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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1780 ~ Eve is Tempted.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Before God created Adam, He looked at all His handiwork and He said that it was good. But after He'd created Adam, God found something that was not good. Although Adam had named all the living creatures and ruled over them, he was alone and somehow incomplete; he needed a suitable helper and companion. God, by a special act of creation, then made a woman for Adam.

How could a woman be a suitable helper for Adam? Firstly, Adam needed help to bring forth children into the world. Secondly, Adam needed fellowship and companionship. He needed someone made in God's likeness just like himself who he could have fellowship with, just like he did with God. And thirdly, Adam needed someone to partner with him and to supply the attributes that he lacked to make a team of humankind.

So why did God choose a rib from Adam by which to create the woman, whom Adam named Eve? Some people suggest that God chose a rib from the man's side to symbolise that although the woman was to be equal with the man, she was also to be under his arm for protection and near to his heart for love.

Having made two human beings that complemented each other, God ordained that they should both become one unit. It was at this point that God established the institution of marriage. Both Jesus and Paul quoted these words from Genesis in the New Testament to underpin the key teachings of the Bible outlined in Genesis, Chapter 2: husband and wife are equal before God; marriage is to be permanent; divorce is never in God's plan; husband and wife are to put each other's welfare ahead of anyone else's; the man is to leave his parents to make a new family unit; the wife is to be under the authority of her husband to protect her, serve her and love her.

Adam and Eve delighted in their new Garden of Eden home in Paradise, but remained very aware that they must not – at all costs – disobey God and eat of the forbidden fruit in the middle of the garden. In today's *Bible Adventure*, Eve is by herself near the forbidden fruit when she has an unexpected visitor.

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Although we don't know exactly where the Garden of Eden was located, the word 'Eden' means 'delight.' It was a beautiful place and all the more so because God's presence was there every evening in the cool of the day to talk to Adam and Eve. In the middle of the garden there were two special trees: the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The Tree of Life gave unending life to the person who ate from it, while the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil gave knowledge that was followed by death. Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat from this second tree. Why did God do this? God knew such knowledge would lead people to become independent of Him and His plan for their lives. Disobedience and eating of this fruit would result in people trying to decide for themselves what was good outside and beyond their Creator. But only God knows what's good for people, and people can only receive what is satisfyingly good by trusting and obeying God.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God by seeking the knowledge of good and evil, they forgot that all true knowledge begins with fearing and obeying of God Himself. In Proverbs, Chapter 1, it says: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

So how did Eve get tricked into doing the wrong thing, the very thing that she knew was wrong? Satan's main area of influence is undermining the truth of God's word. Satan didn't go to Eve with an obvious lie but rather, with a question. When he came and tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he misquoted Scripture and twisted the truth into a lie. Satan comes to people with half-truths, or takes the truth and he twists it just enough to get a believer to go down the wrong path. As noted in Genesis 3, Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, Satan is powerful, beautiful, intelligent and a master of deception.

How did Satan defeat Eve? In her mind, Eve decided to disobey God's command before she actually reached out and plucked a fruit from the tree. More than ever, the battle in the human mind is the ground where Satan strives to dominate against believers or at least undo their desire to serve God and others.

There is another reason why Satan attacks the minds of believers in Christ: the mind is the place for the Holy Spirit of God, who dwells in the spirit of a believer, to give and explain the truth of God from His Word, the Bible, to them. To do this though, it's important that the Holy Spirit has full possession of a person's mind. If the mind is choked up with thoughts of fiction and trivia, there's no room for the Spirit of God to exercise a ministry of truth to that person or others. This explains why many Christians are unable to hold the truth of God that they hear or apply it to their lives or help others.

When a person has a change of mind and becomes a Christian, they confess their sin and they ask the Lord Jesus to forgive and make them whole and righteous in God's sight. When God's authority is over a person, the person's old worldly, sinful nature is totally delivered from the grip of Satan. Unless the hold of Satan is totally removed from the mind, Satan still retains a foothold ready for attack, accusations and ultimate hindrance to spiritual service.

We have all authority in Christ to cast out Satan and his strongholds from our lives if we're holding fast to the promises and truth revealed to us by God. From then on, we must continually depend on Jesus Christ step-by-step for everything in life, forsaking our own ambitions and self-centred longings. This is the position known as being crucified with Christ on the Cross, and requires a daily sacrifice of giving up our life in order to claim Christ's in us.

Well, does it surprise you that when you take a stand against Satan, he's not happy! He doesn't give up without a fight and will test our faith and position in Christ to undermine it wherever he can. How does a believer bring every rebellious thought into obedience to Christ? We need to recognise that the mind continues to be the strategic battlefield all the days of our lives while here on earth. The big danger for a Christian is to accept false teaching or downgrade the importance of seeking the mind of Christ each day with all our hearts.

Believers need to be aware that we can't be both friends with the world and friends with God at the same time. We need to side with God and avoid the temptations of the mind that come our way, whether they be by the latest technology gadget or unwholesome movies, as well as mixing with people who have dirty minds or getting caught up in some distracting financial scheme or career ambition.

There are a number of ways to deal with temptation. Firstly, no one avoids temptation. But the Bible says that God will never tempt us. In James, Chapter 1, it says: "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed." Our own fleshly natural desires can bring us down when we don't stand on God's truth. So don't be surprised by them but instead, be prepared for when they come!

In 1st Corinthians, Chapter 6, it says to flee sexual temptations. In Chapter 10, it also says to "remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it." When you are facing temptation, look for the way out that God has promised and then run that way as fast as you can!

Sing a God-honouring song of praise or thankfulness when you are tempted. Praising God takes your focus off yourself and puts it on God's rightful place of authority over your life instead.

Sinful temptations often revolve around money, sexual immorality and power. Some temptations are upon us before we realise that they're even coming. Other temptations may be on the horizon for awhile before they arrive with a direct or secret challenge.

Knowing and reading the Word of God also helps us to resist temptation. In Hebrews, Chapter 4, it says that the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It also judges the desires and thoughts of the heart. Pray for God's strength and good memory to recall Bible verses that strengthen and remind you to stand up for Christ whenever you're tempted to give God only second place in your life.

Is it realistic to think we can beat every temptation? From time-to-time, we all fail and fall. But when we do, let us repent quickly and resist the devil and his temptation. It's not the end of the world to fail; in fact by failing, we learn to try again while putting a stronger trust in God if we're truly willing to learn from the experience. But it is very dangerous for us to persist in our sin. Confess any and all sin that the Holy Spirit brings to mind, and ask the Lord for His forgiveness over all things, including those we commit in our spirit that we're not aware of.

There is an old English saying that says: "Idle fingers get into mischief." And this is also true of the mind. Although Satan can tempt you, he cannot make you do the wrong deed set before you. And this is why it's a battle of the mind for a believer to walk in the way of the Lord every day of their life!

II Corinthians, Chapter 10, verses 4 & 5, say: "we take every thought captive and make it obey Christ." May this be your experience as a believer in Christ as well!

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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