

by Artur Stele



• At the most crucial turning points of human history the enemy always used the same tactic:

- Temptation of Eve
- Temptation of Jesus





And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."



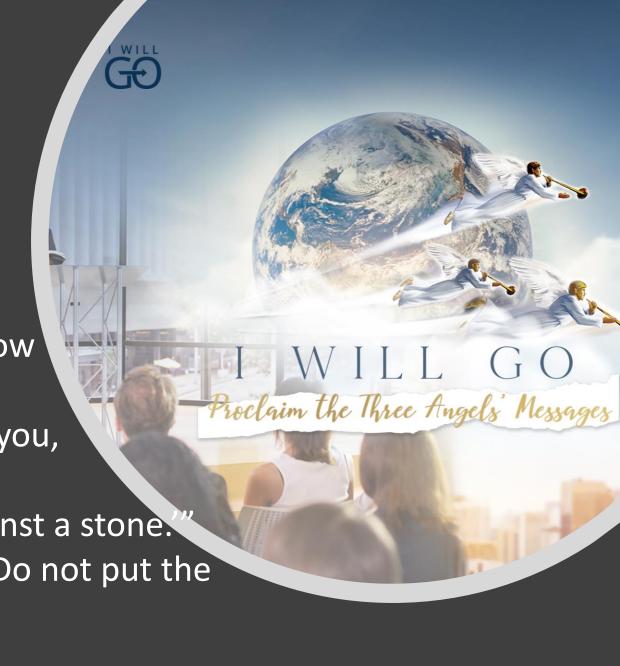
Jesus in the wilderness

"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the

Lord your God to the test."



* Doubt
*Selective use
*Reinterpreting



Through the Middle Ages—keeping the Word away from people:

*Bible only in Latin. *Only Clergy could understand and explain



Reformation gave the Bible to people in their language



*Burning Bibles

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Historical-Critical Method of Bible Interpretation

*Source Criticism etc.

*Bible is culturally
conditioned

*The Bible represents
views about God people
had at their times





Although the Bible is Culturally and Historically Constituted, It is NOT Culturally, the Three Angels' Messages or Historically Conditioned



"God has been pleased to communicate his truth to the world by human agencies, and he himself, by his Holy Spirit, qualified men and enabled them to do this work. He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure was entrusted to earthen vessels, yet it is, none the less, from heaven. The testimony is conveyed through the imperfect expression of human language; yet it is the testimony of God; and the obedient, believing child of God beholds in it the glory of a divine power." 5T 62-84



GC, V.

"But the Bible, with its God-given truths expressed in the language of men, presents a union of the divine and the human. Such a union existed in the nature of Christ, who was the Son of God and the Son of man. Thus it is true of the Bible, as it was of Christ, that "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."



"Yet the fact that God has revealed His will to men through His word, has not rendered needless the continued presence and guiding of the Holy Spirit. On the contrary, the Spirit was promised by our Saviour, to open the word to His servants, to illuminate and apply its teachings. And since it was the Spirit of God that inspired the Bible, it is impossible that the teaching of the Spirit should ever be contrary to that of the word. The Spirit was not given—nor can it ever be bestowed—to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested." GC, vii



Will the tactic change in the Final Conflict?



Postmodern Approaches or New Hermeneutics

Change of focus

The focus changes from the actual Biblical text, from the intended meaning by the author of the text, to the reader.

The reader is no longer looking to understand what the author intended to say, but rather is looking for an encounter.

The meaning happens in the moment of an encounter between the reader and the text.



Multiple Meanings

Since meaning transpires in the moment of an encounter, the text can mean different things to different readers. Even to the same reader the text can mean different things at different times



 Instead of trying to understand the objective meaning of the text within its original context, the follower of the new hermeneutics looks at the Bible and sees a collection of different words, ideas, understandings, and stories that can in the moment of an "encounter" become the Word of God.



Instead of God centeredness we are invited to selfcenteredness

If, before the questions were: What is the Truth? What is the Will of God? How can I glorify God? Now these questions are changed to: What is true for me? What warms my heart? how can I satisfy my needs and desires? What makes me feel good?



* The Historicity of Biblical Events Play No Significant Role in the New Hermeneutics



- Extreme approaches to Structuralism
- Discovering the coded meaning. The actual meaning is not seen on the 'surface level'
- It brings us back to the Middle Ages only "Specialists" can understand the Bible



"A great work can be done by presenting to the people the Bible just as it reads. Carry the Word of God to every man's door, urge its plain statements upon every man's conscience, repeat to all the Saviour's command, "Search the Scriptures." Ev 434.2.



"Every day you should <u>learn</u>
something new from the
Scriptures. Search them as for
hid treasures, for they contain
the words of eternal life. <u>Pray for</u>
wisdom and understanding to
comprehend these holy
writings." Cch 86.4

"When the time shall come, in the providence of God, for the world to be tested upon the truth for that time, minds will be exercised by His Spirit to search the Scriptures, even with fasting and with prayer, until link after link is searched out, and united in a perfect chain." CD 187.2



 "Search the Scriptures with determined effort to know the truth."

 "Search earnestly the Scriptures"

 "Search diligently the Scriptures"



