NOT with Eve at the time she was deceived by the serpent.

Continuing, God said to Adam, “Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (vv. 17-19).

The curse was NOT placed upon man *himself*, but it was placed upon the ground *instead*, or “for his sake.” (Man was formed from the soil, so now all soil was cursed.)

No longer would paradise be man’s home, with every fruit and vegetable available free for the taking. His tending and keeping of the garden (Gen. 2:15) was easy duty compared to the struggles he would face in the world outside. Man would have to struggle hard to make his garden grow. He would have to endure the elements of extreme heat and cold, drought and floods. He would have to battle the agricultural enemies of weeds, thorns and thistles.

God’s Love Remained

God next performed the first animal sacrifice. He killed an animal and from its hide He made tunics for Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21). He didn’t hate these first two humans. In spite of their disobedience to Him, he lovingly provided high quality, leather clothing to replace their cheap and shoddily made fig leaf fashion.

Removal from the Garden

Next, the LORD God—the One who became Jesus Christ—had a conversation with the Being we know as the Father. The two of them discussed Adam and Eve’s fate: “Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’ —” (Gen. 3:22). The LORD God did not finish the thought because it was too horrible to put into words. Mankind living forever in this state of rebellion would be like having two more Satan the devils! This could not be allowed to happen. Mankind must be limited to a physical existence until he can learn the error of his ways, come to repentance and learn to live God’s way. This has been mankind’s struggle for 6,000 years.

God could not, at this point, let mankind become an eternal being, “there-

fore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and he placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life” (vv. 23-24). It is likely that the garden of Eden continued to exist, guarded by cherubim, until it was destroyed about 1,000 years later in Noah’s flood.

Why Satan Deceived Eve

Adam and Eve had everything going for them, and yet Satan was still able to deceive Eve, and through her, get both of them to sin.

Why did Satan DECEIVE Eve? To make her IGNORANT OF GOD’S WILL. He wanted her to *question God’s instruction* and develop in her own mind *reasons to disobey*. He uses that same process on most humans today, for he has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9).

God wants us to *know HIS WILL* (Acts 22:14), to *understand* it (Eph. 5:17) and to *do* it (Eph. 6:6). Jesus Christ set the example for us (John 4:34). If we do God’s will, we will live forever (1 John 2:17).

Defending Against Deception

What DEFENSE do we have against Satan deceiving us as he did Eve?

“Only the inspired Word of God can reveal and defeat the devil’s lies. You cannot reason with Satan, nor (as Eve discovered) can you even safely converse with him. Man’s wisdom is no match for Satan’s cunning. Our only defense is the inspired Word of God. It was this weapon that our Lord used when He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness [Mat. 4:1-11].

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228 O’Connell Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-3332

Editor

Gregory Dullum

Circulation Managers:

Craig Evans • Raleigh Collins
Ed Crook • Gregory Dullum

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Our Lord did not use his divine power to defeat Satan. He used the same weapon that is available to us today: the Word of God.... If you and I are going to defeat Satan's lies, we must depend upon the Word of God. This fact lays several responsibilities upon us.

"We must know God's Word. There is no reason why any believer should be ignorant of his Bible" (*The Strategy of Satan: How to Detect & Defeat Him* by Warren W. Wiersbe, 1979, pp. 15-17).

We all should own at least one Bible. Some churches and institutions give them away and some translations are available free online. It is possible to read the Bible in *many different* translations to get a FULLER understanding. And many *Bible helps* are available, including concordances, dictionaries and commentaries.

A deeper understanding of the Bible can be gained by listening to preachers on radio or television. Beware, however, that most churches of this world teach, in addition to the truth of the Bible, *their own set of traditions* inspired by Satan to deceive. One can't go wrong viewing telecasts produced by the true Church of God, such as "Beyond Today," which may be viewed on Ion cable and satellite networks Sunday mornings in the U.S.

Another help in understanding God's Word is material published by God's true church. There are numerous booklets, Bible Correspondence Course lessons, and magazines, such as *The Good News*, that are available free to all who request them (simply visit www.ucg.org).

