

THE OLD SERPENT

The third chapter of Genesis is the scriptural foundation to the study of hamartiology (study of sin).

Our lesson text offers **five more scriptural foundational doctrines** that establish the need of the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15: 1-4; Rom.5: 12-21).

- § Our lesson text is the scriptural foundation for the cause of the sinful nature and sinful behavior of the human race (OSN and lust to sin).
- § Our lesson text is the scriptural foundation for the imputation of Adam's original sin unto all member of the human race (13 judicial charges of AOS).
- § Our lesson text is the scriptural foundation for Satan's basic strategy in the angelic conflict.
- § Our lesson text is the scriptural foundation for the Satan being called the Old Serpent (Rev.20).
- § Our lesson text is the scriptural foundation for Satan gaining dominion over world (1 John 5:19).

We will study our lesson text by the following seven point homiletical points.

- § **Tempter** (3:1) Satan attacked the messianic seed.
- § **Targets** (3:1, 6-7) Satan attacked the married woman and her husband.
- § **Tree** (3:2-3) Satan attacked the word of God and the Edenic law (2:16-17).
- § **Tactics** (3:4-5) Satan caused doubting and questioning of the character of God (3:1), truth of God (3:2-3), integrity and justice of God (3:4), and wisdom of God (3:5).
- § **Temptation** (3:6a) Eve chose to believe cosmos diabolicus as an alternative to God's wisdom.
- § **Transgression** (3:6a) Eve chose to act independent of God's will (1 Tim.2:14)
- § **Transgression** (3:6b-7) Adam chose to violate the Edenic law (Rom.5: 12-21).

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of how the garden snake became the biblical Old Serpent.

We will study Satan selecting the garden snake as the weapon of choice to attack the first married couple, Adam and Eve.

We will investigate how the garden snake that was created in divine good became the evil Old Serpent (Rev.12: 9)?

1. Originally the garden snake and Satan were under the dominion of Adam during the period of innocence.

The garden snake was created on Day 6 as very well (Gen.1: 24-31). Adam named it (ha nachash). It was created on the same day as mankind but not the same way. "everything that creeps (remes) on the ground after its kind (min / species)." (1:24-25).

The man and the serpent were both created with chayah nephesh. But only man was created **in the image according to the likeness of God (tselem demuth)** and given dominion over the rest of creation even over the serpent (Gen.1: 26; 3:14) [crawl] (yalak / kal impf).

However, Adam lost dominion of the world to Satan in the transgression (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor.4: 4; Matt.4: 8-11). "We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the power of the Evil One." (1 John 5:19)

However, **every church age believer** has dominion over Satan because of positional sanctification (Col.2: 13-15; Rom.6: 3-4; 8:9-11) [top circle of positional truth]. "Because greater is **He** who is in you than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4) [Indwelling of Holy Spirit] (1 Cor.6: 19-20)

2. **The primary characteristic of the garden snake was a crafty beast of the field. Hebrew word for crafty is arum and the Greek is phronimos.**

Arum and phronimos are translated practical, sensible, prudent, and wise. Compared to the other categories of land animals, the garden snake was considered to be wise.

The snake still had this reputation in Matthew 10:16. “Therefore be as shrewd (phronimos) as snakes and as innocent as doves.” This is the reason that Satan chose to indwell the garden snake.

3. **The great deceiver clothed himself as a serpent, one of God’s good creatures. He insinuated a falsehood and portrayed rebellion as clever, but essential innocent, self-interest. Therefore, ‘the devil, or satan,’ is later referred to as the ‘old serpent (Rev.12: 9; 20:2). (NIV, Gen.3:1, pg.10)**

The garden snake became known in the Scriptures as the Old or Ancient Serpent. **“The great dragon was hurled down, the ancient** (archaios) [belonging to a former age – age of innocence] **serpent** (ophis) 2 Cor.11: 3) **called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.”** (Rev.12:9; 20:2)

“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, **your minds** may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor.11: 3; 1 Cor.1: 18-20)

What was Satan attacking by using the novelty and charm of the garden snake? (2 Cor.11: 1-4; 1 Tim.2: 14; and Gen.3: 1-7) _____.

4. **The garden snake possessed by Satan could communicate with Eve on spiritual matters. Satan could speak her language and charmed her into speaking his language (cosmos diabolicus).**

Eve was impressed by the garden snake’s wisdom like many people are with talking birds. Once charmed, Satan launched an attack against Eve’s soul (Matt.4: 1-11; Eph.6: 11-17).

Eve didn’t pay attention to the primary clue of the enemy of God which is a subtle attack against the word of God (2 Cor.2: 11) [disguise, deceit, and twisting the truth with lies, red flags].

5. **Satan suggests that the word of God is open to human interpretation, worldly wisdom, compromise, and modifications to fit practical application of life (1 Cor.3: 18-20; 1:18-21; Matt.16: 21-23).**

Satan distracts the believer away from the liberties of the grace life by focusing upon the restrictions upon the believer’s personal life (2 Cor.11: 13-15; 1 Tim.4: 1-2; Eph.4: 14-15; 1 John 4:5-6).

Satan attempts to get the believer to act independent of the reveal will of God (Matt.4: 1-11; 16:21-23). This results in transgression and sin (Gen.3: 6-7).

Satan picked on the spiritual weak link to the word of God (Edenic law) to attack the messianic seed (Gen.3: 1-3, Rom.16: 20; Rev.20: 2-3, 7-10). Later he will do it to King David.

The **serpent, Eve, and Adam** were all judged for their involvement in the transgression of the Edenic Law (Gen.3: 14-19). Satan had already been judged for his sin in eternity past (Isa.14: 12-15; Ezek.28: 14-19; Rev.20: 2-3, 7-10).

THE OLD SERPENT - “And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.” (Rev.20: 2)