

When Satan Tells the Truth

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Can the Devil tell the truth?
 - 1. "Satan puts some truth in every lie to make the lie more believable."
 - 2. "The Devil has a Master's degree in Triconometry."
 - 3. It's a Christian cliché to call the Devil "the prince of lies," as he has a mastery in his knowledge of the truth.
 - 4. One cannot become gifted at lying without knowing the truth well.
- B. What the serpent promised Eve was true; humans will become like God
 - 1. Gen. 3:5, 22
 - 2. The Devil tells the truth. It's a question of how it will come to pass
 - 3. The account of the fall of man is a story of how we become like God: by way of a shortcut of Satan that doesn't work, or God's long term plan that is all powerful
 - 4. Similar to what he did in the temptation of Jesus; shortcuts to feeding Himself, and a shortcut to rule over all the earth; neither would be effective in the long run - Matt. 4:1-11
 - 5. "Sin is itself a strange and distorted caricature of the gift of God. Sin is to grab for yourself autonomy, to deny your creature-hood, to make yourself a god; but the gift of God is to receive divinity, to be taken beyond creature-hood." (McCabe)
- C. The Devil told the truth as far as he could know it. He could not know the means by which that would become true, that in the Son, we could become true children of God.
 - 1. Athanasius summarized it: "God became human; so that we might become like God."

I. CAN SATAN TELL THE TRUTH?

- A. John 8:44 - If he is such a constant liar and hates the truth, can he actually tell the truth? If so, what would be the motive behind telling the truth?
 - 1. He tells the truth when it works to what he perceives is his advantage
 - a. Acts 16:16-18 - Undermining the work and influence of Paul
 - b. She was a demon possessed slave girl who made her owners money by fortune-telling. It was an effort to gain advantage
- B. His purpose is to deceive, and he uses truth to deceitful ends
 - 1. Eph. 6:11 - "Wiles - Methodeia: traveling over, travesty, trickery, lie in wait" (Strongs)
 - 2. Gen. 3:1 - "Subtle - Aruwm: cunning, usually in a bad sense; crafty, prudent, subtle" (Strongs)
- C. He knows Jesus and His purpose for coming to the world
 - 1. Matt. 8:28-29; Mark 1:23-26, 3:11-12; Luke 4:33-35, 40-41
 - 2. Acts 19:13-16
 - 3. His knowledge and use of truth is limited to his purpose of deceiving and entrapping souls

II. DECEIVED BY THE DEVIL'S TRUTH

- A. There is no special knowledge nor shortcut to wisdom and power in the truth that Satan tells - Isa. 47:9-15
 - 1. God forbade Israel to be involved from the beginning - Deut. 18:10-14
- B. One can discern between the truth of Satan and the truth of God
 - 1. Acts 8:9-13, 13:6-12
- C. God still forbids us to listen to the Devil, whether he is lying or telling the truth
 - 1. Gal. 5:19-20, 6:7; Rev. 21:8
- D. We can be guilty of telling the Devil's truth
 - 1. By holding back part of the truth - Jer. 9:3
 - 2. By being less than we should be while implying we are more - Gal. 2:14
 - 3. By telling the truth to do harm or give pain to others - Phil. 1:15-16
 - 4. By telling the truth to gain advantage over others - 1Tim. 6:5

Conclusion:

- A. The Devil will tell you the truth, but it will always come with a hook; do not listen to any part of it - Luke 21:8
- B. God tells you the truth; every part of it is in your best interest.
 - 1. Psalm 100:5; John 17:17; 1Peter 1:22