

A Bible Question Answered {concluded from 362402}

by Wayne Goff

Then, we read from **Jamieson, Fausset & Brown** : “your children ... who in that day had no knowledge between good and evil – All ancient versions read ‘to-day’ instead of ‘that day’; and the sense is– ‘your children who now know,’ or ‘who know not as yet good or evil.’ As the children had not been partakers of the sinful outbreak, they were spared to obtain the privilege which their unbelieving parents had forfeited. God’s ways are not as man’s ways [Is 55:8, 9]”

From this, I think it is fair to conclude that the *most* we can infer about this statement is that the age group of 19 and under **were not responsible** since they were not permitted to voice their opinions about going to war against the Canaanites. So from the Hebraism and the context we should conclude that this group is simply *not responsible* in this matter. I would be very hesitant to apply it any more broadly than that.

Temptations & Illusions

by Bill Crews

Read the **third chapter of Genesis**. It tells of the sins of Adam and Eve (*in doing what God had expressly forbidden*) and of the **consequences** of those sins. When confronted by God and asked, “*What is this thou hast done,*” she responded, “*The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat*” (**v.13**). She told the truth. Paul wrote that “*the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness*” (**2 Corinthians 11:3**; cf. **1 Timothy 2:14**). But she was neither justified nor excused. Do you think that the pleasures of her sin were worth the price of the consequences she had to pay for them? How many times thereafter she must have wished that she could relive that moment when she said “yes” to that temptation.

Sin, in prospect, promises so much, but delivers so little. Sin, in retrospect, is never as appealing as sin in prospect. It focuses on the pleasures of the moment and veils the eyes to the consequences that time and eternity will surely bring. The writer of Hebrews spoke of the deceitfulness of sin (**Hebrews 3:11-13**), and nothing in life is more deceitful than sin. The master of deceit is behind it all (**John 8:44**), and he is called “*the deceiver of the whole world*” (**Revelation 12:9**). He has even fashioned “*himself into an angel of light*”; he has many ministers, some of whom even fashion “*themselves into apostles of Christ*” (**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**).

In a large shopping mall there was a wide area containing several businesses in small, individual booths. Side by side were two with these names: “Sweet Temptations” and “Grand Illusions.” (One sold sweet things to eat, and the other jewelry.) I thought: “What marvelous names for the devil’s enticing wares and deceptive promises.” He portrays his temptations as sweet, but how bitter they will always eventually prove to be. And his promises of benefits, gains, and rewards are only grand illusions.

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