

“YE SHALL BE AS GODS”

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I once heard an author on a radio show teach that the devil told Eve two lies in the Garden of Eden:

1. **Ye shall not surely die**
2. **Ye shall be as gods**

The events that transpired in the Garden of Eden have been subject to much speculation, both amongst denominational Christians and non-Christians. There are many variations of this story that are a result of people reading into the Bible rather than simply reading that which is written in the Bible. For instance **Gen. 3: v 3, 4** as interpreted by the above quoted scholar is very common, most preachers and Bible teachers would concur with this gentleman that the serpent told Eve two lies. I have even heard people claim that ‘eating the fruit of The Tree of the knowledge of good and evil’ meant Eve have ‘relations’ with the serpent, or Satan. These interpretations are always a result of reading more into the Bible than what is written in plain words. Now a careful parsing of these two verses of scripture reveals that the serpent told Eve only one lie, not two. The serpent told Eve three things in all:

- **Genesis 3 v 4:** And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die: v 5** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then **your eyes shall be opened**, and ye shall be as gods, **knowing good and evil**.

 1. **You shall not surely die**
 2. **Your eyes shall be opened**
 3. **You shall be as gods, knowing good and evil**

The devil’s subtlety lies in the fact that he mixes in just a small amount of lies with a great deal of truth. If everything he said were a lie he would not be able to fool anyone. This was also the case in the Garden when he first spoke to Eve, of the three things he told her, only one, # 1 above, “**Ye shall not surely die**” was a lie whereas the other two, ‘**your eyes shall be opened**’ and ‘**ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil**’ were true.

As a rule people in religious circles base their interpretations of scripture on ‘church’ theologies rather than the Bible. They invariably read into scriptures rather than a plain reading of scripture. People in denominational Christianity have a major problem with the devil’s assertion that ‘**Ye shall be as gods**’ because they read something into what the serpent said rather than reading what he actually said. What they hear is Satan promising Eve that she would become God, sit on the throne, rule the Universe...In all fairness to the devil he said no such thing, all he said to Eve was that ‘**Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**’ I would venture to say that everyone I have ever heard teach on this scripture has invariably read half the verse, *Ye shall be as gods*...they leave the other half, *knowing good and evil* completely out of their teaching.

The serpent’s exact words to Eve were, ‘**Ye shall be as gods, *knowing good and evil.***’ The serpent not only told Eve that she could be as gods, he explained what that meant. To be ‘**as gods**’, means to know good and evil, that’s it. Nowhere did the devil promise Eve that she would become God, as in God Almighty, moreover he told her that she would be ‘**as gods**’, not even that she would become an actual ‘god’. The devil’s claim was confirmed by The LORD God himself in **Gen. 3:22: And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become *as one of us*, to know good and evil.** God himself concurred with the devil that to be ‘as God’, or ‘as gods’

simply means **to know good and evil**. That which the serpent told Eve would happen, actually happened, so it was not a lie, was it? If all one ever did was to read half sentences of scripture, it could be interpreted in any way that the reader chose. Therefore a word for word parsing of the Bible is essential in order to formulate [Sound Doctrine](#), Biblical doctrine not man's theologies or ideologies. **What exactly it means to know 'good and evil', and how it makes people 'as gods'** is a very important doctrine, which is little understood, or taught in the church. The understanding of the subject of the **'Knowledge of Good and Evil'** is fundamental to the understanding of Biblical Christianity, and the true purpose of Jesus' sacrifice. The correct interpretation of Genesis Chapter 3, the account of the fall of man, is the foundation upon which the understanding of whole of the Bible stands. Misinterpretation of those events that transpired so long ago has spawned too many false doctrines to be listed here.

