

The Human Fall





Literal or Symbolic?

The Fruit is Symbolic!

- God is a God of Love
- Desired the fruit more than life itself
- Jesus Words: "Not that which goes into the mouth defiles a man." Matt 15:11
- Not a Test. James 1:13

There is a saying that "as the family goes, so goes the nation." We certainly see the adverse effects in today's world and in our nation.

In fact, the history of the world, of strife, sorrow and pain is one that is equally attributable to the breakdown of the family, the original family, that is.

This is the perspective of the Garden of Eden story in the book of Genesis. God was seeking to establish the prototypical family from which was to emerge and eternal legacy leading to a world and history of peace and familyhood.

The first salient issue is the meaning of the fruit of which they partook. This is the fruit about which God had said "do not eat for on the day thereof that you eat of it, you will die" Thus, the debate centers around the nature of the forbidden fruit. Is it literal or is the fruit a symbol of something?

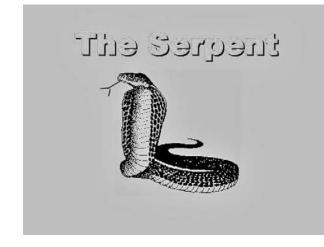
(you will notice, we are "cutting to the chase" here. I generally skip the meaning of the trees in this first edition. . . it is not essential to establish the keypoints of the fall and the license needed to convince someone that our view of the meaning of the Tree of Knowledge should be accepted solely on our authority is a stretch at this initial juncture.)

There are several valid reasons for our conclusion that the fruit is not literal. 1. it is inconsistent with a God of love. God would not put something in front of his children whose sole purpose was to harm them. 2. That they were willing to risk their life in order to eat the fruit, shows that the fruit was something of incredible value and desirability. . .even more than life itself. (a side note: its good to cite the verse where God tells them that they can eat fruit "from any other tree." So hunger couldn't be a motive. 3. Jesus' words in Matt 15:11 (and later to the 19 verse is very good to read) 4. Not a test. God test sinners. . .but Adam and Eve were not yet in a state of sin.



Matthew 15:11-19 ". . .for out of the heart come all iniquities."

Here is the rest of Jesus' words on the matter. . .it is signifcant in that Jesus pinpoints "the heart" as the source of all iniquities" He is testifing to the root of sin within the human heart, within love and thus. when we proceed to unravel the meaning of the fruit, the issue of humanity's corrupted love will be clearly germaine.



Just as the fruit must be evaluated likewise the figure of the serpent who calls attention to the fruit. The issue, then, is the serpent a literal talking snake or, just as the fruit, is it a symbol of a type of presence in the garden.

The Serpent

Intelligent

- Able to Communicate with Man.
- Knew God's Commandment

"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, you shall not eat from any tree in the garden?"



Genesis 3:1-4

What is the Identity of the Serpent?

Revelation 12:9 "The great dragon was hurled down--the ancient <u>serpent</u> called the devil or satan. . .He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him."

Did God Create satan?

 Genesis 1:31 "God saw everything that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 3: 1 reveals certain characteristics of the serpent which lead us away from the literal and toward the likelihood that the "serpent" is a symbol of some other type of living entity.

"Now the serpent was more crafty= intelligent "He said to the woman" = Able to communicate with humans "Did God say. . ." = is aware of God and his word

Therefore the serpent is not a literal animal, but rather is an intelligent, spiritual being that can converse with humans. Not conclusive yet, but leaning toward angels.

So we need to take this examination to a deeper level. In Revelation 12:9 mentions the "ancient serpent" called the devil or satan. . .he was hurled to the earth and "his angels" with him.

The significant elements that we can derive from this scripture are as follows: 1. The serpent is a symbol for satan or devil. 2. the devil or satan is described as having been "hurled down" from heaven. . .which indicates his original position and status was anchored there. 3. Satan has a cadre of angels that answer to him, described as "his" angels. This is further evidence that eden's serpent was indeed an angelic figure.

Did "satan" begin in heaven? Did God create satan and did the fall of humanity reflect God's plan? These are all the type of questions that are generated by this scriptural testimony. Some point to Isaiah 45:7 where God proclaims that "I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create evil; I, the LORD, do all these things.

However, Genesis 1:31 says that God created all things and that all things were very good. If so, we can only conclude that "satan" is a post-corrupted identity tag. Before "he was hurled to the ground" he enjoyed a position and status as a heavenly being with an original tag of heavenly identity.

The Origin of Satan

- Revelation 12:9
- 2Peter 2:4
- Jude 1:6
- Job 1:6

The idea that goodness was corrupted and transformed to evil is the overwhelming trend documented in the scriptures.

