

Genesis 3:1-7

Genesis 3:1 - Now **the serpent** was **more crafty than any other beast of the field** that the Lord God had made...

- **Revelation 12:9** – And the great dragon was thrown down, **that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan**, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
- Because the introduction of the serpent is so sudden, we have lots of questions
- Why was this serpent craftier than any other beast of the field?
- Was the serpent an actual animal or was it Satan himself?
- If it was an animal, what animal was the serpent?
- Was it a snake?
- Was it a flying dragon?
- Did it have legs?
- Why did the serpent go to the woman first?
- Shouldn't Eve have been frightened and ran away from a talking serpent?

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- **Genesis 3:13-14**

- The serpent is likely a land animal because both passages highlight **“beast of the field”**, meaning a land animal (not flying or swimming)
- Virtually all land animals use legs to move or they slither
- It's possible it was a dragon (great serpent, fabulous kind of serpent) because that is how Satan is portrayed in **Revelation 12:9; 20:2**
- There's nothing in scripture that tells us if the serpent had legs, but its curse is “on your belly you shall go”
- Meaning the way it moves from now on, is on its belly
- The way it moves likely had to change in some way or the curse would be meaningless

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- So the serpent was likely an upright creature that had legs, or at least appendages, that were either totally lost or reduced
- Physical changes happened to vegetation
- Thorns and thistles were changes that happened because of the curse
- Physical changes happened to Adam with increased pain in working
- Physical changes happened to Eve with pain in childbearing
- From observing what happened to other creatures and the rest of creation itself, it's likely there was a physical change to the serpent as well

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- Why was this serpent craftier?
- I believe this serpent is described as craftier because it was indwelt, or at least influenced, by Satan
- And when it spoke, it made sense to the woman
- Satan is a fallen angel and not a physical being
- He is a spiritual being that operates in the spiritual realm, so I don't think the serpent was Satan taking a form and showing his true self
- He just possessed a creature
- The Bible shows times when Satan can enter unbelievers

**Luke 22:3** - Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve.

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- Satan can't possess believers, he can only influence or tempt

**Matthew 16:23** - But he turned and said to Peter, Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me.

- We do have scripture where fallen angels have entered into animals, like when Jesus cast demons out of a possessed man into a herd of pigs
- Because the serpent was an instrument in the deception, it rightly deserved punishment, just like anything else that would go against God
- That is exactly what happened to Judas
- Because Judas was available to be used, Judas received punishment, even though Satan possessed him

**Genesis 3:1** - ...He said **to the woman**, Did God actually say, You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?

- Why did he go **to the woman** first and not to Adam?
- In **Genesis 2**, Adam named all the animals, Eve had likely not seen anything created because she was the last thing created
- **1 Peter 3:7** - Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you...
- The woman was not designed to be the defender and protector
- The woman is designed to be more sensitive and compassionate, which helps with nurturing, raising kids, and balancing her husband
- She is a perfect compliment to the things the man is weak in (was not good...)
- They both supply each other with what the other lacks
- But, Her design makes her more vulnerable to attacks when the man (husband or father) is not there to protect and defend her

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- Should Eve have been frightened by a talking animal?
- Everything was new
- Everything was good
- Adam and Eve were made mature and able to speak and many creatures even today have the ability to form speech
  
- Satan finds Eve in an unprotected, vulnerable spot and he begins his deception
- When I first read the question the serpent asked, I didn't really think it was that bad
- The more I really thought about it, the madder I got
- Let's put ourselves in the woman's situation

**Genesis 3:1** - ...He said to the woman, **Did God actually say, You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?**

- Compare this to what God actually said
- **Genesis 1:28-31**
- **Genesis 2:7-9; 15-17**

**Genesis 2:16-17** - And the **Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,** 17 but 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.

- This one moment in time still reverberates today, 6,000 years later
- The same first lie, by the father of lies (**John 8:44**), is repeated every day
- It hasn't changed, it's still effective
- And we're still dealing with it

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- Satan's lie is that God is restrictive **(V. 1)**
- The lie is that God wants to keep you away from pleasure, joy
- What do unbelievers think about going to church and believing in God?
- Why do people leave the church? We sin because we like it
- Think about Adam and Eve's situation and where they are when Satan says this
- **Genesis 1:28-29** – Adam, Eve, their job, subdue the land, rule over the animals, food
- There was only one restriction in the universe for them
- Trust me Adam, Eve, I am your creator, I love you and know what's best for you
- Trust me in this one thing, don't eat from that one tree because if you do, this will all go away and you will die
- Eden = pleasure. It's where we get the concept of pleasure
- Can you imagine being Adam and Eve being surrounded by Eden and being fooled into thinking there is something better?

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- All unbelievers and many believers don't fully grasp that the future hope that we have is BETTER than what Eden was (that's OUR present situation)
- One reason that we don't share our faith is because we don't think we know enough of the Bible (Testimony and Romans Road)
- The reason I tell you these things is because there was a time I wish someone told me that
- So every believer here is equipped today to be able to reach the lost around us
- The reason we don't is because we think God is too restrictive
- We don't fully understand how awesome our future is going to be
- If you don't visualize what our future is, and can only visualize this present living condition, then how could you ever communicate that unrestricted joy and pleasure to someone else?
- The gospel is freeing people, not restricting them

**Genesis 3:1** - ...He said to the woman, **Did God actually say, You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?**

- Don Angle “Learning from God in Nature” is coming tonight
- I don’t care if he’s found some remote part of the world that’s never been touched by humans, it’s still a fallen image of Eden was like
- As he’s showing you the glory of God through creation, keep reminding yourself that everything you see is a broken reflection of how it was
- **1 Corinthians 13:12** - For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face.
- We see just a fraction of the way is used to be in the Garden
- Heaven will surpass what Eden was

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- **Revelation 4**
- **Revelation 5:11-14**
- **Revelation 7:9-12**

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- When I describe heaven from scripture, people respond
- It's like lifting a veil off their eyes and they finally see
- It's all worth the suffering they go through
- They see the Christian life for what it will be and not how it is now
- They finally have a visual in their mind of what the future holds
- I've never even thought of preaching our hope as Christians from the creation, Garden of Eden visual point of view
- Describing Eden, and how it was, should be easier for us to understand because we live in a faded reflection of it
- When we think deeply about what God is offering us compared to the lie that Satan has, it should be easy to see God is not restrictive
- In fact, our hearts should be overjoyed when we realized how great we have it