

Romans 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

Analysis

For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.—Exēpatēsen (ἐξηπάτησεν, "deceived/beguiled") deliberately echoes Genesis 3:13 (LXX), where Eve says "the serpent deceived me." Paul traces his experience to Eden's pattern: prohibition aroused desire, sin deceived through the commandment, and death resulted. Apekteinen (ἀπέκτεινεν, "killed/slew") intensifies "I died" (v. 9)—sin actively murdered using law as its weapon.

The deception isn't that law was wrong but that sin promised fulfillment through disobedience while concealing death's consequence. Sin perverted the good commandment into an instrument of destruction. This exonerates law while exposing sin's malicious cunning. The parallel to Eve's deception underscores sin's universal pattern of exploiting God's word to produce rebellion.

Historical Context

Paul's Adam/Eve language would resonate with his Jewish audience, who understood Genesis 3 as the paradigmatic sin-narrative. The serpent didn't attack God's word directly but twisted it to arouse desire and promise autonomy. Similarly, sin doesn't make people hate God's law but uses it to provoke rebellion and produce death.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Where do you see sin 'deceiving' you through God's good commands, promising freedom while producing bondage?
2. How does recognizing the Genesis 3 pattern in your own experience help you understand the depth of your need for Christ?
3. In what ways might legalism function as sin's deception—promising life through law-keeping while producing spiritual death?

Interlinear Text

ἡ	γὰρ	ἀμαρτία	ἀφορμὴν	λαβοῦσα	δι'	τῆς
G3588	For	sin	occasion	taking	by	G3588
G1063	G266	G874	G2983	G1223		
ἐντολῆς	ἐξηπάτησέν	με	καὶ	δι'	αὐτῆς	ἀπέκτεινεν
the commandment	deceived	me	and	by	it	slew
G1785	G1818	G3165	G2532	G1223	G846	G615

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 3:13 (Parallel theme): And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Romans 7:8 (Kingdom): But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

Hebrews 3:13 (Sin): But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

James 1:26 (Parallel theme): If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

James 1:22 (Word): But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

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