Knowing God's Word is not enough. We also must also *memorize* it. "Our Lord did not have a concordance with him in the wilderness! He reached into the Books of Moses, selected Deuteronomy, and quoted three verses from that book to silence Satan" (Wiersbe, pp. 17-18). This is one reason we offer a memory verse every month in the *Sabbath Scoop*!

The author of Psalm 119 wrote, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (v. 11). This principle of memorizing God's Word is repeated in Ps. 37:31 and Ps. 40:8.

In addition to knowing God's Word and memorizing it, we must *meditate* on it (Josh. 1:8, Ps. 1:2). Concentrated thought helps us see how God's word applies to situations we face in life today.

Finally, we must *use* God's Word. Head knowledge is not enough. We must take action and *obey God's Word*. It's not enough to know that the seventh day is God's holy Sabbath. We must keep it holy! The more we obey and put into practice what we know, the *deeper* our understanding becomes, and the *more* God will reveal to us (John 14:26).

The Story of Man

By Gregory Dullum

A clod of dirt; a lump of clay
Was all God needed on that day
To form a man who looked like Him;
No life was yet within his skin.

On bended knee the Lord leaned o'er,
Took a deep breath, then took one more.
With lips pressed to the nose of man
The God exhaled; man's life began.

His chest began to rise and fall,
Blood flowed from heart throughout him all.
His eyelids fluttered; opened wide;
Man stared into God's face and sighed.

"Who are You?" asked the man, of God.
"Your Father, and of Me be awed.
"Almighty power is in My hand
"And with it I formed you from sand."

"And who am I?" the man then said.
"A lump of clay, no longer dead.
"In you I put a spark of life,
"And for your help I make a wife."

From Adam's rib God formed a mate;
One of his kind so he'd relate.
In married bliss their line began,
And from their loins came all of man.

But awe of God was not in man.
The serpent had another plan:
"Eat this fruit and you'll become
Like God, deciding right from wrong."

And over time all men forgot
Their origins—what God had wrought.

An accident— 'Big Bang' they say,
Began all that we see today.

Some simple cells in primal sea
In time evolved to you and me.
By claiming God is just a thought,
Man once had purpose—now has not.

But God won't always stay away;
He'll wake up man on judgment day.
And given then some time to change,
Man will repent—won't that be strange?

"Who are You?" they will ask of God.
"Your Father, and of Me be awed.
"Almighty power is in My hand,
"And with it I formed man from sand."

"And who are we?" they all will cry.
"A lump of clay, destined to die.
"Obey My laws and change your ways,
"And you will have no end of days."

And nearly all will learn God's way;
They'll learn to love, learn to obey.
And as they do, the dust will clear;
They'll understand God's plan is dear.

It will be plain for all to see
That we are all one family;
For God our Father, Christ His Son,
And all of us will all be one.

No longer dirt; no longer clay;
Bodies of spirit on that day.
That's why God's image mankind bore:
We'll be His fam'ly evermore!

For additional help against being deceived by Satan, see the accompanying article, "Be Not Deceived!" on page 5.

And finally, we all can take heart from a comment we made previously in this series. If Eve had not listened to the serpent in the first place, she would not have been deceived. Don't let Satan even *begin* a conversation in our minds! Don't *dwell on his temptations* to sin! **REJECT them before they take root!**

God inspired the apostle Paul to write explicitly, "nor give place to the devil" (Eph. 4:27). The margin in my Bible says "place" means "an opportunity." Don't give Satan an opportunity to deceive us! Give him an inch and he'll take a mile. Eve entered into conversation with him, and she lost—big time!

The apostle Peter was inspired by God to warn us about staying away from Satan! "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like

a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith" (1 Peter 5:8-9).

The apostle James adds, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:7-8). Satan won't hang around to deceive us if we resist him and draw near to God.

Adam and Eve had everything going for them, but Eve did not resist Satan. She allowed herself to enter into a conversation with him. She allowed Satan to influence her mind. And we all know the results.

