

## SERMON TRANSCRIPT

**SERMON TITLE:** Four Lies that Ruined the World

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Genesis 3

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2460

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Find God's Word, Genesis chapter 3. We're continuing our series on, "Challenges to the Cross," things that we meet in today's world that we need to have Bible answers for. The title of the message today, "Four Lies that Ruined the World."

I was talking to Janice, my baby daughter. She said, "Daddy, what are you going to preach on?" I said, "On four lies that ruined the world." She said, "Well, let me see. What are they? Would that be communism, humanism, new-ageism?" I said, "No, no, none of these. Bigger lies than all of those, and the lies beyond those lies."

These are Satan's four biggest lies. Satan's whole system is built on a lie. Jesus said in John chapter 8 and verse 44, to the unsaved Pharisees, "*You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth. And when he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar, and the father of it.*" That is, every lie that's ever been told has been spawned by the daddy liar, the liar of all liars, the father of all lies, who is the devil himself. Satan is a liar. Jesus said he is a, "*Murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth.*" Now, listen. His motive is murder. His method is the lie. Never forget that; his motive and his method, there in John chapter 8 and verse 44. Satan wants to bring death to life, to joy, to peace, to happiness, to fruitfulness. He wants to bring physical death. He wants to bring spiritual death. He wants to bring eternal death. And he does it through deception. He is a dirty liar. And we're going to find four of Satan's biggest lies. These are foundational lies, and they're lies out of which all other lies come. Now, remember that Satan, he is the master liar. And because he's the master liar, his lies are very good. Satan knows how to tell lies. His lies are very clever.

Let's look here in Genesis chapter 3 verse 1, "*Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field.*" Just underscore that word subtle. Now, Satan's lies are not lies that are obvious lies on the surface. You have to look beneath the surface to see his lies because he's very clever. Now let me tell you something. The best lies sound the most like the truth. And so there's some truth in most lies. A clock that doesn't even run is right twice a day, isn't that right? But now, wait a minute. If a clock is only right twice a day, you look at it, and you say, "That's wrong." It may be right twice a day, but it's still wrong. What is more dangerous, a clock twelve hours wrong or a clock five minutes wrong? A clock five minutes wrong is far more dangerous than a clock twelve hours wrong. When you look at a clock that's twelve hours wrong, you say, "That's wrong. Somebody tell me what time it is." A clock five minutes wrong, you miss your airplane. Now there's a difference. Now, Satan's lies are very close to the truth, and yet so very far from the truth.

Now, again, Satan had rather you think a wrong thing, believe a lie than to do a wrong thing. Why? Because the thought is the father of the deed. It is more dangerous to believe a wrong thing than to do a wrong thing. You can do a wrong thing by mistake and the next time do the right thing. But if you believe a wrong thing, you'll keep doing the wrong thing over and over again, for the Bible says in Proverbs 23 verse 7, "*As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.*" And so, the devil is the

original liar. The devil is the master liar. And the best lies sound the most like the truth. And those that are nearest to the truth and still a lie are the most dangerous.

Now, Satan, being a very clever liar, Satan, being the master liar, Satan, wanting to do his work through a lie, which is murder, will tell a lie about the biggest subject. Now he's not interested in telling lies about little things. He wants you to believe lies about the biggest subject. What is the biggest subject? God! God is the biggest subject. Now if Satan can get your mind twisted about who God is and what God does and what God is like, then he's got you, because the thought is the father of the deed. A.W. Tozer, a great leader in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, said, and I want you to listen to this quote, "No religion can rise higher than its concept of God." That is so true. "No religion can rise higher than its concept of God."

Now, Satan, in the very first book in the Bible, the very first pages of history, is going to tell four big lies, and all of them are going to deal with the character of God, because Satan does not want you to understand who God is.

Now it may surprise you to learn that Satan is an evangelist. What Satan wants is not casualties; he wants converts over to his own ideas. And so Satan comes as an evangelist to Eve to evangelize her for the devil's religion. Eve was his first convert. And rather than four spiritual laws, there are four spiritual flaws! Four lies that he wants Eve to believe! And Eve takes the bait. And these lies are not just what Satan has done eons ago. These are the four lies that you'll meet today and tomorrow. They're very fresh. They're very up to date. Now, Satan really may be double-faced, but he's not double-minded. He wants to do the same thing today that he has done always. So are you ready for these four big lies? All right.

