

June 2006

Eve's Lust

“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” James 4:6

Intro:

From the beginning of the Bible to its final revelation there is one theme that stands throughout it and that is the matter of authority and Bible Doctrine. The Apostle James tells us that God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. He commands us to submit to the authority of God and to resist the devil. *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7*

When the Apostle Peter was dealing with pride among the believers in the local churches, and more specifically to the younger men in the congregations, he told them the same thing about God being opposed to the proud, but giving grace to the humble. *“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5* He also commanded them to submit to the authority of God, *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:” 1 Peter 5:6*

When Jesus Christ, the second member of the Godhead incarnated into human form, he came to earth as a man and lived his entire life being in subjection to the authority of God the Father and was obedient to the Father even unto death. *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Philippians 2:8* And we note also that God promoted or exalted him because of this submission to authority. *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:” Philippians 2:9*

In our study we want to go back to the very beginning where the issue of humility and authority was first established by God and how the original couple failed in this area. When we talk about the Garden of Eden we are usually distracted mentally by other things going on there, so much so, that we miss the point of it all, in fact, we miss the most important points!

We think about the man and the woman and how perfect they were, and what they must have looked like, and what their relationship with each other was like. We think about all the animals that were there and what they were like. And what is must have been to live in a perfect environment, and where this place must have been. (It was in Aden in north Africa in case you're interested). We think about what the serpent must have looked like and so many other things. And in so doing we have missed the most important points and they are: the man and woman's fellowship with God in the spiritual life made possible through faith in Bible Doctrine and the matter of authority.

A. The authority of the man.

“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” Genesis 3:16

1. To the woman he said,

*"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;
with pain you will give birth to children.
Your “**desire**” will be for your husband,
and he will **rule** over you.” Genesis 3:16*

The second translation we have here is from the NIV which more accurately brings out the grammar of the original Hebrew. By the use of indenting the passage we know that we are dealing with a poetical construction. It also brings out the fact that there are four lines in the passage instead of just the narrative running along.

And what we end up with in verse sixteen is an hendiadys with the first two lines being in synonymous parallelism and the last two lines being in antithetical parallelism. **I cannot emphasize how important this is!** There is no way that we can accurately translate the Hebrew using a word for word translation. The complexities of the grammar demand a more freer translation, even utilizing many sermons on the passage!

The grammatical construction of the use of a hendiadys changes the translation around into something altogether different and it gives us the true insight into what was going on in the garden with Adam, Eve and the serpent.

Before we get into the translation of the passage of what Eve did, and what was going on in her mind before she sinned against God, and its application in life, we need to see what a hendiadys is all about. For in understanding the curse God put on the woman we will find out **that Eve was lusting for control of the marriage!**

Hendiadys means one by way of two, or one from two. It meant two words employed, but only one thing, or one idea, intended. One of the two words expresses the thing, and the other intensifies it. The figure is truly Oriental and it takes the first word, if in synonymous parallelism, to establish the meaning, and if a noun is used it takes the word in the second line and changes it into an adjective of the superlative degree.

So in the first two lines, which are in synonymous parallelism, we have *"I will greatly increase your **pains** in childbearing; with (even greater) **pain** you will give birth to children."* The word pain is found in both lines. In the first line we have a reference to pain involved in being pregnant. And in the second line we have a greatly intensified pain in childbirth. Now we are all familiar with the concept in this passage, as every woman knows. But it's the next two lines that change everything for us as to what was going on with Eve in the garden, and still is going on today with the women.

2. Your *desire* will be for your husband,
and he will **rule** over you.

Now we know what the word rule is, *mashal*, and it meant to rule over someone with the power of a king or some ruler in authority. But what does the word **desire** mean? It simply refers to a desire, but it doesn't tell us **what kind** of desire!

