

Sunday, September 20, 2015—Grace Life School of Theology—*From This Generation For Ever*  
 Term 1 Lesson 1: The “Yea, Hath God Said” Society

## Introduction

- II Timothy 3:16—at the outset, it is important to note what the Bible claims for itself. The Bible claims to have a divine origin. This claim is not something that men have placed on the Bible; rather it is the Bible’s claim for itself.
- In the weeks and months leading up to the start of class I gave a lot of thought to how I should begin and the best order for covering the material. While I knew I was going to start with the issue of inspiration, originally I thought I would cover the evidentiary proofs of inspiration first.
- As I pondered my options further, I decided that beginning with an evidentialist approach might send the wrong message. I believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God because that is the Bible’s claim for itself. This does not mean that there are no evidentiary proofs that speak to the Bible’s inspiration, it just means that we need to base our study on the proper set of assumptions.
  - God exists. (Psalm 14:1)
  - God has magnified His word above His own name. (Psalm 138:2)
  - God’s word is eternally settled in heaven. (Psalm 119:89)
  - God, through the process of inspiration, has communicated His word to mankind. (II Timothy 3:16 & II Peter 1:21)
  - God’s words were written down so that they could be made eternally available to men. (I Peter 1:23)
  - God promised to preserve that which He inspired. (Psalm 12:6-7)
- So, for the purposes of this class, we are going to initially adopt a presuppositional approach that assumes the Bible to be the inspired word of God at the outset. This assumption is made on account of the FACT that the Bible claims to be inspired by God. After we have learned what the Bible says about itself, we will consider the many evidential proofs that the Bible is in fact of divine origin.
- I am aware of the division that exists within Christian Apologetics between the presuppositional and evidential approaches. It is my view that both are valid and have a seat at the table. Consequently, throughout the course of this study, we will be looking at both. There is ample internal and external evidence that the Bible was given by inspiration of God and is therefore of divine origin.
- Our studies together are going to be an in-depth study into the origin and the transmission of the written word of God. In other words, where did it come from? What is its origin? And, how did it get from the original autographs, when it was originally written, into our hands today?

- I want you to be able to accurately and confidently identify and defend the word of God. I want you to be able to know where it is and what it is.

### **Satan: The First Destructive Critic**

- Genesis 3:1-6—the original standards of the original Textual Critic are preserved for you by God and you can see the tactics and the methods and the approach and the policy of evil that Satan has against God’s word.
- Now you need to get an understanding of this. How does Satan come at God’s word? Before Eve ever took of that tree, there is a long discussion (five verses) between her and Satan. In that whole discussion, the tactics and the policy of Satan’s design against the word of God are laid out for you and it is just as true today as it was then. In fact, today we are in the advanced stages of that campaign.
- Genesis 3:1—the very first thing that Satan does is question the word of God. He questions the scripture, Yea, hath God said . . .? Did God really say that? Are you sure God said that? He raises the question; Satan seeks to create doubt about what God actually said. This is his first tactic.
- Notice that he does it with a positive approach. You want to remember that. He says, “Yea, (yes), hath God said . . .” The root source of all questioning and doubt of the Bible comes from the Adversary.
- Genesis 3:2—is that what God told them?
  - Genesis 2:16
- Do you see what Eve did in Gen. 3:2? She left a very important word out. She subtracted a word from the text. She subtracted the word “freely” from the text. The first mistake Eve made outside of engaging the Adversary in a conversation was subtracting from the text.
- Tactic 1 is to question the word whereas Tactic 2 is to subtract from the word.
- Genesis 3:3—reveals the adversaries third and fourth tactics, ADD to the word of God and water it down.
  - Genesis 2:16-17—does the phrase “neither shall ye touch it” appear in these verses? Eve adds the phrase to the verse when she quotes it to Satan in Genesis 3:3.
- Genesis 3:3—notice the ending of the verse “lest ye die.”
  - Genesis 2:16-17—the text states “thou shalt surely die.”
- Notice how Genesis 3:3 waters the severity of the situation down, “thou shalt surely die” becomes “well, you might die.”

- Genesis 3:4—Satan’s attack on the word of God culminates with his outright denial of what God said. The verse reads “Ye shall **not** surely die.”
  - Genesis 2:17—clearly states “thou shalt **surely** die”
- Notice what Satan denies. He did not deny the words “*you shall possibly die*”. He denied the original version. He denied “Thou shall surely die”.
- Genesis 3:5—The basis of Satan’s denial of the word of God is a desire that he perceives in Eve for an independent viewpoint—for her own viewpoint, for her own knowledge. Here we see the origin of what Paul is talking about in I Corinthians 1. Ultimately Satan wants to replace God’s word and His wisdom with human viewpoint and the wisdom of men, i.e., the wisdom of this world.
- In summation, the Adversary’s attack on the final authority of God’s word is rooted in the following five tactics:
  - Tactic 1—Question God’s word (Gen. 3:1).
  - Tactic 2—Subtract from God’s word (Gen. 3:2)
  - Tactic 3—Add to God’s word (Gen. 3:3)
  - Tactic 4—Water down God’s word (Gen. 3:3)
  - Tactic 5—Deny God’s word (Gen. 3:4)
- Sin on this planet earth begins with an attack on God’s word in Genesis 3. There is a satanic policy of evil against the word of God clearly laid out in the scripture, and the design is simply to destroy the final authority of your Bible. Satan wants to take that word of God and make it less than the final authority.
- Now, how is he going to do that? Well, if you have an authority and it speaks with authority, the tactic is to bring up another authority along side of it and give that second authority equal weight with the first. Well, then how do you decide which is right? If you have two competing authorities, who decides what is right? A third authority decides – you do, or somebody does.
  - “For example: you have two baseball teams playing against each other. There is a close play at first base. Well, you know what they are all going to say, right? The guy in the field is going to say that he was out, and the guy running is going to say that he is safe. Now what do you have in the game to take care of that? You have a final authority; you have an umpire. If that umpire says that someone is out, you can kick dirt on him all day long but it does not change anything unless you can go convince the league commissioner that he was wrong. But when that happens, nobody ever knows if they can be sure or not.” (Jordan, MSS 101)
- So, Satan’s attempt is to get rid of that final authority by putting up a competing authority. The policy and the design is to destroy that final authority in God’s word.
  - Hegelian Dialectic—“usually presented in a threefold manner, was stated by Heinrich Moritz Chalybäus as comprising three dialectical stages of development: a thesis, giving rise to its reaction; an antithesis, which contradicts or negates the thesis; and the tension between the two being resolved by means of a synthesis. Although this model is often named after Hegel, he himself never used that specific formulation. Hegel ascribed that

terminology to Kant. Carrying on Kant's work, Fichte greatly elaborated on the synthesis model and popularized it.” ([Wikipedia Entry](#))

- Hegelian Dialectic certainly applies to the realm of human viewpoint or the wisdom of this world. It does not hold, however, when dealing with the word of God. God gave His word to be an anchor. No matter what your thesis is, if the old book stands up here and the old book is different from human viewpoint, it is the final authority. And it will look at your thesis and say that it is wrong. It may look at that guy’s opinion, and say that it is right. It stands. It is the authority.
- Satan wants to get rid of that authority. He does not want you to have the capacity in your hands to have what God Almighty says. You need to know where God’s word is because Satan is interested, and he has a positive program in place to corrupt that book.
  - II Corinthians 2:17

### Works Cited

Jordan, Richard. *Manuscript Evidence 101*. Grace School of the Bible.