Lie number one: **God is not good.** That's the first lie. Now notice again in Genesis chapter 3 and verse 1, "*Now the serpent,*" that's the devil, "*was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, 'Yea, hath God said, 'Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"* Now what's he trying to do? He's trying to get Eve to think negatively about God, get the idea that God is withholding goodness from her; therefore, God Himself is not good, that God is severe, God is cruel. Here's the beautiful Garden of Eden and God made it, and then God said, "You can't touch it. You can't eat of it." Of course, God had not said that they could not eat of the fruit of every tree of the garden. That was a lie. What had God said? Look in Genesis 2 verse 16, you're in the Bible, just turn backward one chapter. "*And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.'*" Do you see it? "*Of every tree thou mayest freely eat.*" Now what did Satan say? Genesis 3:1, "*Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field, and he said unto the woman, 'Hath God said, 'Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"* God said, "Help yourself." Satan said, "God says you can't have it." Now what is Satan trying to do? He's trying to get Eve to think negatively about God, that God is cruel, God is harsh, God is unloving. He wants to deny you, Eve, of any ultimate joy.

Anything that brings pleasure is a no-no. Anytime God sees anybody having a good time that God moves in to break up the game.

The truth of the matter is that God had said a resounding, “Yes! Yes!” to their joy and to their pleasure. When God created Eden in all of its luxury, all of its beauty, all of its bounty, God said to Adam and Eve, “There, children, that is for you. Help yourself.”

Now there’re a lot of people today who have the idea that God is some sort of a cruel God, a vengeful deity, sitting up there on His big throne, hurling down laws to make us squirm like a worm in hot ashes trying to keep them. That God is a cosmic killjoy. That God is trying to keep things from us. That is not true. God loves us. Let me give you some verses. I’ve given you these before, but jot them down.

Psalm 37 and verse 4, “*Delight thyself in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*” Isn’t that great? What your heart yearns for you’ll find in Him.

Psalm 84 verse 11, “*The Lord thy God is a sun and a shield; the Lord will give grace and glory,*” now listen to this, “*No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.*” No good thing. If it’ll make you healthy, happy, holy, wholesome, God says, “Help yourself.” Every time He says, “Thou shalt not,” He’s saying, “Don’t hurt yourself.” Every time He says, “Thou shalt,” He’s saying, “Help yourself to happiness.” God loves you.

Listen to this one, First Timothy chapter 6 verse 17, “*Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who giveth us,*” now listen to this phrase, “*who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.*” Isn’t that great?

Now if the devil can get you thinking negatively about God, he’s already got you. That’s the very first thing he did when he crawled his slimy, corroding path into history, to get Eve to think negatively about God. Lie number one: God is not good. All right, I want you to say it out loud, “God is good.” Don’t you ever let the devil tell you anything else! God is good all the time. All right.

Lie number two, lie number two. First lie: God is not good. Lie number two: **God is not truthful**, God is not truthful. Now notice he said in Genesis chapter 3 verse 1, “*Hath God said?*” Now that’s a doubt. The doubt leads to a denial. Now notice in Genesis 3 verses 2 through 4, “*And the woman said unto the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden,’ she knew better, “‘But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ‘Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.’” And the serpent said unto the woman, ‘Ye shall not surely die.’”* Verse 1, doubt; now in verse 4, denial, “*You’ll not die. You don’t have to worry about God.*” Now, you see what Satan did, first of all, was to get Eve to think negatively about God. Then the next step is easy, to get Eve to think skeptically about God. Lie number one: God is not good. Lie number two: God is not truthful.

Now what Satan had done in verse 1 is to put a question mark after the Word of God. I want to say clearly and plainly that anyone who causes skepticism concerning the authority, the accuracy, and the acceptability, the impeccability, the infallibility, the authenticity of the Word of God is doing the work of the devil. That's the work of the devil. I don't care what seminary he's in. I don't care what degrees he has. If he puts, if he puts a doubt, a question mark, or a denial after the Word of God, he is of the devil, the devil. The devil is out to destroy the truthfulness of God.

Now we have today, in today's society, we have substituted many things for God's Word, and all of them are based on the devil's lies. Let me mention some of these. First of all, **relativism**. What is relativism? Relativism is the idea that there's no fixed truth. A professor in the university stood up and said, "Students, I want to tell you there is nothing that you can say that is absolutely true. There's nothing that you can be absolutely sure of." A student lifted his hand, and said, "Professor, are you sure of that?" He said, "Absolutely!" Relativism. Everything is relative.