These scriptures testify to beings, originally created as good,

becoming dissatified with their station and engaging in a pro-

cess that renders them unworthy for continued holiness within

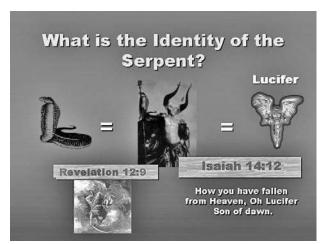
the heavenly realm. . .they are purged from heaven, and in their new found sorry state are assigned to the lower realms to await

Revelation 12:9
2Peter 2:4
Jude 1:6
Job 1:6

Likewise, satan's corruption from heaven means that before he was tagged with his hellish moniker after his corruption and fall, he enjoyed an altogether different position and status in heaven as one of the angelic beings.

atan and Fallen Angels terrelation 12:7-9 Michael and his angels de **area and his angels de in fact in Revelation 12, begining with the 7 verse to the 9th, we** find one more important piece of the puzzle that helps us to further pinpoint this original identity. It states that "Michael and 'his' angels do battle with satatn and 'his' angels. This draws a direct comparison with Michael the archangel. Both Michael and satan have thier angels and , therefore, both must be archangels. Satan before being hurled from heaven was, therefore, not just a rank and file angel. . he was an archangel of the highest order, compriable to Michael and Gabriel

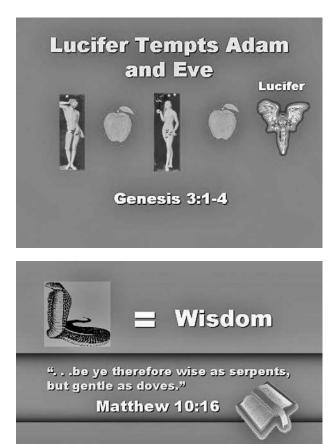
judgement.



Let us review. We began with a talking snake in Eden. We've been able to ascertain that this "serpent" is, rather, an intellegent spiritual being. We further gathered information that reveals a corruption process and that this being, not only an angel, but is an archangel.

Finally the revealing of the identity of the serpent takes place in Isaiah 14:12 "how you have fallen from heaven O Lucifer son of dawn.

Lucifer the archangel is the serpent who tempts the daughter of God to eat the fruit that God said not to eat.



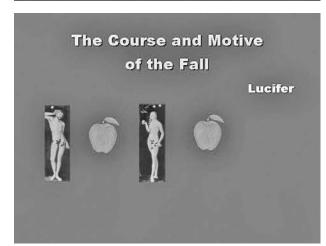
So rather than a "serpent" tempting the daughter of God to eat the fruit. . .we are dealing with an revered presence in the Garden. ..Lucifer the Archangel. What was Lucifer's role in Eden?

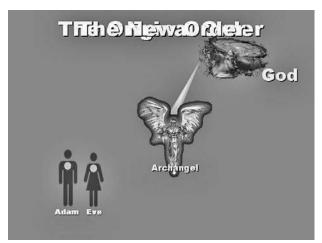
See Ezekiel 28:12-19. It is very revealing. Lucifer is referred to as a "covering cherub." This is something akin to guardian angel. Lucifer was there to "protect and serve."

Why would scripture use the symbol of "serpent" to represent the archangel Lucifer?

We can see the consistent use of the symbol as a metaphor for wisdom. Jesus said be "wise as serpents" but gentle as doves.

Ezekiel 28:17 reports about the "covering cherub" in Eden, "Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.So I threw you to the earth;



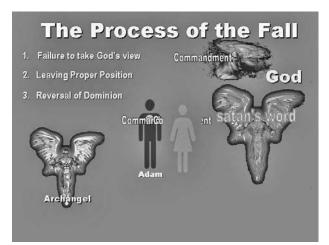


So it is Lucifer who was placed in the Garden, a most revered angel of wisdom and light, to protect, to "cover" the son and daughter of God during their period of responsibility within the indirect dominion, the growing period.

How utterly convoluted is his actual demeanor. Something has so effected him that now, rather than protecting and serving, he becomes "the serpent" bent on corrupting the daughter of God; enticing her with the very forbidden fruit God had instructed them not to eat.

We now move to understand the circumstnces that brought about this transformation of Lucifer's personaility and motives.

We enter the dicussion of the course and motivation of the fall. It begins with understanding the origin (preliminary is a better word) order. That is, the order that existed in the spiritual world before the creation of Adam and Eve. At that time angels were the "highest" created beings. During that time Lucifer was a type of "number one" and enjoyed the position to be able to "report" directly to God. (this is emphasizing positions). Next, Adam and Eve are created, but during their immaturity, Lucifer serves as "covering" cherub. .this would be like a teacher, mentor or guide. Still able to report directly to God. . Lucifer stays cool. It is when positions change (New Order) and Lucifer must come to God thru Adam. ..hell breaks lose.



The first reaction is that Lucifer no long can see Adam from God's viewpoint. In other words, Lucifer must identify with God's purpose in placing Adam between Lucifer and God and insisting that Lucifer acquiese to Adam's authority. Lucifer must trust and obey and deny his own reactionary feelings that this move is not in his interest.