We must not be too hard on Eve, for she was young (perhaps just hours or days old), and she did NOT have 6,000 years of human existence to examine or a Bible full of God's instructions to read!

We must learn from Adam and Eve's mistake. If we allow Satan to deceive us, what will be our excuse?

What Will We Do in the Millennium?

What will be the jobs and responsibilities of humans and resurrected spirit beings during the Millennium?

By Gregory Dullum

This month we'll observe the Feast of Tabernacles, a seven-day festival picturing the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth once He returns (Rev. 20:4).

Humans who survive will turn instruments of war into implements of agriculture (Isa. 2:4). They will clean up the mess and will make this planet ready to be home to billions of humans who will be brought back to physical life when the 1,000 years are finished (Isa. 54:3, 62:4; Ezek. 36:8-11, Rev. 20:5).

There will be awesome physical changes at that time. Deserts will bloom and all animals will become tame. Physical ailments will be healed. It will be an amazing time to live as a human (Isa. 35:1-7, 11:6-9).

Those who are baptized will NOT be humans—we'll be spirit beings (1 Cor. 15:50-52)! What will WE do in the Millennium?

No longer human, we will REIGN *with Christ*: "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4).

Over whom will we reign? As humans, we ranked below angels (Ps. 8:4-5). When we are resurrected, we will be part of the God family (Rom 8:15-17), and will rule over angels, judging them (1 Cor. 6:3).

We will also rule over the humans alive at that time. "Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?" (1 Cor. 6:2).

King David will rule over all 12 tribes of Israel (Jer. 30:9, Ezek. 34:23-24). Under him, the 12 apostles will rule over one tribe each (Mat. 19:28, Luke 22:29-30).

What about the rest of us? Some of us will rule individual *cities* as mayors, or *groups of cities* as governors (Luke 19:16-19). Others will rule *nations* (Rev. 2:26-27). We'll be MORE than *just* mayors, governors and kings. We will be "kings AND PRIESTS to our God; and we shall reign on the earth" (Rev. 5:10, emphasis added).

What did priests do? They were intermediaries between man and God. They taught the people God's laws and gave instructions from God to the people. Priests were coaches, counselors, mentors and teachers in spiritual matters. This will be *our role* in the Millennium!

Currently there are more than 6 billion people on this planet. That's a lot of people to rule. But not all will survive.

Considering just end-time Israel and Judah (U.S., British Commonwealth people and the Jews), there are indications only 1/10 will survive (Isa. 6:11-13,

Amos 5:2-3). The 500 million end-time Israelites and Jews will be reduced to about 50 million, who will be rescued from captivity at the start of the Millennium. "It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth" (Isa. 11:11-12).

This rescue of 50 million will be so much greater than the rescue of 3.5 million from Egypt in the first Exodus, people will forget the first one! "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that it will no more be said, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children from the land of Egypt,'" but, "The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from the lands where he had driven them." For I will bring them back to the land which I gave to their fathers" (Jer. 16:14-15).

When Christ rescues these people, there will be weeping (Jer. 31:8-9). Why? Some may weep for joy at being rescued. Some may weep for what they have lost. Others may weep because there are no words to express their feelings.

The humans who survive to live into the Millennium will have endured the WORST time *ever* (Mat. 24:21-22).

They will have endured famine (Rev. 6:5-6), pestilence (vv. 7-8, Rev. 16:2), war (Rev. 6:3-4), captivity and slavery (Lev. 26:33, Deut. 28:64-68), plus all of the horrific physical disasters just prior to Christ's return—great earthquakes (Rev. 6:12, 14, 8:5, 16:18-20); sun and moon darkened (Rev. 6:12, 8:12); stars falling (Rev. 6:13); a third of vegetation burned up (Rev. 8:7); the sea becoming blood, killing sea life and destroying a third of all ships (vv. 8-9, Rev. 16:3); fresh water being poisoned (Rev. 8:10-11, Rev. 16:4); intense heat (Rev. 16:9); great darkness (v. 10); and huge hail (v. 21).