That roots back to a philosopher whose name was Hegel, H-E-G-E-L. And he had sort of a dialectic. What Hegel said was, over here is a thesis, a belief, and over here is an antithesis, or an anti-thesis, that says I argue with that. And these two get in a big argument. And then they come together to a synthesis. Thesis, antithesis, synthesis. And so, maybe, the thesis over here is Capitalism; the antithesis is Communism; and then the synthesis is Socialism. And then that synthesis in the minds of many becomes the new thesis. Now this is true. And then over here you get another antithesis. And then, after a while, you get another synthesis. Do you see what is happening? Everything is relative. There is nothing fixed. There's no anchor. There's no standard. Man's mind just keeps on working. Plato in his Republic talked about some sailors who, having lost their chart and compass, put a light on the bow of the ship and steered by that. That's what we're doing in today's society. Number one: relativism.

Number two: **subjectivism**. What is subjectivism? "Well, I feel this," or, "I feel that. Let me tell you about my experience." There used to be a time when preachers would stand in the pulpit and say, "The Bible says." Then they started saying, "The Church says." And now they just say, "Well, it seems to me," or, "I feel," as they kind of scratch their head. Subjectivism.

Or another substitute for the Word of God is **rationalism**, rationalism. That is, we bring logic. We bring our computers. We worship at the shrine of our intellect. And rather than saying, "Thus sayeth the Word of God," we say, "Thus sayeth the mind of man." We try to put God on our scales, put God in our test tube, put God in our cyclotrons, put God in our computers, but God will not fit there. Well, you say, "Pastor, I think we ought to be reasonable." Sure, you ought to be. But, friend, where reason cannot wade, faith must swim." What we believe is not contrary to reason, listen, it is not contrary to reason; it is beyond reason, beyond reason. God is not an unreasonable God. But can a man, by reason, find out God? Absolutely not! And so we, we try relativism and subjectivism and rationalism.

And if that doesn't work what most Americans like is **pragmatism**. What is pragmatism? Pragmatism doesn't even bother to ask, "Is it true?" We just ask, "Does it work?" We're very pragmatic about it.

But the most dangerous of all, and this is the thing that is happening in the society we live in, is something called **postmodernism**, postmodernism. Now modernism would argue with conservatism about what is right or what is wrong. The postmodernist doesn't even bother to argue. The postmodernist doesn't even believe there is anything called truth. And so the postmodernist, or he might believe that truth is everywhere, but no one truth is over against another truth. So somebody might say, "Look, you're into Buddha, I'm into Jesus. What is true for you is fine. That's your truth. What is true for me is fine. That's my truth." And this is called postmodernism, and it's a big word for a lot of silliness and foolishness. But the devil doesn't want you to believe that God is the God of truth.

Now, if you have children and you're raising those children, your children have been infected by these other forms, substitutes for the truth of God, and the big daddy liar is behind it all. And you're going to have difficulty raising your children unless you get them to believe that the Bible is the inerrant, inspired, infallible Word of God. And when you talk to them and say, "You should not commit fornication, you should not commit adultery." You don't say, "Because it's bad for you." You say, "Because God says so! You don't tell a lie. Why? Because God says so. It's wrong to steal because God says so. You worship only one God because the Bible teaches that." The devil does not want a society to have a fixed standard of truth. God is good. Say, "Amen." God is truth. Say, "Amen!" Now, if you don't believe that, the devil's got you going his way. He wants you to think negatively about God. Then he wants you to think skeptically about God.

Lie number three, lie number three: **God is not righteous**, God is not righteous. Look if you will now in Genesis 3 verse 4, "*And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die.'*" That is, God is not really going to punish sin. There is no God of judgment. You don't have to worry about facing a judgment. Now I want to tell you, friend, God is good, but God is also righteous. God is loving, yes, God is loving, but God is righteous. And now if you preach the love of God to the exclusion of the holiness and the righteousness of God, you've only preached half of the truth. And when you take half of the truth and try to make half of the truth all of the truth, that half of the truth becomes an untruth.

Now, Satan is moving them along. Now since you don't believe that there is the God of the Bible who's good and loving, and since you don't believe that the God of the Bible is truthful, or the Bible, the Word, is truth, then you don't have to worry anymore about judgment. Now when God gave the Ten Commandments, God was not giving advice; He was giving law. And law without penalty is only advice.

