

THE KEY TO THE ARGUMENT.

The key to the argument will be found by a reference to the two following passages of Scripture, viz: Gen. ii, 16-17, and Gen. iii, 1-4. In the former passage, Jehovah is represented as commanding the man in the following terms:

"Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in (or from) the day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die," or as the margin reads, ("dying thou shalt die".)

While in the latter passage the Serpent is represented as in the act of approaching the woman and asking her:—

"Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

To which the woman makes reply:—

"We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; For 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."

To which the Serpent makes the following answer:—

"Ye shall not surely die," or as given in the margin, ("In dying thou shalt not die.")

It should be quite apparent to the most ordinary mind, that if Jehovah told the truth in this connection, which very few would question, then the Serpent must have told a manifest falsehood, for his assertion flatly contradicts the divine statement, as to the effect of disobedience in this particular case.

It behoves every honest seeker after truth to pause just here, and ask himself the question: Which of those two statements am I believing? Am I believing God when he said, "*in dying, ye shall surely die*," or have I accepted as truth the falsehood of the Serpent, when he impiously asserted, in impeachment of the divine authority and veracity. "*In dying ye shall NOT surely die*."

It is a very sad and melancholy fact, that the vast majority of professed Christians have made this lie, uttered by the deceiver of our first parents, the very foundation of their faith and hope, practically branding the Almighty as being the author of lies, notwithstanding the fact, that the evidence of universal experience and observation proves that God spoke the truth, and that they alone exhibit true godliness and wisdom who accept, in its plain and obvious sense, the divine penalty as expressed in Gen. iii. 19.

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