March 15, 2005 Fort Myers, Florida

Temptation and Death

Coveting has a spirit attached to it, a yearning in one's soul. That is, what was desired in the mind comes first, then comes Jms 1:14-15 — the breaking of the Law of God, the Ten Commandments. If you break one, you break them all (Jms 2:10-11).

Ex 20:17 — "You shall not covet..." What we covet is the bait on the hook that we swallow. To go to the point or the degree to covet is to allow it to go down to the soul. Then you go into deception or even deceive yourself, or make justification for your greed (Gal 5:24; Jms 1:16).

Desire is stimulated in the mind by temptation. Desire in Jms 1:14 is like the egg or ovum. Conception occurs when that desire or thought receives the temptation, which is the seed or spirit of Satan. This is the process of temptation leading to sin. Our Master never let it go to the point of conception, although He was tempted as we are, but without sin.

To conceive is to form or develop in the mind through thoughts:

- 1) The temptation or the desire? (for the School of Prophets to discuss)
- 2) He is drawn away (like the egg being drawn into the Fallopian tube)
- 3) He is enticed (the sperm reaches the egg and is received)
- 4) The desire conceives and brings forth sin (embryo implanted in the uterus).
- 5) The sin brings forth death (death is the fruit of the womb).

From the time of conception, it takes a few days for the embryo to be formed and for the heart to beat (Jms 5:19-20; 1 Jn 5:16-17). The word for *conceive* (#4815) in Jms 1:15 means the same as for an ovum — it clasps or seizes, arrests, captures, catches the sperm cell of sin (Jms 4:17; Gen 4:7; 1 Chr 28:9).

Our provision is Mt 6:13 — "Deliver us from the evil one" (NKJV). It's the evil one — not just evil, but the evil one. 2 Pet 2:9; Jn 17:14-17 — Our Father keeps us, who are not of the world any more than our Master is of the world. He knows us. He knows

2005.03.15-T03 050331.1636

whether we are of the world or not (1 Jn 2:15). Jn 17:18 — We are sent into the world as a witness (Mt 24:14), a corporate witness of the truth (Jn 18:37). In 1 Pet 2:12, the word *your* is plural, corporate. Also in Mt 5:13-16, the word *you* is plural — a corporate witness. Our witness will be according to how we pray to be delivered from the evil one, and receive grace to judge the thoughts that come to us.

Jms 1:15 — To *conceive* is to take in, receive, to develop in the mind and soul, to imagine, so as to apprehend the sperm cell of Satan and become pregnant with sin and corruption and death. This is how it was in the fall of man. How many times did Eve go to that tree?

Which came first — temptation or desire? Can you tell? Eve thought and wondered, "How come? What if? I don't understand why He said it. What's wrong with that tree?" Eve's desire was the *ovum*, the serpent was the progenitor, and fallen man is his progeny.

Noah was not so receptive to the evil one's "sperm cells" (seed) as the rest of mankind was (Gen 6:5). He was more sensitive to his inherent knowledge of good and evil in Gen 3:22, which was the only hope of man of not succumbing to, but instead counteracting¹ the moral equivalent of the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

2005.03.15-T03 050331.1636

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¹ Counteract — to act directly against, check, neutralize or mitigate the effect with opposing action. Mitigate — to make less severe, moderate, make hopeful.