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MINISTRIES

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Testing the Serpent Seed Doctrine

To those that have never heard of it before, what is the “Serpent Seed Doctrine?”

Simply stated, the serpent seed doctrine teaches that the sin of Eve was not simple disobedience, but the actual sexual contact with the serpent, and that Cain was the son of Eve and of the devil. Cain’s descendants are, according to this idea, the sons of Satan. Cain’s descendants are not included in the plan of salvation.

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

What is taught in some understandings of this verse is that the seed of the serpent is a literal physical seed.

Supposedly, there is a genetic lineage of Cain and all of his lineage are a “child of the devil.” We have two choices before us.

Either the seed spoken of in Genesis is a spiritual metaphor or it is biological and physical. Either being a child of the devil is a matter of the heart, or it is genetic and the serpent is a literal father of a non-human race starting with Cain.

Those are our two choices. We need to test each to the Word of God and determine which is valid.

The support for this doctrine, at least on the surface, can appear rather convincing, so let’s review some of the major tenants of this doctrine.

Genesis 3:13 is often cited, with the claim that the word translated “beguiled” in the King James Version really meant “seduced.” At that point, it is extrapolated that the serpent sexually seduced Eve.

Genesis 3:13

And the Lord God (YHWH Elohim) said unto the woman, “What is this that thou hast done?” And the woman said, “The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”

Strong’s defines the Hebrew word used here as to be “deceived” and that is how the ESV translates this verse.

Genesis 3:13

Then the Lord God (YHWH Elohim) said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

There is a Hebrew word that can be and is used in the scriptures to mean seduced in a sexual sense.

However, it should be noted that this particular word is not present in Genesis 3:13.

There really is not much scholarly support for interpreting Genesis 3:13 to mean that the Serpent sexually seduced Eve.

The Hebrew text can be stretched to perhaps loosely imply this, but we will see later how this interpretation does not really make much sense and hold up to the test.

Moving on...

Another supposed proof text is in Proverbs 30:20,

Proverbs 30:20 metaphorically compares the act of eating with sexual immorality.

Proverbs 30:20

This is the way of an adulteress: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, “I have done no wrong.”

The linkage is necessary because the sin of Adam and Eve is mentioned to include eating, thus there is a need to attempt to prove that when Adam and Eve ate, it meant something sexual instead of something literal.

In addition, in Proverbs 30:20 the adulterous says “I have done no wrong,” whereas Eve promptly admitted her wrongdoing. The attempt to link Proverbs 30:20 to the sin of Eve fails substantially.

Moving on to another common point...

It could be quickly pointed out that Adam and Eve realized that they were naked, and thus their physical nakedness implies something sexual in nature occurring in context.

However, the physical nakedness is here metaphorically to teach on their current absence of a covering for their sin. Let's read...

Genesis 3:5-7

For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

We must understand that the physical is often used to teach us the spiritual.

Being in sin makes us naked and exposed to God's judgment.

We need to be covered for that sin to no longer be naked and ashamed. We can see that God was our first High Priest in which he slaughtered an animal and used it's skin to "cover" Adam and Eve, immediately pointing them to the sacrifice that Yeshua would eventually make for us to atone for all sin and to cover all men in the faith.

Genesis 3:21

And the Lord God (YHWH Elohim) made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

In order for garments of skin to cover them, an animal had to die.

Thus, their realization of physical nakedness is to teach a spiritual understanding of their spiritual nakedness in lacking a covering for their sin. This is an understanding from Genesis also found elsewhere in Scripture as well. Nakedness does not mean something sexual in nature, but a lack of a spiritual covering in intentional sin and lack of faith.

2 Corinthians 5:2-4

For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

Revelation 3:17

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

Revelation 16:15

“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”

So we can see that just because they have realized that they are naked, that it does not mandate that what just transpired is something sexual in nature.

It simply means that Adam and Eve were found to be in sin, so that they were spiritually naked.

They were certainly physical naked as well, but the physical situation teaches the spiritual condition; that is the intended purpose here.

Because they were physically naked, and ashamed, they needed a physical covering.

On a spiritual level, they were also spiritually naked and ashamed because of their sin...therefore God sacrificed an animal, and covered them in its skin as a spiritual covering...pointing us to what later would be accomplished by our Messiah when the events of the first century covered our sins in His sacrifice.

