

Genesis 3:1-7

Genesis 3:1

- The introduction of the serpent is abrupt and without warning
- It explodes onto the scene suddenly with no explanation
- Up to this point, **Genesis 1 and 2** have been very orderly
- What is the serpent?
- Where did it come from?

What/Who is the serpent?

Revelation 12:7-9 - Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and **the dragon and his angels fought back**. 8 But the dragon was not strong enough to prevail, so there was no longer any place left in heaven for him and his angels. 9 So that huge dragon—**the ancient serpent, the one called the devil and Satan,** who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, **and his angels along with him.**

- The serpent is the devil
- Satan is an angel
- Satan = adversary

Should we spend time studying the devil?

- The study of Satan (adversary) teaches us about how he operates, his purpose, and what we can do to resist him
- Peter warns us **1 Peter 5:8-9** - Be sober and alert. Your enemy the devil, like a roaring lion, is on the prowl looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, strong in your faith,
- We have a very real enemy
- A fallen angel, with supernatural powers, that we're supposed to be aware of and have the ability to resist
- When you go to war with an enemy, you want to know them enough to recognize their tactics and overcome them
- **2 Corinthians 2:11** - so that we may not be exploited by Satan (for we are not ignorant of his schemes).
- **2 Corinthians 11:3** - But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Where did Satan come from?

Job 38:4-7 – “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you possess understanding. 5 Who set its measurements—if you know—or who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its bases set, or who laid its cornerstone—
7 when the morning stars sang in chorus, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

- The angels sang and rejoiced when God created the Earth
- If Satan is an angel, he had to be created before the creation of the world
- The angels creation was at least by day 3 (**Genesis 1:9-11**), possibly day 1 (**Genesis 1:1-5**), or earlier
- Satan was a created being
- **John 1:3** - All things were created by him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.
- Made “very good” like the rest of creation

What is the origin of Satan? Why did Satan fall?

- When we find Satan in the garden, he has already fallen
- He had to have fallen sometime after the seventh day
- Somehow between day 7 of creation when all is declared “very good” to when Adam and Eve were placed in the garden, Satan fell
- Two controversial passages in the Old Testament may describe the fall of Satan
- **Ezekiel 28**

Ezekiel 28:14-16 - I placed you there **with** an anointed guardian cherub;

you were on the holy mountain of God;

you walked about amidst fiery stones.

15 You were blameless in your behavior from the day you were created,

until sin was discovered in you.

16 In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned;

so I defiled you and banished you from the mountain of God—

the guardian cherub expelled you from the midst of the stones of fire.

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- Isaiah 14:3-4a.; 12-15

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- **Ezekiel 28**
- **Isaiah 14:3-4a.; 12-15**
- If these two texts don't describe Satan's fall, then scripture is mostly silent on his origin (of why Satan fell)
- So what can we know about Satan?

3 Times Satan is mentioned in the Old Testament

- Job 1:6-12

- Satan is described as wondering Earth seeking after believers, trying to destroy them
 - Like Peter, he wants to sift us like wheat (V. 8)
 - Notice that God has complete control
 - God decides what Satan can and can't do
 - God offers Satan the best man he's got
 - Job seemed to have everything, and just like Adam and Eve had everything and still willingly disobeyed God, Satan assumed the same would happen here
 - Satan was telling God, if you let me reverse his fortunes, Job's faith will fail and I will be right back here accusing him of his sin
 - Satan 1.) tempts people to sin and then 2.) accuses people of their sin to God
- #### - Job 1:13-22
- What did Job do? He blessed and worshipped God

- **Job 2:1-10**

- Satan wants to either destroy your faith, your commitment to God (ex.- temptation, by causing suffering) or destroy God's commitment to you by accusing you of your sin before God
- He is our adversary, our enemy
- Satan has freedom to go about the earth and even has access to heaven and the throne of God
- But, Satan cannot go beyond what God's authority allows him to do
- Satan assumes that men are like him, that they strive for success and avoid suffering
- He thinks if he can remove enough of God's blessings in your life, you'll forsake God
- Satan always underestimates true faith
- In the end, all it did was bring Job closer to God

Job 42:10-17 - So the Lord restored what Job had lost...and the Lord **doubled** all that had belonged to Job...12 So the Lord blessed the second part of Job's life **more than the first**...He had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. 13 And he also had seven sons and three daughters...Nowhere in all the land could women be found who were as beautiful as Job's daughters...16 After this Job lived 140 years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. 17 And so Job died, old and full of days.

- Zechariah 3:1-5
- Joshua is the high priest in Jerusalem
- How is the high priest described? (V. 3)
- How is Satan described? (V. 1)
- The imagery is not just of one man, but the representative of all Israel
- So Satan is indicting a man; and behind that man, the city of Jerusalem; and behind that city, the people of Israel
- Satan is saying “Here’s the best you’ve got and look how filthy he is”
- “All of your chosen people should all be destroyed”
- How did the Lord respond to this? By rebuking Satan (V. 2)
- God is keeping His covenants
- He removes the filthy rags and restores His people (V. 5)
- If you’re truly God’s, God Himself removes your sins and makes you pure, even though Satan’s accusations are true
- Because God will pay your penalty for you

- **1 Chronicles 21:1-14**
- Satan again wants to destroy Israel
- Israel is God's chosen nation to display His glory to the world
- David takes a census because, in his pride, he wanted to show how big an army he has amassed; which was forbidden by God (**V. 3-4**)
- **V. 7-13** – David knew that if he allowed anything to go on for three years or three months, the people would rise up and kill him
- So he selfishly chooses 3 days
- **V. 14** - One man sins and 70,000 die; sounds like Adam
- Satan knows that God is a holy God, who has a holy reaction against evil, so Satan incites David to bring about Israel's destruction
- And because of God's holiness, God is forced to destroy His own people
- Sinfulness demands a punishment

2 Samuel 24:1 - The **Lord's anger** again raged against Israel, and **he incited** David against them, saying, "Go count Israel and Judah."

- In **1 Chronicles Satan** incited David to number his army
- Here we find out that **The Lord** incited David to number his army causing the destruction of God's people. Why?
- "The Lord's anger again raged against Israel"
- Before there was any numbering, God was furious with His people for their wickedness and for their sin and they deserved punishment
- So God, in His wisdom and sovereignty, allows Satan to go and incite David to do this numbering
- When God destroyed those seventy thousand people, it wasn't that they were not guilty and perished because of the sin of David
- It was that they were actually guilty of sins against God and God judged them
- So God uses Satan to achieve His sovereign purposes and to fulfill His plan

1 Chronicles 21

- Notice that neither God nor Satan can cause you to sin (David)
- Our **fallenness** is the problem
- **V. 8** – David took responsibility, he never blamed God or Satan
- **V. 17** - David didn't know the sins of Israel as well as God did
- God needed to judge Israel of their sin, God allowed Satan (who desires to get you to sin and accuse you of it) to incite David to sin, David sinned because of his own pride
- The devil doesn't make you sin
- Sin is your choice, and the judgment that fell on David demonstrates that God held David accountable for his actions

What did we learn?

- Satan (adversary) wants to either destroy your commitment to God or destroy God's commitment to you by accusing you of your sin before God
- Sometimes God uses Satan to judge sinners like Israel in **1 Chronicles** and **2 Samuel**
- Sometimes God uses Satan to refine believers faith like He did with **Job**
- But Satan can only do what God allows him to do, God is always in total control
- You are responsible for sinning
- If God is your Lord and Savior, you are sinful and Satan's accusations are true, but God cleanses you of all your filth and restores you to Him just like in **Zechariah**