

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD #11

I want to conclude our teaching series on “The Power of God’s Word” with a message I am calling...

“The Ultimate Explanation”

(How God’s Word has the power of to give us the “ultimate explanation” to all the great questions of life)

What is an “explanation”?

“Explanation”

A statement or account that makes something clear.

We read books to seek explanations; we are looking for answers; we want to learn or understand something. But worldly books can only give us what are called “proximate” or partial explanations of why things are what they are. The Bible gives us the “ultimate explanation” of all things.

“Ultimate”

The last or final; the most important; the original cause or source of something.

Only the Bible, the Word of God, gives us the “ultimate explanation”; the last word; it explains and makes clear the most important or original cause or source of all things.

The Psalmist said it this way...

Psalm 119:130

The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

I was saved at 27; I had read 100’s of books by that time and many of them were helpful to me; but the Bible was different. It spoke to me on every subject with an authority I had not found in other books. I learned this...

God’s word has the power to provide the “ultimate explanation” for all the great questions of life.

- Who am I?

- Where did I come from?
- Why am I here?
- And the big one we will answer tonight::

Why is there so much evil, pain, and suffering in this world? And in my life?

Worldly books give us a “proximate” explanation; but the Word of God gives us the **ultimate explanation**, the final word of why there is so much gone wrong in this world.

The obvious answer is “sin”; and that is true. But that is only a proximate explanation. The ultimate explanation can be summed up in this one sentence:

**“The primary cause of all the conflict in the universe
(and in our own lives)
is the warfare over the Word of God.”**

To prove the point, we will begin at the beginning, in the Book of Genesis.

I. Back to the Beginning

A. The Book of Beginnings

1. The 1st book of the Bible is Genesis; named from the same word we get the words “genetics”, “genes” and “generation”. The Book of Genesis literally means the “Book of Beginnings.”

2. The Book of Genesis, especially the 1st 3 chapters, provide us with a “prototype” of things that will be repeated throughout human history:

“Prototype”

An early sample or model designed to act as a thing to be replicated or learned from.

3. This is especially true as to the entrance of sin and the introduction of misery and death into the human experience.

Derek Prince

“If I go back to the beginning, the Bible explains me to me, as a descendant of Adam and Eve, a *prototype* of all human experience in the origin of our race.

The Bible is written by God to the ‘sons of Adam’, for whom God holds incredible love.”

a. People with problems go to a psychiatrist, who will take you back into your past to help explain your “present”; this is what we discover in the 1st 3 chapters of the Book of Genesis.

Derek Prince

“The essence of what we need to know about ourselves, how Satan works, and the explanation of all God’s dealings with us are all found right here!”

4. So what is the prototype?

- Genesis 1: God creates man
- Genesis 2: God gives the man His 1st commandment...

Genesis 2:15-17

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- So far so good; but then, in Genesis 3, we see the source of all the problems in this world.
- Satan, incarnated in the form of a serpent, makes his 1st appearance to the human race:

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast the Lord God had made; and he said to the woman, ‘Did God really say you must not eat of any tree of the garden?’

5. Oh how many miss this! The 1st words Satan speaks to the human race are designed to question the authority of the Word of God!

“Hath God said...?”

- a. In some ways, we could stop right here and go home!
- b. This simple question always identifies the presence of the Devil!

c. Any voice you hear, from within or without, that questions the authority of the Word of God originates with the Devil.

Derek Prince

“The serpent was an incarnation of Satan. His supreme objective and goal was to remove Adam and Eve from their foundation in the Word of God. *And this has not changed. Satan wants to undermine and discredit the scriptures. And when you get to the place where you no longer believe and accept the authority of scripture, you’re sunk. You’re a casualty. That’s all he needs to do.*”

6. A simple “thus says the Lord” would have silenced the serpent. But instead, our first parents allowed the conversation to continue.

a. The moment we begin to allow ourselves to question the word of God we open the door to the Devil.

b. Now notice the 2nd words of Satan:

Genesis 3:4

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."

7. Here is how it works: Satan usually begins by questioning the Word of God. But then he moves on to an outright denial of the Word of God.

a. Here is how the formerly Christian nations like Germany and England slipped into spiritual decline and backsliding; here is how I have seen so many “fall away from the faith”; it begins with QUESTIONING the authority of scripture and ends up in OUTRIGHT DENIAL.

8. But the Devil is not done yet: his next move is to question the goodness of God:

Genesis 3:4-5

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

a. This was an attack on the goodness of God; calling His motives into question!

9. Nothing has changed! The Devil comes to question the Word of God, to deny the Word of God, and to tempt us to doubt the goodness of God. And then comes the saddest verse in the Bible when the human race falls into sin.