So back to Genesis 3:

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband **who was with her**, and he ate.

If we attempt to use Proverbs 30:20 to try to prove that the fruit in Genesis 3 is referring to a sexual act between Eve and the Serpent, then we have a few serious things we now need to deal with.

We need to consider that it was stated that Adam was with Eve when Eve ate the fruit from the serpent.

Which means that we would have to believe that Adam sat around and watched the serpent have sex with his wife.

But don't stop there.

Then, after that, Eve decided to give Adam some sexual relations with the serpent:

“she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. “

Strange doctrine indeed.

So here is what we have with the “Serpent Seed” doctrine.

First, Adam watched his wife have sexual relations with a serpent, then Eve thought that sexual relations with the serpent was great, so she offered the same sexual relations with the serpent to Adam, and then Adam agreed and then proceeded to have homosexual relations with a serpent in front of Eve.

Does that even sound right? Is that what expect really happened? Now, we are not trying to mock the doctrine or teaching, but simply expose it’s Biblical error, but it is about to become even more absurd. We have to be consistent with the application of the metaphors.

If eating fruit means sexual relations with the one giving it then there is something to consider.

If the serpent giving the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil means sex with the serpent, what does it mean when God initially gave Adam and Eve the fruit from the tree of life?

Does that mean that Adam and Eve were having sexual relations with God? We would have to believe that if it meant that Adam and Eve were having sexual relations with the serpent by eating the fruit. We cannot choose application of the metaphor in one instance and attempt to ignore just a few verses prior.

Remember, the physical teaches the spiritual...in the physical, the fruit is the product of a tree, it is the result of the life of the tree. It is what the tree does.

In Scripture, fruit does not symbolize sexual relations, instead fruit symbolizes our obedience or disobedience as good fruit or bad fruit.

For instance...watch how fruit symbolizes obedience to the Word of God in the following...

Mark 4:20

But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones **who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit**, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.

Good fruit is hearing and accepting the Word of God, and since the Word of God contains instructions, it means conforming to and following the Word of God...exactly how our Messiah did as the example to follow.

Luke 3:9

Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Luke 6:43

For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,

Matthew 7:17

So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 12:33

Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.

We can clearly see that in Scripture, fruit does not mean sexual relations, but instead it means obedience or disobedience.

Otherwise we would have to believe that the one who has good sexual relations is the one who lives, but the one who has bad sexual relations is the one who is thrown into the fire.

Clearly that is not what is meant to be understood.

Metaphors mean things in Scriptures, most certainly, but we need to be consistent in the application of those metaphors.

Also note that the fruit contains seed...that is metaphorically relevant as well...we will cover importance of that next.

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed, he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

This verse is used to attempt to prove that the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman is referring to something physical.

Our Messiah taught that the seed is the Word of God.

Watch how simple this definition is.

Luke 8:11

The seed is the word of God.

It cannot be more simple than that to define the metaphor of the seed.

The work is done for us.

This is one of the few instances in which the definition of the metaphor is given to us.

We are not told that the seed is either the physical biological genetics of God or the physical biological genetics of the serpent. No...the seed of God is the Word of God.

The seed of the serpent is deception that is against the Word of God.

Peter teaches the same.

1 Peter 1:23

Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding Word of God;

If the seed of God is the Word of God, then the seed of the adversary, or serpent, is whatever is against the Word of God.

This makes complete sense because those who follow the Word of God have always been at odds with those who do not follow the Word of God.

Now we also understand the nature of the seed that is in the fruit.

Remember, from the beginning, like kind produces like kind.

When Adam and Even ate the fruit from the serpent, they were following the instructions of the serpent and against the instructions from God. And ever since then the seed that followed the Word of God has been against the seed that does not follow the Word of God. That is the theme from Genesis to Revelation.

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed...

This is why believers in the Word of God are referred to as the woman, or the bride of the Messiah.

Thus, the seed is not physical and biological in this case, but completely metaphorical. Seeds are chosen as a metaphor because seeds carry instructions in them, just like the Word of God carries instructions, or there are the false instructions of the enemy. Whatever instructions we follow, will dictate what type of tree we become and what type of fruit we produce. For more on this, please see our teaching titled [Snakes and Scorpions](#).