Now there are a lot of people today who take these things of pragmatism, rationalism, subjectivism and they do away with the idea of, of eternal punishment. I

would be unfair to you as a preacher if I did not tell you there is an eternal Hell. If you die without Jesus Christ, you're going to die and go to Hell. You say, "O, Pastor, not on Sunday morning. You wouldn't say?" Yes. Yes. There is a fiery burning Hell, H-E-L-L, for those who reject Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. You say, "Well, that's un-American." It may be. I have an idea that if the Supreme Court of the United States of America could vote on it, they would outlaw Hell as cruel and unusual punishment; that God has no right, God has no authority to do that. But God is a righteous God, and God will not let one half of one sin go unpunished.

New-Ageism comes out of the idea that you will not surely die. Do you know what the New Age is? It's just a blend of eastern religions that's come into America today. Satan knows that man fears death. That's the reason some believe in reincarnation. You'd be surprised how many people in evangelical churches say they believe in reincarnation, that you just keep going around and around and you get as many chances as you need. The New Age has no personal god who's going to judge. Who was the high priestess of New Ageism in our day? Shirley MacLaine. And she said in her writing, "We can eliminate all fear of death," because she believes in reincarnation. You just keep coming back again and again. She said one time she was a princess in Atlantis. Another time she was an Inca in Peru. Another time she was a child raised by elephants. She believed this stuff, at least she said she did. You see, these people believe that men and animals, we're all interrelated and we're all transmigrating. And if your karma is good, you keep moving up higher, and if your karma is bad, you move down. So in your next life you might be a worm. That's right. Or, or you might be a cow or a spider. That's the reason many of them are vegetarians. They won't go to McDonalds; afraid they might be eating their grandmother. They believe this stuff! Because, as Shirley MacLaine said, "It's like show business. You keep doing it until you get it right." And finally, one day, if your karma is good enough, you reach Nirvana. But they reject the idea of a righteous God, a God of judgment. Their little imaginary god says that God is too good to punish sin. Friend, God is too good not to punish sin. God is righteous! Say "Righteous." God is righteous. The devil would have you to have the idea that you can sin with impunity. Friend, God is good! God is truthful! God is righteous! But these truths are being taken away from our society. These are big lies on which the other lies are built.

Lie number four: **God is not gracious.** God is not gracious. Look if you will now in Genesis 3 verses 4 and 5, "*And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die; For God doth know that in the day that ye eat thereof, then your eyes will be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.'*" Now what he was saying, in effect, is, "Since God is not good, since God is not truthful, and since God is not righteous, you need not to fear Him. You need to be your own god," or, "You need to experiment a little bit. You need to work your way up until you are like God. Now, Eve, you can never be capable of being all that you ought to be until you become autonomous. You don't need to depend upon God. This idea of God is cramping your style. Eve, you need to be liberated." Adam's rib; Satan fib; women's lib. God came to set every woman free and every man free, every boy and girl free because He is a God of grace.

But notice, I said the best lie sounds so much like the truth. Think of it. He said, “*God doth know that in the day that ye eat, then your eyes will be opened, and you will be as God.*” Genesis 3:5. That’s what Satan wanted to do to begin with. He wanted to be, “*As God.*” But you see, the Bible teaches we’re to be like God, not as God. Small little difference. Satan says, “You be your own god, your own little autonomous god. You have your own way.” Well, what does God’s grace want us to be? God’s grace wants us to be like Him. God created us in His image so He could have fellowship with us, as talked about in Revelation chapter 22 and verse 4, “*And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.*” What does that mean, His name in our foreheads? That means God-likeness. What has God prepared for us? First Corinthians chapter 2 verse 9, “*As it is written, ‘Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.’*” But what Satan was saying, “O, you don’t have to believe in God as a God of graciousness and God has a great, eternal destiny for you. Why, God has a monopoly on this thing of being God, and God doesn’t want you to get in on it. God is heading you off at the pass. You can never, ever be fulfilled until you do your own thing. Eve, what you need to do is experiment. Try it, you might like it! How do you know it’s wrong? Because He said so? How do you know? After all, experience is the best teacher.” Friend, when it comes to sin, experience is not the best teacher. It’s the worst teacher. Sin deceives. Those who know the least about sin are those who are the deepest into it. The Bible speaks of the deceitfulness of sin. But what Satan is saying to Eve is, “Eve, you create your own, little god. You will be like God.” And, again, that’s New Ageism. All the New Agers believe that they are God. They believe, however, that everything is God. They would say love is God. Now, God is love, but love is not God. Listen very carefully. God is over all things and God is in all things, but God is not all things, and all things are not God. People today have the idea that they are all a part of God in some way and that this New Ageism has pervaded and perverted our ways. Now let me illustrate how it goes.