What transpired in The Garden of Eden so long ago was a necessary first step in the transformation of 'Man' from **'MANKIND'** to a **'NEW CREATURE'** in Christ. The plan of God after the fall of man was not to restore him to what he was before the fall but rather to make out of fallen mankind an entirely **'new creature'**. This **'new creature'** is the ['Last Adam'](#) who is qualitatively different from the ['First Adam'](#). This **'new creature'** is one that never existed before, and is therefore a brand new creation. Had the first Adam been perfect as is taught in denominational Christian circles, then all that God needed to do was to send Jesus as an atoning sacrifice and make Adam alive once again as he was originally in the Garden, as a flesh and blood creature. There would be no need to make a **'new creature'**, one that is qualitatively different than the original man. The transformation from Adam to Jesus is comparable to that of a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. So then it becomes obvious that Adam in The Garden, even before the fall, was a mere 'caterpillar', a mere 'seed' as taught in 1 Corinthians 15. Out of this 'seed' would grow the 'New Creature', who is so far above and different than the 'seed', even as an acorn is different from the Oak tree. **If Adam was perfect before the fall, then Jesus could not have made a 'NEW CREATURE' from him, all God could have done was to restore him to his original PERFECT state. He should have gone on living as a flesh and blood creature, just not subject to death. This however is not what the Bible tells us has happened, it tells us that all things have become NEW.**

- [2 Corinthians 5:17](#) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
- [Galatians 6:15](#) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

The word **NEW** is the defining word of the Bible, and the very word that reveals the real significance of the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross at Calvary. Look at how many **NEW** things were brought about through Jesus; was all this planned after the fall of man, or was the fall itself planned to fulfill God's purpose of making all things 'New'?

- New Testament ([Matthew 26:28](#), [Mark 14:24](#), [Luke 22:20](#), [1 Corinthians 11:25](#))

- New Wine, New Bottles ([Matthew 9:17](#), [Mark 2:22](#), [Luke 5:38](#))
- New Doctrine ([Mark 1:27](#))
- New Cloth ([Mark 2:21](#))
- New Tongues ([Mark 16:17](#))
- New Commandment ([John 13:34](#))
- Newness of Life ([Romans 6:4](#))
- Newness of Spirit ([Romans 7:6](#))
- New Lump, meaning New Bread ([1 Corinthians 5:7](#))
- **NEW CREATURE** ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#), [Galatians 6:15](#))
- All things made New ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#))
- New Man, FLESH AND SPIRIT combined to make new? ([Ephesians 2:15](#), [Ephesians 4:24](#), [Colossians 3:10](#))
- New Covenant ([Hebrews 8:8](#), [Hebrews 8:13](#), **Book of Hebrews**)
- New and Living Way ([Hebrews 10:20](#))
- New Heavens and a new Earth ([2 Peter 3:13](#), [Revelation 21:1](#))
- New Name ([Revelation 2:17](#))
- New Song ([Revelation 5:9](#), [Revelation 14:3](#))
- New Jerusalem ([Revelation 3:12](#), [Revelation 21:2](#))
- **ALL THINGS NEW** ([Revelation 21:5](#))

If everything was perfect with the original creation why would God need to make **ALL THINGS NEW**? If all Adam's sin did was to cause a separation between him and God, and that was the extent of the problem, then would Jesus' blood not be able to restore Adam to God and everything could continue as originally planned? Why a New Creature, why a New Heaven, why a New Earth? Or was the original plan to make a '**new creature**' **out of the old**, and then make '**all things new**', the old things having served their purpose? This would mean that Adam was not a perfect being to begin with; actually it would be more accurate to state that Adam was not a complete being in the beginning, just as a seed is not complete till it is planted, grows and matures into the tree for which the seed was created. As previously stated the events that transpired in The Garden of Eden were the necessary **first step** in the beginning of a process of **transformation** that would culminate upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as

the **New Creature, The Last Adam**, who is as different from the first Adam as a seed from a full grown tree. The process began with Adam and Eve eating the fruit of the Tree of the knowledge of 'good and evil', which led to their eyes being opened and their coming to **KNOW** 'good and evil. The word **KNOW** in the Hebrew language is the word **YADA**, which means **EXPERIENCE**. Adam and Eve had to experience good and evil, and the experience had to begin with Evil, the question that naturally arises is why?