Back to the verse:

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed...

Another problem is this.

Cain was supposedly the seed of both the serpent and Eve, whereas all others would be the seed of Adam and Eve.

Thus, both Cain, and every other person on planet Earth would be the seed of Eve...so it does not make sense to try to imply that Cain is not the seed of the woman but only the seed of the serpent.

This verse cannot support the serpent seed doctrine.

It cannot be referring to Cain as the seed of the serpent, because it is contrasted against the seed of the woman.

If the serpent seed doctrine is true, Cain is the seed of both the woman and the serpent.

Let's move on...

Genesis 4:1-2

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

Sometimes it is stated that the Bible does not refer to Adam 'knowing' his wife again before the birth of Abel and this indicates to the subscriber of the Serpent Seed theory that Cain and Abel were twins.

According to the theory, this was made possible through the process of heteropaternal superfecundation where the mother ovulates more than one egg and has more than one partner during her fertile period.

One egg is fertilized with sperm from one partner, and the other egg from sperm of another partner.

Hence, it is contended that Cain was the son (or seed) of the serpent and Abel was the son of Adam.

However, in verse two we have a Hebrew word that means "and again." Thus, what happened again was the same thing that occurred in verse one.

So in both instances, for both Cain and Abel, Adam "knew" Eve and bore a child. The birth of Cain was the result of "knowing" Adam.

Genesis 4:1

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain,

To know your wife in such context, means “intimate relations” and in this case, the result of Adam “knowing” Eve, they conceived Cain.

Consider these examples:

Genesis 4:25

And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth,

Judges 19:25

But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go.

1 Kings 1:4

The young woman was very beautiful, and she was of service to the king and attended to him, but the king knew her not.

Matthew 1:24-25

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.

As we can clearly see, it was Adam who knew Eve and thus conceived Cain...not the serpent who knew Eve and conceived Cain.

Genesis 4:1

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.”

It is also often noted that Cain’s lineage is ignored in scripture. This is inferred to mean that Cain was not human and his lineage is that of the serpent. This is what’s called a logical fallacy.

The reality is that Cain’s lineage is not mentioned because Cain’s lineage never survived the flood and thus his lineage is irrelevant.

Also used to teach the serpent seed doctrine is John 8.

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

It is taught that Jews are biologically fathered by the devil because of this verse, just like Cain supposedly was. However, as we learned earlier, those of the good seed follow the Word of God and thus God is their Father.

And those who follow the ways of man and the world follow the adversary, and thus the devil is their father.

This is a spiritual understanding, and not literal. It must be, for the Messiah recognized that the Jews are indeed of the lineage of Abraham, not the serpent. He said it Himself just a few verses earlier:

John 8:37

I know that you are offspring of Abraham;

It is a mistake to assume that because one is referred to as a child of the devil that it is biological in nature...the reality is that it is spiritual in nature.

At one time, we all practiced sin...

1 John 3:8-10

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

You can clearly see how who's child we are is not defined by our physical Father, but by who's instructions we are following, either for the Word of God or against the Word of God.

And this was the same for Cain...he was not a physical child of the serpent, but a spiritual child of the serpent.

1 John 3:11-14

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

There are other things to consider as well. Galatians 3:28 states that race nor status has any impact on the possibility of salvation.

2 Peter 3:9 says that God wants everyone to be saved, not "everyone but the children of Cain."

As one final, yet profound point, if Cain was indeed the devil's son and by default

excluded from salvation, then why would YHWH say this in Genesis 4:6-7?

Genesis 4:6-7

The Lord (YHWH) said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

That single verse alone dismantles the entire serpent seed doctrine. YHWH Himself acknowledges that Cain had potential of being accepted, but Cain chose the wrong path. Cain was not of some non-human race spawned by the serpent, but simply a human that chose ways contrary to YHWH.

We hope that this teaching was of some value and offered some thoughts to consider related to the serpent seed doctrine. Ultimately, we are free to believe whatever we choose, we simply ask that you test everything to the Word of God and only hold on to what is good.

We hope that this teaching blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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