Today, in our schools in the springtime, we dare not mention Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But I’ll tell you what we can mention is Earth Day. We can’t mention Father God, but we can mention Mother Earth. Why? Because they believe everything is God. The birds are God, the trees are God, the sky is God, the air is God, I’m God, you’re God, they’re God, we’re God, dirt is God, we are dirt. Wait a minute. If God is dirt, and I’m God, and God is dirt, it makes me dirt. And the animals are God. This New Ageism. It doesn’t elevate men; humanism really animalizes man. But you see, Satan is behind all of this.

Now, you say, “Pastor, why, why are you saying all this?” Friend, it’s in the air like a fungus. Every “ism,” as Doctor Lee used to say, ought to be a “wasm.” They all go back to these four big lies. They deny A: the goodness of God; B: the truthfulness of God; C: the righteousness of God; and D: the graciousness of God. God is gracious. Say, “Gracious.” God loves you. God wants you to be like Him. God wants you to enjoy eternal fellowship with Him.

Now, let's come to a conclusion. How are we going to deal with these lies? How are we going to overcome them? How are we going to come to a conclusion of this thing? Just leave Genesis and go to Revelation. May I tell you there are two books the devil hates: one is Genesis and the other is Revelation, because in Genesis the devil's doom is pronounced; in Revelation it's carried out. Look if you will in Revelation 12 verses 9 to 11, "*And that great dragon was cast out, that old serpent,*" now, we've already seen him, "*that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world,*" Those are his four big lies; "*he was cast out into the Earth, and his angels were cast out with him,*" and that's the reason we have such mayhem here on Earth. "*And I heard a loud voice saying in Heaven, 'Now is come the salvation and strength and kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ.'*" Listen to me, friend, here's how we're going to overcome these lies. "*For the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame Him,*" here's verse 11, "*by the blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*"

Now how are you going to overcome these lies? How? First of all, **by Calvary's conquest**, by Calvary's conquest. By the blood of the Lamb. On the cross, Satan's back was broken. His lies are exposed. He's shown to be what he is, a fake, a fraud, an imposter, and you're never going to overcome Satan and his lies until you come to Jesus. Have you been to Calvary? Has the blood of the Lamb, the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, become a covering for your sin? I know again, it's politically incorrect to talk about the blood today. We're supposed to talk about feel-good religion. Bible says in Hebrews 9 verse 22, "*Without shedding of blood is no remission of sin.*"

Billy Graham when he first started preaching, had a professor from Cornell University come to him and say, "Young man. You're gifted. You're a great speaker. You are very persuasive. But if you want to go places, you're going to have to leave out that blood stuff." Billy said, "I determined to preach on the blood of Jesus more than ever."

"*They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.*" Have you been saved? Number two: "**By the Word of their testimony.**" What is the Word of our testimony? Not just standing up saying, "I want to tell you what Jesus has done for me." This is the Word of our testimony, the Word of God. Bring the Word of God against these lies. Make certain that you're saved. Know the Bible, the Word of God, that pulls the veil of darkness away and exposes Satan's lies like we're doing this morning.

Revelation chapter 12 and verse 11, "*And they loved not their lives unto the death.*" What does that mean? Not only Calvary's conquest, not only courageous confession, but **complete commitment**. "*They loved not their lives unto the death.*" They said, "I'm going for God. Every ounce, every inch, every nerve, every fiber, even if I die serving Jesus. I love not my life unto the death." Until a man is no longer afraid to die, he's not yet ready to live.

Friend, do you know Jesus? Are you saved? Listen to me. See if you've got any of these ideas in your head. Have you been thinking that God is not good, running from God? You ought to be running to Him. God is good. Have you been thinking that God is not truthful, that the Bible, perhaps, has errors, and somehow you can do it some other way? It's a lie from Hell. God is truthful. Have you been thinking that somehow that you can just skate on through and that you will never come to judgment? Let me tell you, God is righteous. Have you ever been thinking that, perhaps, God doesn't have a wonderful plan for you? He does. God is gracious. Ephesians 2:8, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith.*" I want you to know Him, and you can know Him.

Bow your heads in prayer. Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. And if you're not certain that you're saved, I want to guide you in a prayer right now, and you can ask Christ to come into your heart. Would you pray this prayer, "Dear God, I am a sinner, and I need to be saved, and I know that the wages of sin is death, but, Jesus, I thank You that You shed Your blood on the cross for me. Thank You that You paid my sin debt. And now by faith I receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. Begin now to make me the person You want me to be. And, Lord, I'll make it public. I'll not be ashamed of You. Amen."