Now we all have thought it refers to sexual desire, or love, or longing, or something along that line. But we have all missed the mark! What we have done is add our own idea of what kind of desire is being mentioned into the text! And that's where the grammatical construction of the hendiadys comes in to tell us exactly what this word desire means. We do know that *desire* is *teshuqah* and it meant to **lust**, a very strong word used in Genesis 4:7, “*If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.*”

Because the first line, “*your **desire** will be for your husband*” omits the nature of **the kind of desire** being mentioned; the second line tells what it is – to rule! **To rule your husband!** “*Your desire will be to ____ your husband*”. Is how the first line of the second section should be translated so far. It's left out in this third line; we don't know what kind of desire it is so far. But the fourth line tells us what it is by the word *mashal*, to **rule!**

So, because of the hendiadys, we now see that the woman's desire (lust) was to rule over her husband! **She wanted to have the control of the marriage! She wanted to be in charge of the home!** This is what was occurring with the woman in the garden before she ate the fruit and offered it to Adam and has been going on since then.

This was the woman's arrogance and downfall and this was the judgment that God placed on her in the curse. It says in effect, this was what you were doing that brought all this on the earth and this is what you will have to live with as your judgment.

Adam was the first created; **Adam was the one that God placed as the ruler over the entire world.** And when God created the woman and brought her to him, she walked into a situation that had already been established by God! She was created to be a helper to Adam as he ruled over God's creation, but she was never to usurp his authority!

And he not only was the ruler of the world, but he was the ruler over the home, **and he still is today!** God has never changed one bit in this matter of who is in control of the home, who is the head of the house – **it's the man!** And if he has a wife, there is no joint rule, there is no partnership, and there certainly is no woman ruling the roost. She is there to be a helper to him, **and she is under his authority!**

We'll get into the rest of the passage, but we need to see first the rest of God's judgment on the woman. She wanted to rule over the man, but God says – it will be just the opposite! **He will rule over you!** And remember the superlative degree? 'You wanted the authority in the home? You wanted to rule over your husband? This will not happen, **instead he will rule over you; he will really rule over you'!!**

B. The first false teacher.

“And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 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.” Genesis 3:2,3

What the woman told the serpent was untrue! It was a total distortion of what the Lord had said, as taught to her by her husband. She had substituted her own false interpretation of the Word of God, as is still being done today by so many females.

The woman had already become arrogant before she ate of the forbidden fruit. She had rejected the authority of her husband. She had rejected the authority of God. And she was glorifying herself instead of the Lord. **And the very first false interpretation of the Word of God in human history was by a woman!**

She had made her own deduction of the Word, through her arrogance, by omitting three things, changing one thing and adding one thing. The **first** thing she left out was the word, **Lord**. She said, “**God (Elohim) hath said**”, אמר אלהים. While in Genesis 2:16 it really said, “**And the LORD God commanded the man**”, which was in the original, יהוה אלהים, *Yahweh Elohim*. We'll get into the significance of this later, which deals with the deity of Jesus Christ and his lordship over them and us.

The **second** thing she did was change a word in the text. She merely said that *Elohim* had **said** using the word *amar*, אמר. Now *amar* meant simply to talk or to say something; it would be used along the lines of conversation. But that's not what happened! God did not simply tell them not to eat of the fruit, **he commanded them not to!** That word is *tsavah*. What this did is take away the concept of Christ's authority over her and that she was to be in obedience to the Lord. By saying that God **said** to them, instead of saying that God **commanded** them, she was diluting and minimizing the force of the idea. So in effect she had rejected the authority of Christ over her, and her responsibility to be in submission to his authority by obeying his command to them.

The **third** thing that she did was omit a very important word in the text. She left out the word **freely**! In Genesis 3:2 she told the serpent, “*We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*” But that is not what God said to them! He said, “*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest **freely** eat:*” Genesis 2:16. He said that they may **freely** eat! What this did was detract away from the wonderful grace of God in that he not only provided them Bible Doctrine, a perfect environment, and perfect bodies, but he also graciously provided for them all the wonderful fruit that the garden provided and they could eat freely of all of it, all except the one tree!

Remember the last warning God gave to man in the Book of Revelation. It is so appropriate because the very first rebellion of man on earth was to take away from what God said and add to what God said. We are to live by every word that proceedeth from

the mouth of God. We are not to take away from it, nor are we to add our own two cents to it! *“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”* Revelation 22:18,19

The **fourth** thing that the woman did was **add her own words to the Word of God!** She said **that God told them not to even touch the tree lest they die!** This was not only heresy, but a bold face lie! *“Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”* God never told them they couldn't touch it! He told them they couldn't eat its fruit! Now she was adding to what God had said in her arrogance. She was also implying that the fruit was poisonous, which would cause their death, which is saying in effect that a perfect God had made something that would poison them!