It will be our job to comfort the mourners, explaining what happened and why.

We will teach the survivors God's way of life. How will we teach those who remain stubborn? Through blessings and cursings (Zech. 14:16-19). These people will still make choices. Satan will be bound, so our job will be easier (Rev. 20:1-2).

We will have *personal contact* as we show the survivors how to live correctly. "This is the way," we'll say to them, "Let's do it together" (Isa. 30:21). We will be able to read their thoughts and attitudes, which will be a big advantage.

Jesus Christ is gentle and patient as He teaches us his truth. He has set the example for us in how we will teach others.

We'll teach the survivors:

- Who and what is God?

- Who and what is the enemy? This will be particularly important near the end of the Millennium, prior to Satan being released for a short time (Rev. 20:3, 7).

- What happened? Most people will not have been in Jerusalem to see Christ return and the climax of world events.

It will be our job to help them develop their own relationships with the Father and Christ. It may be for them as it was for us when we were *first called*—a lot of questions; a burning desire to learn; a "first love" of the truth. We will answer their questions and point them toward God.

God says to them: "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people and I will be your God" (Ezek. 36:24-28).

As these humans repent, become baptized and learn God's way, they will join us as spirit-born sons of God!

Know Your Bible

By Charles Nenner

1. What is the 1st commandment?
2. What is the 4th commandment?
3. What is the 3rd commandment?
4. How many days did the Israelites march around Jericho before the walls fell?
5. The Israelites crossed the Jordan miraculously close to what city?

(Answers on page 6)

BE NOT DECEIVED!

Seven steps to avoid being deceived in these last days!

By Gregory Dullum

As we get closer to the return of Jesus Christ, one of the **GREATEST dangers** we face is becoming *deceived!* If Satan can trick us into believing a lie and *giving up* the TRUTH, he has won the battle!

When asked what would be the sign of his coming and of the end of this age, Jesus said, “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many” (Mat. 24:4-5). He added, “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.... For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Mat. 24:11, 24).

The Apostle Paul warned that many would fall away before Christ returns: “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed” (2 Thes. 2:3).

Becoming deceived is a *very real* POSSIBILITY! The command, “Be not deceived” is repeated *many times* in the Bible. Our very nature lends itself to being deceived: “The heart is *deceitful* above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9, emphasis added).

How can we avoid becoming deceived? The Bible gives us seven steps to take.

1. Pray that we be not deceived. Ask God to PROTECT US from deception. David prayed thus and God heard him: “In my distress I cried to the LORD, and He heard me; Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue” (Ps. 120: 1-2).

2. Stay close to God through obedience, prayer and Bible study. “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:7-8).

We are told to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thes. 5:17).

The Bereans were praised because they “received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17: 11). Timothy was told to “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (1 Tim. 2:15).

3. Stir up God’s spirit in us. God has given us a spirit of power and love and of a SOUND MIND. Stir up that power—use it (2 Tim. 1:6-7)! The spirit of TRUTH (John 14:17) will lead us into all TRUTH (John 16:13)—it will not lead us into deception. Stirring up the spirit helps us to fight de-

ception!

4. Cling to truth we have been taught. Jude commands us to: “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). Paul commands, “Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or by epistle” (2 Thes. 2:15).

5. Avoid false teachings. There is no need to fill our minds with the teachings of deceptive false prophets. Paul tells us, “But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned” (Titus 3:9-10).

We are further told, “shun profane and vain babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness” (2 Tim. 2:16).

We are commanded to avoid false teachers who arise *within* the church: “But we command you, brethren, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us” (2 Thes. 3:6).

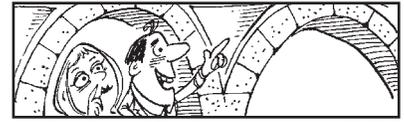
6. Love the truth. A great false prophet will come before Christ returns and “will deceive many” (2 Thes. 2:3). This man will use signs and lying wonders: “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them a strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thes. 2:9-12).

