

Avenues of attack

Consider the devil's **avenues of attack**. Eve was well on the way to falling when she queried God and listened to the snake. She was already misrepresenting God's Word ¹. Already she was listening to Satan and querying God's power. Already she has fallen in her mind and in her spirit although she had not done anything yet. Genesis 3:6 deals with how the sin comes out in the deed.

¹ 3:3b

James 1:14 says '*Each person is tempted and put to the test when he is attracted and enticed by that person's own desire.*' ¹ Then the desire conceives and gives birth to sin, and when sin is full-grown it gives birth to death'. These stages are visible in the story of Eve's fall. She looks at the tree, prompted by the snake. She is enticed by the attractiveness of the fruit and is lured by her desires. Then desire gets a hold, and it gives birth to the sin. The result is disaster, spiritual death. Soon she will be driven out of paradise, and away from God.

¹ verse 15

1. The lust of the flesh

Sin uses three avenues. **First there is the lust of the flesh**. One channel by means of which sin pulls at us is our very physical frame. '*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*' ¹.

¹ 3:6

The desire for food was part of what drew Eve into sin. The body exercises a pull on us and sin can use our various physical appetites. There are various desires of the body, the desire for ease, laziness, appetite, greed for physical pleasure, sexuality. All of these are channels down which we may be drawn into sin. The woman saw the fruit was good for food. It appealed to her hunger, her taste for physical nourishment.

2. The lust of the eyes

Secondly, there is **the lust of the eyes**. The power of eyesight has an amazing ability to stimulate the desire for sin. It is stronger in this than any other of the body's senses. Eve '*saw that it was good ... and that it was a delight to the eyes...*'. Our appetite for something sinful will be heightened by our seeing it. There is an added desire that comes by looking, enticements that come through the imagination stirred by something seen. The fruit was '*a delight to the eyes*'. The inclination to sin came to Eve when she saw the fruit. This often happens.

Sin often attacks when people notice something. '*As soon as he had **seen** the ring and the bracelets...*' ¹, Laban was wondering how he could exploit Abraham's servant. '*I **saw** a fine robe ... I set my heart on them ... I took them*', said Achan ². David '***saw** a woman bathing...*' ³ and soon his kingdom was almost in ruins. Lot **saw** the enticing riches of the area where Sodom and Gomorrah were to be found ⁴. When we are in fellowship with the Lord we are to be 'watchful' for the approach of sin. Outside of

¹ Genesis 24:30

² Joshua 7:20, 21

³ 2 Samuel 11:2

⁴ Genesis 13:11-12

God we look around and we see many things which stimulate our appetites for sin. We are 'watchful' in a wrong way. If sinless Eve could be pulled down, how much more those who are born sinful.

3. The pride of life

Thirdly, there is **the pride of life** (the third of the three mentioned in 1 John 2:16). Sin appeals to human vanity. Eve now wanted to be independent of God. She wanted to be independently wise, leading her own life without God. She had a desire to be superior, to 'be wise'.

• *Conception of sin*

Soon came the 'conception' of sin. This is when sin deposits itself into our innermost hearts, and we now intensely and blindly want to sin. Sin is more than temptation, and temptation is not sin. Sin takes hold or 'conceives' within us at the point when it is welcomed or cherished. Satan will put thoughts in our mind, but that is not sin. It only becomes sin when we receive his suggestions.

• *The birth of sin*

Next comes the birth of sin. Eve acts. She takes the fruit and eats. She did not get the snake to change as she chatted to him, but he got her to sin.

• *Eve's deception*

Eve was deceived ^{□1}, but Adam was not. Adam was appointed to be leader and Eve was to allow him to be the authority in Eden. In refusing this role and acting independently Eve was deceived. If women today refuse their role, they will again be deceived. I am **not** saying that women generally are more able to be deceived, but if they refuse their womanly role, their refusal to accept God's plan for them leads to deception.

^{□1} see 1 Timothy 2:14

Eve was fallen already when she queried God. She had fallen in her mind and spirit already. Verse 6 deals with how the sin comes out in the actual deed of taking from the forbidden fruit.

• *Jesus temptation and victory*

The same three channels of attack, the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the pride of life^{□1} were used again in the temptation of Jesus ^{□2}. Satan wanted (i) stones to be made into bread, and (ii) showed Jesus the glory of the world's kingdoms, and (iii) urged Jesus to do something that would bring Him immediate admiration and favour among the people. However the second Adam was victorious where Eve and the first Adam failed. He did not doubt the Word of God ('Has God really said...?') but trusted the Word of God ('*It is written...!*').

^{□1} see 1 John 2:16

^{□2} Matthew 4:1-11



Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His *Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)* books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.



These specially reformatted chapters "Slices of Bread" produced by Sovereign World Trust are available in three categories as set out below

Slices for the Nations	Slices for Sponsors	Slices for Everyone / Slice of the Week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For pastors, libraries and colleges in those parts of the world where resources are scarce and unaffordable In the fullness of time the whole series will be made available free of charge Weekly emailings of 3 - 4 Slices or available to download from the <i>Slices</i> web site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those in more prosperous circumstances who can afford to contribute to the development of this material and its distribution with a small monthly donation The same material as Slices for the Nations Weekly emailings of 3 - 4 Slices or by download from the <i>Slices</i> web site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those who wish to sample the material or dip into it from time to time, a proportion of the PTTB series is available free of charge Slices for Everyone (as a download) or Slice of the Week (attached to a weekly email) The remainder of the PTTB material is available to Sponsors and those eligible to receive Slices for the Nations

To subscribe please contact: slicesofbread@sovereignworldtrust.org.uk stating which category fits your situation. Further details are at www.slices.org.uk
 Details of the availability of *Preaching Through The Bible* books and how they may be purchased can be found on www.ibtr.org.uk