

# The Evil Figs: Their origin and their demise

By Lloyd Dale

Hi **Gerald**,

Thanks again for the call and the email. I was thinking about writing to you tonight and your email just solidified that idea.

Yes, we may have an issue, but perhaps we can work them out. You wrote that "God is not going to release Jewish religious leaders to accuse Christians at the end of the Millennium." I do not know of anyone, certainly not me, who is saying that "Jewish religious leaders" were going to accuse Christians at the end of the Millennium. Where did you get that idea?

I do not see anything in Rev 20 that teaches that "satan" whoever or whatever you think that is, is going to "accuse Christians". I do not understand why you thought that. Rev 20:2-3 concludes with the statement "...that the adversary **should deceive the nations no more** until the thousands years are fulfilled." Thus, this adversary was shut up in a prison of judgment **for deceiving the nations**, not for accusing Christians. Then in Rev 20:7 it states that this adversary "shall be released out of his prison, and again **he "shall go out to deceive the nations...gathering them together to battle..."** Nothing is stated here about accusing Christians. (We will come back to this later) It should be noted here that the apostate Jews were guilty of more than just accusing the brethren. (More about that later also)

You also wrote, "It is very clear in the book of Job that the Adversary accuses Job before God. Therefore, I must agree that in Genesis, Job, and Revelation the Serpent, Adversary, Satan, and Dragon all refer to the same thing." I agree with you that these terms all refer essentially to "the same thing", the question is what is this "thing?" The real question that we must ask and answer correctly is, "Just exactly who or what; was the serpent in the garden?" **That is the key**, and if we answer that question correctly, the rest will then fit into place. (We will come back to this issue later)

In Rev 12:9 we read that "...the adversary which deceives the whole world (Gk. oikoumene, i.e. the whole Roman Empire). Then in Revelation 13:14, in the middle of the description of the Jewish land beast/false prophet we read that this "beast/false prophet "deceives them that dwell on the land by those wonders which he had power to do in the sight of the (sea) beast..." And in Revelation 18:23 we read, "And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee (the Babylonian whore/Jerusalem); and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations **deceived.**" **In all of these passages, it is the apostate Jews that are clearly identified as the deceiver!**

At this point in our discussion we need to take a look at a very interesting assertion that the apostates of the house of Judah made after the house of Israel was divorced by God and put out of the land into the Assyrian captivity/exile/Diaspora. **God told Ezekiel that the apostate Jews of Jerusalem had a very special sin; strictly unique to them:** (comments and emphasis added)

"...Yahweh said unto me; Son of man (Ezekiel), your brethren, even your brethren (of the house of Israel), your fellow exiles, all of the whole house of Israel, are those of whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem (hard hearted apostate Jews) have said, 'They (the whole house of Israel) have gone far from the LORD; to US (the apostate Jews) this land (the land promised to Israel) is given for our (apostate Jews) possession. (Ezekiel 11:15)"

Then after the city of Jerusalem fell to the Babylonian's, God told Ezekiel:

"Son of man (Ezekiel), they (the evil figs of Jer 24 who eventually became the "synagogue of the adversary" Rev 2:9, 3:9) who inhabit those ruins in the land of Israel are saying, 'Abraham was only one, and he inherited the land. But we are many; the land has been given to us as a possession.'" (Ezekiel 33:24)

Thus, we now see that the very special sin of the apostate Jews (evil figs) was the claim that they were the rightful heirs and sole possessors of the land given to all twelve tribes through Abraham/Isaac/Jacob/Israel. Thus, as a result of the "binding in judgment" in AD 70, these evil figs were no longer able to make that false claim and thus deceive the nations.

Note very carefully what God said about these "evil figs":

"8 And as for the evil figs, which cannot be eaten, they are so evil; surely thus says YHWH, I will give Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue of Jerusalem that remain in this land (of Judea after the good figs are taken to Babylon), and them that dwell in the land of Egypt: 10 I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers. 9 And I will deliver them to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them." (Jeremiah 24:8-10)

This prophecy was fulfilled in the first century as the apostate Jews (evil figs) were barred from the land of promise and were progressively delivered into all of the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, etc. In each of those kingdoms/nations they were a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse in all the places where God drove them. This judgment was ostensibly lifted in 1948 when God permitted these "evil figs" of the "dry tree" of Judah to return to the land and once again put forth the great deception that they were God's "chosen people" and that they now have exclusive claim to the land of promise. Jesus had this to say about the "dry tree" of Judah:

