

GENESIS

Lesson 3

The serpent deceived me ...

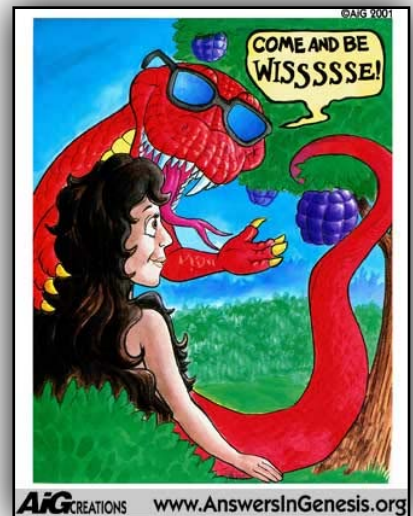
THE FIRST SIN

Genesis 3:1-24

God created man, placed him in the garden, provided him with companionship, food, and work, but still man rebelled. With his sin against God came guilt, pain, separation from God, and death.

There is a great deal of speculation about the nature of the serpent. Was this a real serpent? Was the serpent the same as the modern snake? Was this simply a term used to describe Satan? Did the Serpent speak audibly or simply to Eve's heart or mind?

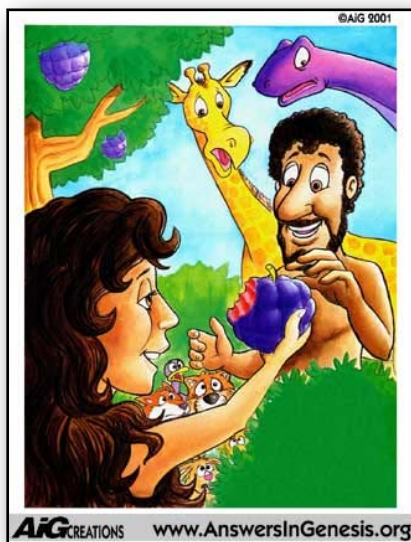
While we may not be able to answer every "how" question with absolute certainty, we can say that Satan is the tempter and it seems as if he inhabited or worked through the serpent as he tempted Eve. Revelation 12:9 refers to Satan as *"that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan..."* (ESV)



The temptation of Eve was three-fold: physical (good for food), aesthetic (pleasing to the eye), and intellectual (make one wise.) This same trio of temptations is found in 1 John 2:16 and Satan unsuccessfully tempted Jesus with them in Matt. 4:1-11.

1. Read Gen 3:1-6 and identify the tactics Satan used in his temptation of Eve.
2. Read 1 John 2:16 and list the three types of temptations found there.

3. Read the account of the temptations of Jesus in Matt 4:1-11. How do his temptations fall into these same categories?
4. What if any temptations fall outside these three categories?



Satan masterfully tears down the resolve of Eve as she contemplates disobeying God and eating the fruit. Satan tears down the barrier of the fear of punishment when he says in Gen 3:4, *“you will not surely die.”* Next he moves to remove the love for God from Eve by telling her that God is trying to withhold something good from her. Satan tells her in Gen 3:5, *“God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”* Third, he is tempting her to view herself with moral autonomy. She believes she is pursuing independence, yet she is being manipulated by Satan and becoming a slave of the Serpent.¹

When Eve sinned she did so because the fruit looked good for food, it simply “looked good,” and she desired the wisdom it promised. And so she ate. Adam apparently offered no resistance to Eve when she offered him some of the fruit. Sinners usually love companionship in their sin, so Eve was not content to eat the fruit alone. The Scripture does not tell us what went through Adam’s mind before he ate the fruit.

5. Why did Adam and Eve now realise they were naked and why does this matter when it did not in Gen 2:25? (Gen 3:7) Describe how guilt has replaced innocence for Adam and Eve.
6. What consequences came to Adam and Eve because of their sin in Gen 3:7-8?

Genesis 3:9 records the first question of God to man. *“Where are you?”* Obviously the God who knows everything, knew Adam’s location. God asked this question because Adam was not in his normal place tending the garden. He was futilely trying to hide from God because of his fear and shame. When Adam answers that he is hiding because he was naked, the second question comes, *“Who told you that you were naked? Have you*

¹ Smith, James E. *Biblical Protology*. p. 230-231.