To avoid being sucked in by deception, we must LOVE the truth, BELIEVE the truth, and *take no pleasure in unrighteousness* (sin or disobedience to God).

7. Recognize false prophets. Many people will believe in false prophets if their *prophecies come true* or if they perform miracles, thinking these are PROOFS that God is working through them. God gives us the true test: FALSE prophets will lead people AWAY from obeying Him. They will preach ANOTHER GOD or they will teach that God’s law no longer needs to be kept (Deut. 13:1-5). If they preach *against* God’s law, DON’T BELIEVE THEM!

Practice these seven principles and it will be very difficult to be deceived!

Fun Fact



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS

The triangular area between two adjacent arches is called a spandrel.

Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

Fighting the Flying Circus by Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker, Lakeside Press, 1997, pp. 24-25.

Beware of Traps

“I passed just north of St. Mihiel, and within a minute after the Archy [ant-aircraft guns] began firing at me I sighted an enemy plane just ahead. I was coming at him from the rear, for I had decided it would be a brilliant idea to... catch the enemy from a quarter that might be unsuspected. It had worked perfectly, though I couldn’t understand why he had been so blind as to let the black bursts of shellfire around me pass unnoticed. But still he sat there with apparently no intention of trying to get away. I began to get nervous with the idea that this was almost too much of a good thing....

“Suddenly I remembered the often-repeated instructions of Major Luftbery about attacking enemy observation machines. ‘Always remember it may be a trap!’ I hurriedly looked over my shoulder—and just in time! There, coming out of a cloud over my head, was a beautiful black Albatros fighting machine that had been hiding about, waiting for me to walk into his trap. I gave one pull to my joystick and zoomed straight upward on my tail without giving a second thought to my easy victim below me.”

Job 18:5, 8-10; Ps. 119:110; Jer. 5:26

Quotable Quotes

“Winning is not everything—but making the effort to win is.”

—Vince Lombardi

Memory Scripture

“...For dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”

—Gen. 3:19

Which Day Is the Last Great Day?

By Gregory Dullum

The Feast of Tabernacles lasts *seven* days. It begins with a holy day, but the other six days are *not holy* (Lev. 23:34-36a, 39, 41). Immediately after the seventh day is a separate Feast. It is a holy day. Although *SEPARATE* from the Feast of Tabernacles, *it is associated with it*, for it is called “the eighth day” (v. 36b).

The Apostle John mentions a “last great day”: “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink’ ” (John 7:37). What day was this? Some believe it was the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles, because the Jews had a water ceremony that concluded then. Others believe this was the eighth day.

I believe John was referring to the eighth day for the following reasons:

1. It was the *LAST* day. While it is true that the eighth day is a separate Feast, it immediately follows the seventh. People keeping the Feast of Tabernacles don’t leave after the seventh day. They remain to keep the eighth day as well. For all practical purposes, the eighth day is the last day.

2. The seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles is *not* GREAT. It is not even a holy day. The eighth day *is* GREAT because it is *holy* and it *pictures the culmination of God’s plan of salvation*—a time when all humanity who had never known God will be brought back to human life and given an opportunity to live God’s way (see Ezekiel 37).

3. Christ’s reference to thirst and coming to Him carried just as much impact on the eighth day as it would on the seventh. It probably was made shortly after sunset as the eighth day began, for everyone went home after He spoke, and returned to the temple early the next morning for more eighth-day celebration (John 7:53-8:2).

4. All of my commentaries claim this was the eighth day, including Jamieson, Fausset and Brown’s (vol. v, p. 396); *The New Bible Commentary*, F. Davidson, ed. (p. 880); *A Commentary on the Holy Bible*, J.R. Dummelow, ed., p. 788; and *The Abingdon Bible Commentary*, Frederick Eiselen, Edwin Lewis and David Downey, eds., p. 1076. The eighth day is supported also by *The New Unger’s Bible Handbook* by Merrill F. Unger, p. 428.