"For if they (the evil figs) do these things in a green tree, what shall they do in the dry tree? (Luke 23:31)"

Among the many others who have believed these modern day apostates; many, many Christians have believed this colossal lie which began in the 8th century BC and continued unabated until 70 AD when God sent "the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, until they be consumed from off the land" and bound in judgment. This was the binding in the abyss that we see in Rev 20:2-3. It is possible that this is the event that Jesus refers to in Matthew 22:13:

"Then said the king (Jesus) to the servants (the messenger of Rev 20:1, i.e. Titus, commander of the Roman army) Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast into outer darkness; were there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 22:13)"

According to Revelation 20:3d this judgment binding would continue for "a thousands years" and when the thousands years are fulfilled/finished these "evil figs" of the "dry tree" must be released from that judgment, permitted to return to the land -- where from thence they will once again deceive the nations with the monstrous lie that they are God's chosen people and are to have full possession of the land, rebuild the temple, and resume animal sacrifices.

Their presence in the land and their claim to be God's chosen people and sole possessors of the land will create a great crisis among the people around that land. In Revelation 20:8 these

people are identified as the Gog and Magog nations whose number is as numerous "as the sand of the sea." This reference is given here by God, the Father/Jesus/John to direct our attention to Genesis 16 & 17 where God identifies two people groups whose descendants are going to become great multitudes in the earth. Both of these groups are descendants of Abraham. One is Israel, the people of the Covenant (Gen 17:19, 21) who are to eventually receive the New Covenant and be known as Christians, and **the other the Ishmaelites (Arabs?), who will eventually become the Nation of Islam, a mortal enemy of Christianity.**

Because she is barren, Abram's wife, Sarai gives her handmaid, Hagar, to Abram for sexual relations that Sarai might have a child. Abram went into Hagar and she became pregnant and bore a child named Ishmael. God told Hagar that He would "multiply her seed exceedingly, that it could not be numbered for multitude" (Gen 16:10). However, her descendants would be wild men whose hand will be against every man... God omitted Ishmael from the Abrahamic Covenant and in doing so He said of Ishmael, "I have blessed him and I will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly and twelve princes he shall beget and I will make of his people a great nation, i.e. the nation of Islam (Gen 17:20).

Now it is time to return to the question that we posed above and stated that we would return to this topic later. "The real question that we must ask and answer correctly is, "Just exactly who or what; was the serpent in the garden?" **That is the key**, and if we answer that question correctly, the rest will then fit into place. (We will come back to this issue later)"

Who, then, was the serpent in the Garden? Contrary to popular but very erroneous opinion this serpent in the garden was not a fallen angel that inhabited a snake and, as such spoke, to and deceived the woman [1Tim 2:14].

In 1Tim 2:13, Paul stated that "Adam was formed first, then Eve" was formed. Why does Paul provide that information for Timothy? Could it be that he was reminding Timothy of the information provided in the first five chapters of Genesis? It could have been, so let's turn to those chapters and see what we can learn. (Salient portions shown below)

"And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." (2:7)

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "thou may freely eat of every tree of the garden: except of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eats thereof thou shalt surely die. And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make a mate for him." (2:15-18)

"And YHWH God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and YHWH took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh around where the rib had been; and the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, he made into a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, "*WOW*, now this *one is* bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they both, the man and his wife were naked and were not ashamed." (Ge 2: 7, 15-18, 21-25)

A salient thought that we must take from this passage is that Adam was created before Eve, just as Paul said. A second salient point is that Eve was not present, as she had not been created yet [Gen 2:18], when God commanded Adam:

"...saying, "Of every tree of the garden thou may freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eats thereof thou shalt surely die." (Ge 2:16-17)"

Therefore, the only knowledge Eve would have had of this command would have been what Adam had told her about it. This is a key point in the proper understanding the events of in chapter 3 which opens with the statement:

"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which YHWH God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, has God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Ge 3:1)

Now look very carefully at what this verse does not say! This verse DOES NOT SAY that the serpent is a beast of the field; however, it does say that the serpent is more subtle than any beast of the field! There is only one creature that YHWH created that is more subtle than any beast of the field and that creature is man [Adam]. Therefore, Adam was the one that deceived Eve, not some mythical talking snake and certainly not some snake possessed by a mythical "fallen angel".

