THE FIRST QUESTION ON RECORD
Text: Genesis 3:1-6

I. THIS FIRST QUESTION GIVES US OUR FIRST INTRODUCTION TO SATAN, THE ADVERSARY OF MAN.
A. From this time on, man is frequently warned to be on guard against Satan’s strategy, treachery, & deceit.

[We are taught to be forgiving] lest Satan should take advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices. (2 Cor. 2:11).

Put on the whole armor... (wiles, schemings) Eph 6:11

[The person under consideration for appointment to the eldership] must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach & the snare of the devil. (1 Tim. 3:7).

B. In his first appearance Satan plays the role of a religious advisor.

1. The command, “You shall not eat” was a religious taboo. Only so because God said so.

3. Many are surprised to find Satan engaging in religious activity; think one religion is as good as another. The word of God tells us otherwise.

a. He has his synagogues, Rev. 2:9; 3:9
b. He has his ministers. READ 2 COR 11:14-15
c. He has his doctrines, 1 Tim. 4:1
d. This is the explanation for all the confusion that exists in religion today. 1 Cor 14:33

C. Notice Satan’s skill in perverting Scripture.
1. Flatly denies God’s word, Gen. 3:3-5
2. Other times twists, misapplies, etc. Note Temptation of Jesus, Matt. 4.

II. SATAN’S MOTIVE IN ASKING THE QUESTION,
A. Not to receive information. He knew what God said.
B. But rather to give him an opportunity to oppose God.

III. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF APOSTASY WAS PREACHED, vs. 4-5.

A. The devil’s lie lead to death, both physical & spiritual. James 2:27; Isa. 59:2

B. Millions of marble shafts stand today as monuments to the devil’s lie: “You will not die.”

C. This dangerous doctrine is still with us. We should use God’s word to defeat it at every turn. Rev 2:5; Gal 5:4; LK 8:13; James 5:19-20

IV. MAN AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH SATAN WAS PERFECT AND SINLESS. Gen 1:26-27

A. Adam & Eve were sinless. Satan cannot work thru a sinless person. But once Eve had sinned, he used her to entice Adam.

B. He worked thru Judas. Thru Ananias & Sapphira.

C. He works thru us anytime & every time we’ll allow him to do so.

VI. WE SEE IN THIS ENCOUNTER, MAN AS A CREATURE ENDOWED WITH THE POWER OF CHOICE.

A. The power to choose the right carries with it the danger of choosing the wrong.

B. Man still has the power of choice. Deut 11:26-28; Josh. 24:15; Rev. 22:17

VII. MAN STANDS BETWEEN GOD & SATAN. The nearer he gets to one, the farther he is from the other. James 4:7-8
VIII. GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESIST SATAN.

A. Try the spirits; test the “winds of doctrine.”
   1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11; John 5:39

B. Put on the whole armor of God. Eph. 6:13-17

C. Be watchful. Be careful.
   Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil
   as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may
   devour. (1 Peter 5:8).

Jonestown, TX, January 21, 1968
Springhill, LA, August 13, 1972
KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, August 19, 1973
Exton, PA, September 4, 1988
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 19, 1999