

Genesis: The Fall (Genesis 3:1-7)

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

The first question is – who is the serpent?

- **Revelation 12:7-9** And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
- Our ancient enemy is Satan (adversary)

Did God create the devil?

- **Ezekiel 28:11-15** Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,¹² “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘You *were* the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone *was* your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. **The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes** Was prepared for **you on the day you were created.**¹⁴ “You *were* the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.¹⁵ **You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created,** Till iniquity was found in you.
 - Satan was created.
 - Satan was beautiful.
 - He was a worship leader.
 - He was a Cherub. He was created in perfection.
- **Isaiah 14:12** “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

- Lucifer = Light bearer; morning star
- **Isaiah 14:13-14** For you have said in your heart: “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High.**’
- He says “I will” a lot.
- I will be like the Most High – one of the temptations given to Eve.
- **Isaiah 14:15** Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.
 - Sheol – place of the dead
- **Luke 10:18** And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Satan = adversary

- He is not just God’s adversary, he is your adversary.
- **1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- (Side note – His name, according to the Book of Enoch is actually Gadreel)

Satan does not appear in his form, but as a serpent

- Nachas = Reptile.
- Nachash would be familiar to Eve, and walked upright. The highest of all created animals.
- There is nothing to fear from Nachash at this point.
- Your adversary will appear to you in a form that is not threatening.
 - Sin is deceitful. It can appear good. It will try to fool even believers.
 - **Matthew 24:24** For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

The Temptation

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

Tactic 1 – undermine God’s word - Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

- This is the first question asked in the Bible. It is deliberately misleading.
- It is a misquote of God. He is challenging God’s word.
- Still happens today. The Bible is just written by man. It’s cultural. It isn’t relevant. It’s just history or poetry. These are the voice of the serpent.

In the fall, Satan got Eve to doubt God’s love and protection for her.

- He was effectively saying “you can’t trust what God says.” “He is not looking out for your best interests.”

This is an attack on trusting God’s word over what we see in front of us.

We also see this in our culture.

- A loving God would never send people to hell.
- God made people the way they are (Gay people are born this way)
- If we love people, we will be tolerant and accepting of their lifestyles.
 - He Gets Us ad – He Saves us by Jamie Bambrick

All of these are completely anti-scriptural. The way we combat that is to know His Word!

- Satan will try to convince you that there are things in the Bible that are not and that things in the Bible aren’t really there.

Other ways this plays out:

- You are not really righteous.
- God will not protect you
- God loves others more than you
- You don’t matter
- God will not keep His promises

All Lies of the adversary! Did God really say...

Eve's Response:

Genesis 3:2-3 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

- The fall is already underway because she is conversing with the tempter.
- Flee Temptation. Do not converse with the enemy.

God is good. He has given everything. But she counters with facts.

- REBUKE the enemy. Do not give him place.

If they are not permitted to eat of the tree, why create it?

- The tree is there to give them free will.
- Through this one prohibition they worship God.
- Obedience = worship

Eve misquotes God. God never said do not touch.

- She is moving into legalism.
- This is similar to all the rules heaped onto God's laws by man.
 - (i.e. the Talmud)

The Second Attack

Genesis 3:4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

Tactic #2 – Dismiss God's Judgment

- God said they would die, Satan said they would not die.
- Satan completely dismisses the consequences God laid out.
 - There are no consequences
 - You deserve this
 - That's not sin
- Doctrines of atonement are being dismissed in churches today.
- Hell is not real. No payment for sin. This is being taught. God is love. False Gospel.
- Did they die? Yes

- They were spirit. And when the spirit died (separation from God), they were dead. Just because they were in physical bodies did not negate that they are spiritual beings.
- Also, they began to die physically. Before this they were immortal. Now their bodies have become mortal.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:53-54** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: *“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

This was an identity attack.

- Satan never addresses us as spirit. He wants our attention solely focused on nothing but our soul and body, because he refuses to acknowledge our spirit.
- God relates to us as spirit because that’s what He made us.

Third Attack

Genesis 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Tactic #3 – Destroy God’s Character

In the fall, Satan deceives Adam and Eve with the idea that this will make them like God

- For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
 - Sully God’s character
 - He is withholding good from you.
 - God wants to keep you down.
- Eve wanted to be like God. But she was already spirit, like God, and was made in His image, and was in His family.
- By introducing sin, they died and became separated from God. They also took on a sin nature and now needed a Redeemer to become children of God again.

- We have the life of Christ in us. We are more like God than we realize. We have the mind of Christ. His life in us empowering us. His spirit guiding us.

If there is nothing bad with the tree, why would God not want me to eat of it?

Eve's Response:

Genesis 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

- I want to be like God. Same fall as Satan
- She was already made in the image of God.
- She is using a good desire to rationalize disobedience. She wanted to be more like God.
- Disobedience, even for good intent is still disobedience.

What about Adam? Where is he in all of this?

- “She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”
- Adam was right there all along. Watching and doing nothing.
- **Genesis 3:7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.
- **Adam is not being a husband to Eve.**
- Note that nothing happened until Adam sinned. Not when Eve sinned.
- Our sinful state is connected to Adam. Our sin is passed down through males.
- **Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

The command to not eat of the tree was only given to Adam.

Genesis 2:15-18 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” ¹⁸And the LORD God said, “*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Adam was supposed to be a protector of Eve. He failed here.

The Result:

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

- The result of sin:
 - Immediate shame
 - Manmade solutions