While most Bible students have not realized this, James gives us a very accurate description of Adam's fall into sin:

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (Jas 1:14-15 AV)

As Adam was the first man, either James was wrong about his "every man" statement above or Adam was tempted and drawn away and enticed, from God's command, by his own lust. When Adam's lust had conceived it brought forth his sin and when the sin was finished it brought death which is exactly the manner in which the corpus of the New Testament informs us that Adam brought sin and death.

"Wherefore, as by *Adam* sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (Ro 5:12)

Now let us apply this great truth to the scenario in Genesis 4. First of all, we need to establish that Adam was, in fact, right there with Eve from her first temptation until she ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:

"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 *her* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband who was with her; and he did eat." (Ge 3:6)

Does/can anyone actually think that Eve was not looking at the fruit as described above while the serpent was tempting her?

Now here is a question for my male readers: Men would you stand idly by, saying and doing nothing, while some jerk was deceiving your lovely, brand new bride into committing an adulteress act with him? Of course, you would not and neither would have Adam -- which alone proves that Adam was the serpent that tempted Eve; otherwise Adam would have intervened and killed the serpent.

We continue:

*The serpent [Adam] said unto the woman, indeed, has God said, "ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"*

With this question Adam hits Eve at her weak spot, i.e. the lack of knowledge of what God had actually commanded Adam before she was created.

Eve's slight modification of God's command in her response demonstrates her lack of actual knowledge of God's command to Adam:

*"And the woman said unto the serpent [Adam], we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the middle of the garden, God has said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." (Ge 3:2-3)*

Upon hearing Eve's slightly modified response the serpent [Adam] spoke to Eve:

*"And the serpent [Adam] said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die: For God knows that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." (Ge 3:4-5)*

Thus, craftily deceived by her husband, Eve took some of the fruit, ate it, and gave some to Adam who, seeing that Eve did not die; ate as well. In this manner, just as Paul instructed Timothy, Eve took part in the transgression also:

*"For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam *transgressed* without being deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression *also; but she being saved through childbearing, if she continue in faith, love, and holiness, with sobriety.*" (1Timothy 2:13-15)*

In the passage above, Paul's "*she being saved through childbearing*" is a cryptic reference to Genesis 3:15; where Eve hears that great promise that "her offspring" would eventually "crush the head of the serpent's [Adam's] offspring."

Thus, when the New Testament declares of first century "evil figs" we need to pay attention and understand what is actually being conveyed:

*"But now ye seek to kill me, a man that has told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. **Ye do the deeds of your father.**" (Fourth gospel 8:40-41a AV)*

*"(4) For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." "(8) Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities." (10) "But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. (11) Woe unto them! **For they have gone in the way of Cain**, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core." (Jude 1:4, 8, 10-11)*

*"**Ye are of your father the slanderer**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a man killer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." (Fourth Gospel 8:44)*

The first century “evil figs” are metaphorically the children of Cain the child of Adam the serpent/man:

“And Adam (the serpent man) knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain...”  
(Ge 4:1a)

Thus, it should come as no surprise to us that Jesus, using the same metaphorical language as Moses, referred to those first century “evil fig” offspring of the serpent/man as serpents:

“Ye **serpents**, offspring of vipers, how can ye escape the judgment of the Gehenna?”  
(The Gehenna being a metaphor for the destruction of Jerusalem as the context demonstrates. Mt 23:33)

Jesus continued:

“Therefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and *some* of them **ye shall kill** and crucify; and *some* of them **ye shall scourge in your synagogues**, and *ye shall* persecute *them* from city to city: That **upon you** may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye killed between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, **all these things shall come upon this generation**. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that kill the prophets, and stone them which are sent unto thee, how often I would have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under *her* wings, and **ye would not!** Behold, your house (of Judah) is left unto you desolate.” (Mt 23:34-38)

**“Truly, I tell you that this generation by no means passes away, until all these things take place.”** (Mt 24:34)

And true to the words of Jesus, the capital city of these “evil figs,” Jerusalem, was destroyed in AD 70 just before the generation of which He spoke passed away:

“And the ten horns which thou saw upon the beast, these shall hate the whore (Jerusalem), and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For **God has put in their hearts to fulfill his will**, and to agree, and give their kingdoms unto the beast, until **the words of God shall be fulfilled**; And the *whorish* woman which thou saw is that great city, *Jerusalem* which holds over the kings of the earth.” (Re 17:16-18)