

COSMOS DIABOLICUS

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

(Gen.3:1a)	Author's comments	Serpent	Crafty
(Gen.3:1b-5)	Attack upon belief	Satan	Cosmos Diabolicus
(Gen.3:6-7)	Author's comments	Sin	Covering

Because of the author's comments in this passage of Scriptures, some theologians suggest that this is a folklore story. By folklore, they mean a widely held unsupported tale.

Paul believed it was a true account that had an impact upon human history. For example, he quotes (Gen.3:13) in (2 Cor.11:3) and again in (1 Tim.2:14).

John also believed that the ancient serpent was identified with Satan (Rev.12:9; 20:2, 7, 10).

(Rev.12:9) "And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; and his angels were thrown down with him."

This lesson will study five aspects of how Cosmos Diabolicus attacks the truth of the word of God.

1. Paul warns the Church Age Believer (CAB) not to be outwitted or ignorant of the schemes of the Devil.

(2 Cor.2:11) "So that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes."

(Eph.6:11) "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." (Eph.6:10-17)

(2 Cor.11:3) "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, **your minds will be led astray** from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."

Paul tells us what we are being led astray from, **but not to what** – "And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive to do his will."

(1 Tim.2:14) "But the woman being deceived fell into transgression."

2. We are told that Satan deceived Eve's mind by the craftiness of Cosmos Diabolicus.

Satan attacked her divine viewpoint belief system.

He wanted her to change over to Cosmos Diabolicus (worldly) thinking. (Evil thinking that stands in opposition to Divine Viewpoint thinking).

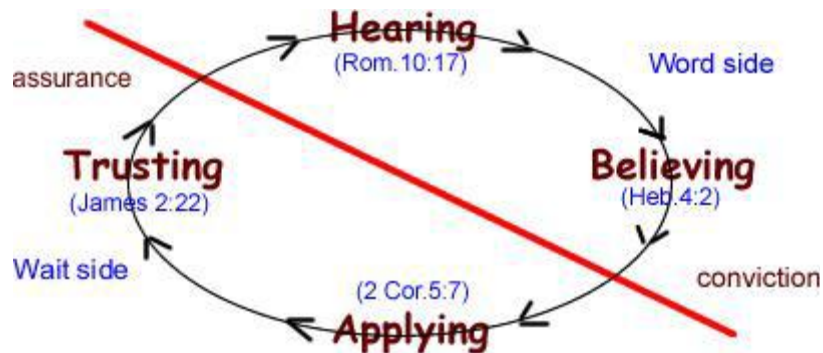
(Matt.16:23) "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interest, but on man's."

3. Note how the divine faith system operates.

- Faith must have a working object.
- The working object must be the word of God (directive will/ CBD).
- Word of God always works because it is based on the character of God and not on man.

(Rom.4:21) “And being fully assured that what God promised, He was able also to perform.” [Faith Cycle]

We cycle the promise until it is completed through faith. After studying the faith cycle, circle where you think Eve failed.



(Heb.11:1) “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

(2 Cor.5:7) “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

4. Eve was drawn into cosmos Diabolicus thinking through the devil’s debate device. She was drawn into his scheme on his terms of warfare. He set the rules of engagement.

Satan begins by launching an offensive with a probing question (Gen.3:1; Eph.6:11, 13, and 16). He is looking for weakness in her armor of divine viewpoint. He is looking for some type of vulnerability.

Eve responded with the Word of God (Gen.3:2-3). But, she has made a fatal misinterpretation of the Word - “do not touch it!” (naga / kal impf 2pl).” **She read into the Scriptures (eisegesis) – big mistake!**

Principle: Teaching always comes before testing. Satan attacked Jesus, but with different results (Matt.4:1-10). Jesus and Paul taught us how to fight in the Angelic Conflict (A/C) (Eph.6:10-17).

Satan attacks the Directive Will of God through her vulnerability with an absolute infinitive of die like in (Gen.2:17) (Gen.3:4). Then he baits her: (Gen.3:5). Notice that the warfare is one sided after Gen.3:2-3.

Eve in the snare (Gen.3:6-7) “And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive to do his will.” (2 Tim.2:26)

5. The issue was never the tree but the word of God. The doctrine of death was learned in Bible study not in the arena of human experiences (2 Cor.5:7).

Eve’s extreme emphasis on touch and die reflects a principle:

A false assumption leads to a false interpretation, leading to a false expectation which leads to a false application. Death was the property of the Word of God and not the Tree!

The idea of touch reflects her fear rather than faith. Don’t eat became don’t touch like don’t get drunk becomes don’t drink. What does the Word of God say? Don’t read into it, read out of it!

Satan played off of her fear and legalism. “Don’t you want to be free from this fear and limitation on your life?” He has convinced her that the prohibition has limited her life and her enlightenment. Isn’t it interesting that devil didn’t eat? He is nibbling on Eve –

(1 Pet.5:8) “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (Luke 22:31-32)