

and we have one who is here spoken of as "The Serpent" and we learn of that one later on that "The Serpent" was the (8.5) of a great spiritual being whom the Bible calls Satan. And so we have these three individuals and we have a conflict. We find the woman and Satan comes to her and says, "Is it true that God has said you must not eat of any of the trees of the Garden?" And the woman says to the serpent, "That's not true. We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said 'Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.'" And if you look back in Chapter 2 you don't find that anywhere God said, "You mustn't touch it" There's no such statement. Eve was relying on her memory. And she wasn't checking up on her memory to be right sure that it was absolutely correct, exactly what God said. And the serpent got her to add to the word of God and the next thing to do was to get her to subtract from the Word of God. And he goes right on to say, "You shall not surely die. God's word is wrong." And that's how the fall of man began was when Eve listened to Satan questioning the truth of God's Word. And he convinced her that she should look at this fruit and see what it looked like and listen to the testimony of evil Satan and put that over against God's Word and follow that instead of God's Word. And Satan thus destroys the Garden of Eden, destroys the happiness which she'd had, brought an end to the Paradise which was there and led to the terrible results that have followed ever since. Well now there are many ~~people~~ people who neglect this vital person in the Bible, this person Satan, but if you fully study the Bible, you find that Satan is very active in the Bible and he is active today. And it is important that we know something about him. And so now I turn your attention over to the New Testament to the Book of Matthew. And there in Matthew in the 16th chapter, we find here at first two persons - Simon Peter who represents man and Jesus Christ who is God. We have no evidence of the third person in view as we start but he comes to sight rather soon. We find in Verse 13, "When Jesus came into the coast(?) of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples saying, 'Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' And they said, 'Some say that thou art John the Baptist, some Elias, and some say Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said unto them, 'But whom say ye that I am?' And Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art Christ, the Son of the Living God'". Here is a believing man.