

# "Has God Indeed Said...?"

A ONE-PAGE REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE FIRST QUESTION IN SCRIPTURE

## Scripture Reference:

Genesis 3:1 (NKJV) "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

## The Setting:

**Speaker:** The serpent, described as more cunning than any beast of the field. Revelation 12:9 identifies the ancient serpent with the Devil and Satan.

**Listener:** Eve. The question redirects her attention from God's generous provision to the single prohibition.

**God's actual command:** Adam and Eve could freely eat from every tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; eating from it would bring certain death (Genesis 2:16-17).

## Why Did the Serpent Ask?

**To create doubt:** He invited Eve to reconsider whether God had really spoken clearly and whether His Word could be trusted.

**To distort God's words:** God had emphasized abundance: "of every tree...you may freely eat." The serpent framed the command as though God had withheld every tree.

**To malign God's character:** The question implied that God was restrictive rather than generous and was keeping something desirable from them.

**To open the door to disobedience:** Once God's Word and goodness were placed under suspicion, the forbidden fruit could be evaluated by desire instead of by obedience.

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| <u>1 QUESTION</u><br>"Has God indeed said...?"<br>Genesis 3:1 | <u>2 CONTRADICTION</u><br>"You will not surely die."<br>Genesis 3:4 | <u>3 COUNTERCLAIM</u><br>"You will be like God..."<br>Genesis 3:5 |
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## What Changed In Eve's Retelling? (Genesis 3:2-3)

**God's generosity was reduced:** She omitted "freely."

**The prohibition was expanded:** She added "nor shall you touch it," which is not recorded in God's command in Genesis 2:16-17.

**The certainty of judgment was softened:** God said, "you shall surely die"; Eve said, "lest you die."

| Reference                  | Connection                                                                |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Genesis 2:16-17            | God's original command is generous, clear, and certain.                   |
| John 8:44; Revelation 12:9 | Satan is the liar, the father of lies, and the ancient serpent.           |
| 2 Corinthians 11:3         | Paul warns that the serpent's cunning still seeks to corrupt minds.       |
| Matthew 4:1-11             | Jesus answers temptation with Scripture accurately understood and obeyed. |
| Psalms 119:160; John 17:17 | God's Word is truth, its entirety is true.                                |
| James 1:14-15; 1 John 2:16 | Desire, enticement, and sin follow the pattern seen in Genesis 3:6.       |

**THE ENDURING LESSON:** Temptation often begins by questioning what God said, distorting what He meant, and casting suspicion on who He is. The safeguard is to know His Word accurately, trust His character fully, and obey Him promptly.