

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Genesis 3: 13 *"Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate'."*

1Kings 11: 9, 10 *"The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command."*

James 1:13, 14 *"When tempted, no-one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed"*

'The train was running late'; 'I couldn't find my car keys'; 'The éclair was irresistible'. Every day we make excuses to try and justify our actions and indiscretions. They aren't so much lies as a plea for understanding of our failings. God recognises our weaknesses and will help us but we must listen and live his Word if we want forgiveness for our sinful ways.

Eve was the first to transgress God's word and made perhaps the first ever excuse. Solomon beguiled by his various wives allowed the building of altars to false gods expressly forbidden by God. He and the people of Israel incurred the wrath of God.

James offers sound advice. The excuse that God was tempting me just doesn't wash. We are tempted by the Devil and in our weakness succumb. We should look carefully at every temptation and ask ourselves, 'Is this the way of God?' and if not turn to him for help to keep to His word.