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

10. What really happened here?

a. God gave them His word; “Don’t eat from this tree; it will kill you”

b. But Satan came. First, he questioned the Word; they said nothing.

Then he outright denied the Word; they said nothing. Then he called God’s goodness into question; they said nothing.

c. Next... “**So** when the woman **saw** the tree was good for food”; if we do not trust the authority of the Word of God we will end up trusting our senses! This is why the Apostle Paul said....

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

1 Corinthians 5:7

11. All the troubles in this world can be explained by sin; but the ultimate explanation is deeper: **it all began with warfare over the authority of the Word of God!** And it CONTINUES today in the world and in our lives in what some have called...

B. Echoes of Eden

1. This metaphor means that God gives us the ultimate explanation for all that’s wrong in the world right from the beginning; the prototype of the tempting of our first parents is repeated down through human history:

Echoes of Eden

- **God gives us His word**
 - **Satan comes immediately, to wage war over the Word**
- **(1) He begins by questioning the Word; (2) Then he moves to outright denial of the Word; (3) And he attempts us to doubt the goodness of God**

2. What happened to them happens to us: our trials are “echoes of Eden”.

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 KJV

The New Living Translation has this...

History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new. Sometimes people say, "Here is something new!" But actually it is old; nothing is ever truly new.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 NLT

3. Let me close with 2 examples from the New Testament and how what happened in Eden was still going on 4000 years later in the ministry of Jesus.

II. Forward to the New Testament

A. The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

1. Jesus, the Son of God is born and grows up to the age of 30, when He goes to the Jordan to be baptized in water by John.

Matthew 3:16-17

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- a. These are the 1st recorded words of God the Father to the Son.
- b. It is a wonderful affirmation of the identity of Jesus, spoken before He had ever preached a sermon or performed a miracle.
- c. So, just like in Eden, God gives His word.

2. Then notice what happens in the next verse...

Matthew 4:1

Then (Mark's version says "immediately") Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

a. Many miss something here because the chapter changes. But there are no chapters in the original Greek text!

b. In the last verse of Matthew 3, God speaks His Word over Jesus: This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

c. Then in the 1st verse of Matthew 4, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness to be tested by the Devil!

d. This is an echo of Eden; God gives His word and the warfare begins!

e. Have you ever heard a great sermon or receive an amazing prophetic word from God and then have the hardest week of your life?

f. Learn this is a powerful principle: anytime God give us His word He will always allow it to be tested!

3. God spoke over Jesus out of heaven: “This is My beloved Son”; but notice how Satan operates in the 1st 2 temptations:

Matt 4:3-4

Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:5-6

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down.

For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

4. Don't get bogged down in the details; this is an echo of Eden: God spoke His word, “This is My beloved Son”; and immediately Satan comes to question God's word! “If you are the Son...”

5. But unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus refuses to debate with the Devil; He defeats Him with the very Word that Satan is attacking...”It is written!”

6. There is no record of Jesus having any warfare with the Devil until God spoke His word to His Son; the warfare is always over the Word!

(So much for those who teach that the Christian life is taffy pull!)

7. Let me give one more example from Jesus' most famous parable.

B. **The Parable of the Sower**

1. In Mark 4, Jesus gives His disciples the “Parable of the Sower (or Seed)”:

- He says the Kingdom of God is like a man sowing seed
- The seed falls on 4 kinds of soil –which determines whether the seed is effective or not

2. Then He explains the parable:

Mark 4:14

The sower sows the word.

3. The “sower” is God; the “seed” He sows is His word; the “soil” where it is sown is the human heart.

4. Then the warfare begins:

Mark 4:15

And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

a. Satan hates the Word of God; whenever it is sown, (by reading or preaching), he will come immediately to try to take it away.

b. The next part of the parable is our proof text:

Mark 4:16-17

16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, (because of the Word) immediately they stumble.

(Another translation says, “They fall away”)

5. Sad to see I have seen many stumble and fall away; they didn’t know how to handle the warfare over the Word.

III. Conclusion

A. Personal Application

1. Think about what you are going through right now:

- Discouragement or depression
- Financial stress
- Crisis in a relationship

2. Now if you're there because of sin you must repent!

3. But what if the warfare is over the Word? What if the whole situation is an echo of Eden?

- A voice within that is questioning the Word of God?
- The temptation to follow your senses and deny the Word of God?
- Or maybe a voice within causing you to question God's goodness?

2. Don't rule it out. Satan hates you. But he hates the Word within you even more. It's the ultimate explanation for the trouble we are in.

Derek Prince

“Satan's not changed his scheme. Why? Because it works! It has brought him endless success. So whatever you do, never be moved away from your faith in the authority of God's word. Never even entertain the question!”

Closing Prayer