Know Your Bible Answers

1) You shall have no other gods. 2) Keep the Sabbath holy. 3) Do not take God’s name in vain. 4) Seven days. 5) Jericho.



Britain May Leave E.U.

There is a movement in Britain to break away from the European Union: “...as Scotland nears its vote on whether to be an independent nation, bankers here [London] worry that a split might unintentionally set in motion a push for what could be a much uglier divorce: an exit of Britain from the European Union....

“‘Certainly the more important of the two is the potential of Britain leaving the E.U.,” said Brian Hilliars, the chief British economist at Société Générale in London....

“Prime Minister David Cameron, responding to calls from the right, including members of his own party, to get out of the European Union has agreed to hold a referendum in 2017 on Britain’s membership in the union....

“Nigel Farage, the head of the U.K. Independence Party, or UKIP, has made the strongest case for leaving the European Union. He contends that Britain has sacrificed its independence to European bureaucrats who have let in a flood of immigrants and stolen the reins of power. Beyond UKIP, there is a sense that Britain has lost its way.

“‘It’s the loss of sovereignty, which is embedded deep in the British psyche,’ Mr. Bishop said. ‘It is the loss of empire and influence that is still nagging.’...

“Under the Lisbon Treaty, any member can exit the European Union. Britain could depart whenever it wanted, but if it did so without a negotiated agreement, it would still be subject to the terms of other European treaties for two years after the date of announcing its intention to leave” (“If Scotland Goes, Then Britain Too?” by Jenny Anderson, *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com, Sept. 11, 2014, pp. 1-4).

In the last days there will be a 10-king union that is a revival of the Holy Roman Empire (Dan. 2:40-44, Rev. 17:10, 12-14). If that union comes from the E.U., Britain will not be part of that union, for Britain’s future holds national captivity as punishment for her sins (Lev. 26:27, 31-35). She, like the United States and other English-speaking people, are *descendants* of JOSEPH, who will *once again be sent into slavery* (Gen. 37:12-28).

Quake Hits Napa Valley

“The San Francisco Bay Area’s strongest earthquake in 25 years struck the heart of California’s wine country early Sunday [Aug. 24], igniting gas-fed fires, damaging some of the region’s famed wineries and historic buildings, and sending more than 120 people to hospitals.

“The magnitude-6.0 quake, centered near Napa,...struck at 3:20 a.m.” (“Strong California quake causes injuries, damage” by Ellen Knickmeyer [Associated Press], *Southeast Missourian*, Aug. 25, 2014, p. 1A). “Earthquakes in various places” are a sign we are nearing the return of Christ (Mat. 24:3, 7-8).

Ukraine Says: ‘Stop Russia’

“Accusing Russia of waging a campaign of ‘military aggression and terror’ against his country, President Petro O. Poroshenko of Ukraine told European leaders here on Saturday [Aug. 30] that their own countries’ security depended on stopping Russian troops from stoking a conflict in eastern Ukraine that he said could escalate into a wider war” (“Ukraine’s President Says Europe’s Security Depends on Stopping Russia” by Andrew Higgins and Neil MacFarquhar, *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com, Aug. 30, 2014, p. 1).

“Wars and rumors of wars” are a sign that Christ’s return is near (Mat. 24:3, 6). Trouble between Europe and Russia may be setting the stage for an end-time conflict between the king of the North [Europe] and kings from the east [Russia and Asia] (Dan. 11:40-44, Rev. 16:12-16).

Ebola Could Strike 20,000

“The World Health Organization said on Thursday [Aug. 28] that the Ebola epidemic was still accelerating and could afflict more than 20,000 people—almost seven times the current number of reported cases—before it could be brought under control” (“Ebola Could Strike 20,000, World Health Agency Says” by Nick Cumming-Bruce and Alan Cowell, *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com, Aug. 28, 2014, p. 1).

“Pestilences” are one sign we are nearing Christ’s return (Mat. 24:3, 7-8).