The **fifth** thing she did was omit a very important word in Genesis 3:3, when she said, *“Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”* She completely misquoted the Lord's command in Genesis 2:17, where he said, *“for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* What she did was leave out the first word for dying!

In the Hebrew what we have in Genesis 2:17 is מוֹת תָּמוּת, *moth tamuth*. This passage has in the first word the qal infinitive absolute of *muth*, the word for death. And in the second word we have the qal imperfect of *muth*, again the word for death. So what we end up with is *“dying, you will die”*, a very intensive concept.

But in Genesis 3:3 when the woman was giving her false interpretation on doctrine to the serpent she simply said, *“lest ye die”*, פִּי-תָמוּתוֹן, *ben-temuthun*. **She left the first word for death out!** This completely changed the meaning and thrust of what God had commanded the original couple to avoid.

In Genesis 2:17 we have the doubling of the verb to die, *“dying, you will die”*, not just to intensify the concept, but to bring out **a very important theological concept**. The first verb of to die, *“dying”*, brings out the concept of **spiritual death**, while the second verb of to die, *“you will die”*, brings out **physical death!**

The day that the man and the woman ate of the fruit would instantaneously bring about their spiritual death. Any and all spiritual fellowship they had with God up to that time would be gone. And from that spiritual death physical death would follow. Even though Adam physically lived for 930 years, he died spiritually the day that he ate the fruit.

Now when the woman was talking to the serpent she left out this very important concept of Bible Doctrine. She left out this matter of spiritual death! Now we have to ask the question why? It wasn't because she was stupid. It wasn't because she had a memory lapse. And it wasn't because she didn't know what Christ said about spiritual death! It was because she didn't feel that it was very important. The spiritual life that the two had with God was that spiritual dynamic whereby they could have fellowship with God; apparently this was not important to the woman.

C. Some Questions.

Why is the woman having a conversation with an animal, instead of with her husband or the Lord? Obviously the Lord was perfect and her husband was created perfect. Any conversation she would have had with either one would have been a doctrinal one and she would have had spiritual fellowship. This indicates that there already is a problem.

Why is she occupied with the material creation, especially the one tree in the garden that she wasn't allowed to eat from, but not the Bible Doctrine she was getting from the Lord everyday? This reveals a turning from the things of the Word and becoming more interested in the things of the world! A pattern prevalent today as well.

Why did she misquote the Lord? This couldn't have been a memory lapse because she was created with a perfect mind. If Adam could remember the names of the hundreds of thousands of creatures God assigned him to do, then she should be able to remember a sentence from Christ! This leads us to the conclusion that it was an intentional misquote; one arising out of the rejection of Christ and her husband's authority over her to interject her own doctrine.

Why did Eve reach out and take the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? You say she was deceived. True! But why did she reach out, take the fruit and eat it? She did it because she wanted it. If she didn't want what it offered, she would have ignored it.

So what motivated the woman to want to eat from the tree? What was it that she wanted? **She wanted knowledge.** But she was already getting knowledge from her husband and the Lord everyday! **So what she wanted was to possess a knowledge that Adam didn't have!** Now she couldn't have known what this knowledge consisted of before she ate it; all she knew was that it was a knowledge that she didn't have, and that Adam didn't have, and that it would have elevated her above Adam to the level of God!

So did the woman feel intellectually inferior to the man? The evidence points out that she did. God made the man the ruler of the world long before he created the woman and brought her to him. God made the man the ruler of the home after the woman was created and brought to him. The man and the Lord had a friendship and fellowship long before the woman came on the scene. And the man showed a great intellect and conversational abilities in his naming of the creatures.

Did the woman develop a problem with the man's and the Lord's authority over her? Again the text shows that she did, and this is the door that the serpent through through to beguile her. She ignored her husband's authority and teaching, and she deliberately ignored the Lord's command not to eat the fruit. In one fell swoop she could become a liberated, empowered feminist by acquiring a knowledge that her husband didn't have, and one that only God had, through eating the forbidden fruit! Eve lusted after the power to rule over her husband. The very thought of it stimulated her. She would no longer be under anyone's authority and could overthrow the man's rule of the earth under God.

