

CHOOSE LIFE

The story of the serpent and Eve found in Genesis 3 is perhaps one of the most widely known stories ever recorded. This phenomenon of the serpent counselling the first couple Adam and Eve about God's Commandment is an event of immense importance that applies to everyone today.

Let's recap briefly. In Genesis 2.16-17, The Lord God Commanded the first human being Adam that he was free to eat from every tree in the Garden of Eden, but not from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For in the day that you eat of that tree, the Lord said, you will surely die.

And, of course, it is well know what happened shortly after that. The serpent, whom Revelation 12.9 describes as satan, deceived Adam's wife Eve by saying to her, "Really, has God said you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" And Eve replied, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, we must not eat of it nor touch it, lest we die." Satan's answer! "You shall not surely die." Well, Adam and Eve did eat from the tree of which God Commanded them not to eat. And because they embraced the words of satan and disobeyed the Commandment of The Lord, they forfeited God's gift to live forever in the Garden of Eden and were expelled, and in time, they died just as God said they would, Genesis 3.22-24; 5.5

So you may ask, what's so important about this cute little story? Why is it so crucial? Because Genesis 3.1 describes the serpent as subtle, dishonest and deceitful, a liar. He succeeded in leading Adam and Eve from God's Truth. And satan's teachings never change. Today, his doctrine and lie is bolder and more crafty: God's Law is no longer in force, we are taught. Yeshua, however, warns us; satan was a murderer and a liar from the beginning, John 8.44. Because it was satan who ushered the couple to their death by his false doctrine; tricking them into believing it was not necessary to obey God's Commandment and causing them to lose their eternal life, Genesis 3.22-24

You will say correctly, Yeshua is my Redeemer. He died that I may have my sins forgiven. He is my atonement and the only atonement I will ever need. Correct on all points. But, where in the Scriptures are we taught that we are free from God's Law and not required to obey it? Nowhere. That false doctrine cannot be found anywhere in the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation.

Thus, Yeshua calls on everybody to Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, Matthew 4.17. Repentance is taught extensively throughout the Bible. Ezekiel 18.30 explains Repentance well. The Prophet writes: "Repent and turn yourselves from all your transgressions, so iniquity shall not be your ruin." Repentance means turning from your sins. Sin is explained in 1 John 3.4 as "Breaking God's Law, the Law of Moses". We must stop violating God's Law and that can be accomplished only by obeying it. The same Repentance is taught in the New Testament. Hear Paul's teaching on the subject; "Testifying both to the Jews and Greeks (Non-Jewish People) Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Yeshua The Messiah, Acts 20.21.

Sin is the same in the New Testament as in T'nakh, the Old Testament - Breaking the Law of Moses. And there is no difference between the Jewish Person and the Non-Jewish Person, Romans 10.12. We all must submit to God's Torah, Romans 8.6-8.

Again Paul writes: "They (Jewish and Non-Jewish People) should Repent and turn to God and do works worthy of Repentance", Acts 26.20. James explains works of Repentance as obeying God's Torah, the Law of Moses. He wrote in James 1.25; "But whoso looks into the Perfect Law of Liberty, and continues in it, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." The Perfect Law of Liberty is the Torah, God's Law that He gave to Moses for all mankind. It frees us from sin and its control over us, when we obey it. And for obeying Torah, James writes, We are blessed in our deed. It's interesting to note that this word Deed comes from the Greek word Poiesis, meaning, Performance of the Law. We will be blessed, James writes, for performing the Law.

Yes, often we are quoted Galatians 5.1; "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Messiah has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Incredibly, we are told the yoke of bondage is the Law. Where does God and Jesus or the Prophets or the Law or the Disciples or the Apostles or the New Testament ever say that the Torah is bondage? Nowhere. The yoke of bondage is sin and sin causes death; physical and spiritual. Yes, Yeshua has redeemed us from our sins by His loving grace and atoning sacrifice. But, together with our faith in Messiah, we are required to lead our lives in obedience to the Law of Moses, Luke 16.29. And when we choose to obey, we become "mishpahkchah" (family) with Yeshua; having eternal life with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven, Matthew 12.50.

The One we serve, Yeshua The Messiah is The Redeemer, The King of Israel, The Lord of Hosts, El Elyone, the Most High God. He is The One Who formed us from the womb; He is The Lord Who makes all things, Who stretched forth the heavens alone and spread out the earth by Himself. He is The Holy One of Israel. And He is The One Who gave the Commandment to Adam. He never changes, Malachi 3.6, Hebrews 13.8. And from His creation of the first two human beings, The Lord has always taught obedience to His Word and Law; accompanied with wonderful and great blessings, Deuteronomy 28.

If A Person Loves Me, Yeshua says, He Will Keep My Words: And My Father Will Love Him And We (The Holy Spirit) will Come Into Him, and Make Our Home With Him, John 14.23. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him, Acts 5.32. And believing in Yeshua is obeying Torah, Deuteronomy 18.18-19, etc. and John 1.45. So satan will continue his lie that the Law of Moses is dead and not in force today, until he is tossed into the lake of fire forever, Revelation 20.10. Therefore, Choose Life. Do not be misled as the first couple, Adam and Eve was. For it is faith in Yeshua and obedience to God's Law of Moses that lead to Eternal Life. It is God's Commandment. It is His Word. Matthew 13.41-43.

Shalom, Ira Weinstein