

# Doubting God's Word

Genesis 3:1-13

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the evening service  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

# 1. The tempter (v1a)

## Revelation 12v9

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.

## Ephesians 6v11

Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

## 2. The temptation (v1b-6)



BBC

HH

## 2. The temptation (v1b-6)

- God's Word *questioned* (v1b)

## Genesis 3v1

Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?



## Genesis 3v1

Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?

## Genesis 2v16-17

<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

## 2. The temptation (v1b-6)

- God's Word questioned (v1b)
- God's Word *distorted* (v2-3)

## Genesis 3v2-3

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

## 2. The temptation (v1b-6)

- God's Word questioned (v1b)
- God's Word distorted (v2-3)
- God's Word *denied* (v4-5)

“... scientifically impossible, historically unlikely  
and culturally regressive.”

Tim Keller



## 3. The antidote

## 3. The antidote

- Pray

## 2 Timothy 2v7

Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this



## 3. The antidote

- Pray
- Read

Fragmentary ancient text on a dark, irregularly shaped stone or clay tablet. The text is written in a cuneiform script, arranged in approximately 12 horizontal lines. The characters are small and closely spaced, typical of ancient Mesopotamian or Egyptian writing. The fragment is broken at the top and left edges, and the text is partially obscured by the irregular shape of the piece.

THE **New**  
**Testament**  
DOCUMENTS



ARE THEY RELIABLE?

**F. F. Bruce**

**Can We**  
**Trust**  
**the**  
**Gospels?**

**Peter J. Williams**

## 3. The antidote

- Pray
- Read
- Talk

Jude 22

Be merciful to those who doubt

### 3. The antidote

- Pray
- Read
- Talk
- Trust

“O God, there are many things in this book I do not understand. There are many problems with it for which I have no solution. There are many seeming contradictions. There are some areas in it that do not seem to correlate with modern science. I can't answer some of the philosophical and psychological questions that people are asking.”

**Billy Graham**

“I am going to accept this as your Word – by faith! I am going to allow faith to go beyond my intellectual questions and doubts, and I will believe this to be your inspired Word.”

**Billy Graham**

