

T 6

here is not actually simply a snake which is talking but that the serpent here is being used, that some higher intelligence is using the serpent for its own purpose and though there is a sense in which the serpent is culpable for permitting itself to be made use of, there is a sense in which the serpent is at fault for allowing itself to be made the instrument of evil, yet certainly the far greater source of the evil is the one that is using the serpent for its purpose, and so while there is no mention in Genesis 3 of any other being than the Lord God, the man, the woman and the serpent, yet it is a reasonable question to ask as you approach Genesis 3, "Does the serpent here speak, not as a snake talking, but as the instrument of some higher power which is using the snake?" And as we look on through the scripture we find that it is nowhere explicitly stated that this is the case, but we do find that there are passages in which He speaks of the serpent and it truly is no mere snake which is being spoken of. We find a number of cases in the New Testament where that usage is found. Now there is a somewhat different type of reference in John 8:44. Christ said, "Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father will ye do." He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh as his own, for he is a liar, and the father of it." Now that has no reference to the serpent but it does suggest that the devil is the father of that which is evil, the father of lusts, the father of wickedness. That is very clearly suggested by John 8:44 and looking on a little further you come to Romans 16:20, and there you have an interesting statement, "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." That phrase might not mean an awful lot if you did not recall that in Genesis 3 the Lord says to the serpent of the seed of the woman, "He shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel," and here we read that the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. And then in I John 3:8 we read again a reference to Satan, that he that committeth sin