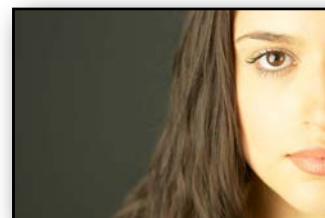
eaten of the tree which I commanded you not to eat?" God moves Adam from shame to guilt. Adam was guilty before God.

7. Who does Adam blame for his sin?

8. Who does Eve blame for her sin?

God now moves on to the curse upon the Serpent. The curse involves crawling on his belly for the remainder of time on earth. This seems to indicate that the serpent must have originally looked different than a serpent does today. Of course the greatest curse was not on the physical serpent, but upon Satan. In Genesis 3:15 we have the first prophecy of the coming of Jesus. God says Satan that he will put *"enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel"* Satan would bruise the heel of the offspring of woman (that is Jesus), which is a painful, but not fatal wound. However, the offspring of woman (Jesus) would crush the head of Satan. The final and complete defeat of Satan is prophesied as early as the Garden of Eden.

Two penalties are placed on the woman. First, she shall have great pain in childbirth. She had sought joy in eating the fruit, but instead her sin has brought severe pain. Second, her desire will be for her husband who shall *"rule over"* her. In the marital relationship, the husband takes the lead role (Gen 3:16).



This passage does not devalue of the woman. She is created in God's image as much as the man. Still as a part of the consequence for her sin, the wife will live under the loving leadership of her husband (Eph 5:22-33). Paul writes in 1 Tim 2:12-14, *"I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor."* Two reasons are given for male leadership in church as well as the home: order of creation and the sin in the garden.



The man also faced punishment for his sin against God. His curse includes a curse against the ground. No longer would tending plants be easy because now thorns and thistles would grow making farming very difficult. In fact, the word translated as "pain" in Gen 3:17 as regards Adam's tending of the ground is the same word used for the pain woman would endure in childbirth.

Furthermore a death sentence is to be carried out as promised. Physical death entered the world and Adam died as well as all men who followed him (Rom 5:12). While his physical death was not immediate, his spiritual death (or separation from God) happened the moment he sinned (Gen 2:17).

9. Read Gen 3:15, 20-21 and list at least three ways in which God is still caring for man in spite of his sin.

Adam names his wife Eve in Gen 3:20. This name reflects her role in continuing life on the earth as she gives birth to children.

The clothing of man by God in Gen 3:21 shows God's continuing concern for the people He created. God's providing these skins as clothing also shows: 1) man and woman now should be clothed because of sin as innocence has now been replaced with guilt; it is God's desire that they no longer be naked; 2) they now needed protection from the elements outside the garden; 3) animals can be used by man to meet his needs.

The skins made to cover man and woman may be the beginning of animal sacrifice. In any event there is a clear symbolism present as God sheds blood to provide a covering for their sin and shame.²

10. Explain how man had become like God in knowing good and evil. (Gen 3:22)

In the Garden of Eden was located not only the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but also the tree of life (Gen 2:9, 3:22,24). Eating from the tree of life would have allowed Adam and Eve to escape physical death. Because of this, God had to remove them from the garden. It is likely that Adam and Eve did not want to leave the garden. Gen 3:24 says that God "*drove out the man*" and to make sure that no one entered the garden God placed the cherubim and a flaming sword to guard the entrance into the Garden of Eden.



11. What problems would have arisen if man had been able to eat of the tree of life and live forever, while still being in a state of sinful rebellion?

12. Where is the tree of life located today? (Rev 2:7; 22:2, 19)

One question that we cannot answer with any degree of certainty is, "What happened to the Garden of Eden?" Some believe that after man was driven out, the neglect of the garden eventually led it to deterioration so that it became like the rest of the earth. More likely, the garden stayed largely as it was until it was destroyed by the flood.

² Crawford, C.C. *College Press Bible Study Textbook Series: Genesis Vol. 2* Joplin MO: College Press, 1968, p. 175