D. The switch from faith to rationalism and empiricism.

*“And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was **pleasant** to the eyes, and a tree to be **desired** to make one **wise**, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” Genesis 3:6*

The issues for the man and the woman in the garden were: the Word of God, authority, faith in Bible Doctrine and obedience to God. God had established one command that they were responsible to abide by to demonstrate that the two of them were under his authority. This obedience would proceed from believing what the Lord had said.

But somewhere along in the process the woman stopped believing the Lord and switched over to rationalism and empiricism. She was no longer going to govern her actions by believing and obeying the Lord, but out of the reasoning process of her own mind based upon what she observed. **Even today this breaks the spiritual dynamic.**

Seeing that the tree was good for food, that it was **pleasing** to the eye, (desirable to eat), and **desirable** to make one **wise** all came about by the use of the eyes, empiricism, and by the use of the reasoning process of the mind. **She had now turned from faith in the revealed Word of God to rationalism and empiricism.**

By this one action she had thrown off the authority of her husband and the authority of Jesus Christ over her. And she was now departing from the spiritual dynamic of fellowship with God. It appears that her spiritual “*dying*” was now in progress. It brings in the idea of James 1:15, “*Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*” We often think of death only at the actual moment of death, but not the process of dying that leads to the final breath.

So why did she eat the fruit? She did it because of what it offered her. **It would give her something that her husband did not have.** In fact, it would elevate her **above** her husband because she would have a knowledge that he did not possess.

It no longer mattered to her what God had said, nor the potential consequences of her decision. All that mattered now was getting this knowledge; she lusted after it! By having this knowledge she would throw off the authority of her husband and the Lord and not only raise herself above her husband, but also above the Lord! She now would be at the level of God! She now would be a **goddess!**

God had made the man the authority, the ruler over the world and everything on the earth: plants, animals and that included the woman when she came along. But the woman wanted that power, that rule, that authority, that control for herself! She wanted it; she lusted after it and her way to get it was by eating the fruit. Satan was now leading the woman down the path that he had taken long before. He lusted after the power and authority that God had over the universe and in his jealousy went after it. And now the woman was following his lead by turning from obedience to the revealed Word of God to fulfill her own lust for power and control.

E. 6,000 years of lusting for control.

And here we are today; **the woman in the home is still lusting for the control over her husband and the home**. She wants to be in charge; she wants to be the authority; she wants to make the decisions; she wants to rule over her husband. It is a part of the sin nature of every woman on earth.

But now she has big brother government, under Satan, and thanks to the satanic women's lib movement, assisting her to get the control of the home and the children away from the man, who is still the rightful ruler over the home because of the mandate of God. Now, all the power of the state and its guns are there to back her up in her lust to have the power and control over the man and the home!

There are three areas that God gave the man the authority over and these still stand today: the running of the **earth**, which would include the area of **government** today; the **home**, with the woman having authority over the children, but under her husband's authority. And in the area of worship and knowing God, which refers to the **church** today.

The woman is very unique and precious and has a very special place in God's creation, but it isn't to rule over the man, nor to have the control over the home. She was created for the sake of the man and to be **by his side as a helper to him as he carries out the will of God for his life on earth**.

There will be plenty of those who deny this is the case with the woman, but they are denying the truth. God says that the woman's *desire*, **lust**, will be to rule her husband and the home, *“and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”* It is a rare Christian home where you will find a Christian wife who is positive to Bible Doctrine, respects her husband's authority and obeys him. These wives are priceless.

Satan attacked the very core of God's original creation of the man and his intention for the man and the woman in the garden. God put the man in authority over the earth and over the woman, and Satan has been attacking this divine establishment for six thousand years. He is still playing on the woman's prideful lust for the control of the home to create “dissension in the ranks” in the home to overthrow her husband's authority. He wants her to be like him in his rebellion against God.

He has established the mother goddess religion to appeal to those women who lust for control. He has promoted the aspect of emotions in many religious groups, which appeal to women and men with female souls. And he has used politics, even international politics now under the United Nations, all toward the goal of destroying the authority structure that God originally established in the garden concerning man, the woman and the earth, which is still in effect today and will be forevermore!

Adam was still the ruler over the woman and the earth afterward as demonstrated by him naming the woman, “*Eve*”. *“And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”* Genesis 3:30

Pastor Mike (to be continued)