Next, in misidentifying Adam and, therefore, being unable to recognize Adam as God's channel of love TO Lucifer. Lucifer refuses to come to God thru the annoited channel and, instead, chooses to leave that position. Thus Lucifer cuts himself off from God's love. . .yet at the same time assumes, falsely, that God has reduced his love for him. This, likewise, confirms his suspicions that God never had his interests at heart.

Subsequently, Lucifer feels entitled, by any means necessary, to compensate for this injustice having been wrought upon him. He seeks a replacement for the love of God; the love he falsely feels has been withdrawn from him. Hel-LO Ms. EVE.

And why not Eve? Wasn't Adam somehow deeply entrenched in this conspiracy cooked up by God to use him and deny him his deserved happiness? Eve was not as culpable, was more tenderhearted, sympathetic and willing to learn of Lucifer's sorrowful plight and the conspiracy against him. Lucifer also could see Eve's exquisite beauty, the epidimy of all beauty.

If loving Eve meant he had to break a few rules, how is that any different than what God did to him, he reasoned? Hadn't he worked tirelessly for years all the while believing the empty promises of how good it would be one day. and then having to suffer the indignity of losing everything as God turns to his true loves. Should Lucifer be the only one obligated to subject himself to absolutes? Or should he, like God, merely pursue his own interests? This was his warped thinking that brings us to Genesis 3:1 and the contention between Eve and Lucifer over how to best deal with the incontrovertable clerity of the commandment and Lucifer's desire.

Lucifer "reverses dominion" by proposing an alternative text to the commandment of God. God asserted that on the day you eat thereof, you will die. Lucifer's ammendment was that, in fact, you would not die. Lucifer also revealed that God had ill motives for attempting to dissuade Eve from eating. . .it was to prevent her from "becoming like God, knowing both good and evil."

The reversal is complete when Eve relinquishes God's word voluntarily and then, also voluntarily, submits to Lucifer's word. Thus Lucifer as the giver of the word, takes God's place.

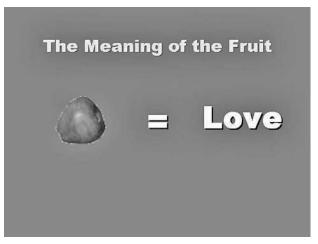


Proverbs 30:20Song of Songs 4:12-16

Now we can talk fruit. Notice that we haven't revealed until first we have established all the necessary elements.

Proverbs 30:20 way of adultery = "she eats, wipes her mouth and says 'I've done nothing wrong."" (just as Eve did)

Song of Songs 4:12-16 Consumption of "fruit" a metaphor for sexual love.



Lucifer tempting Eve to eat the fruit means he was tempting her to engage in a sexual relation. This is the spiritual fall.

Angelic Interaction with Humans

- Gen. 32:22-32 Jacob wrestles an angel
- Gen. 19:3 Lot prepares a meal for the angels and they eat!

• Hebrews 13:1 "Let brotherly love continue, be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Sin of the Angel: Fornication

 Jude 1:6 "And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home-these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for the judgement on the great day

2Peter 2:4, Rev 12:7-9

How is angelic/human fornication even possible many will ask? Don't try to explain. . .instead point to the scripture record of the substantial interaction that exists. Dispel the idea that there is no point of commonality between flesh and spirit because, in fact, there is a common base. ..that is why your own spirit and body are so dynamically linked.

Based on the Biblical testimony. . . .such a relationship, at least in theory could have happened. The book of Hebrews indicates that angels can be in our midst and we might not necessarily recognize them. This means to dispel the notion of angels with "wings." etc.

We see that the Bible also testifies to the rebellon the a certain number of the angels. Who are these angels and what was the nature of their rebellion?

These are the angels "cast down" with Lucifer. . . "his" angels.

What is their sin?

Sin of the Angel: Fornication

•Jude 1:7-8 "In a similar way, Sodom and Gommorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings."

•Genesis 6:2

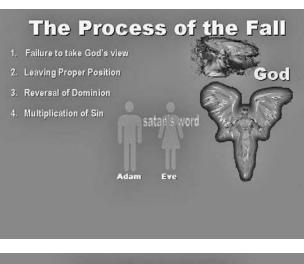


"Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is <u>one with her in body</u>? For it is written 'the two will become one flesh.'. . .Flee from sexual immorality. <u>All other sins</u> a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins <u>against his own body</u>" Jude, chapter one goes on to say that the sin of the angels was the same as that of the people of Sodom and Gommorrah.

The term "pollute their own bodies" is a metaphor for sexual sin; fornication.

Genesis 6:2 also testifies that the "sons of God" (Hebrew "bene Elohim" means "angels") chose the daughters of men and married any they chose. These are the "his" angels. ..the angels of Lucifer who are emulating the spiritual fall. .the sin of their leader.

We see Paul's words about the seriousness of the sin of fornication. It is because it is involved in the original sin. Notice the metaphor about "sinning against one's own body". . .this is way Jude chapter one mentions the "dreamers", that is, the people of Sodom and Gommorrah and the angels, polluting their own bodies. It means fornication.



The Physical Fall

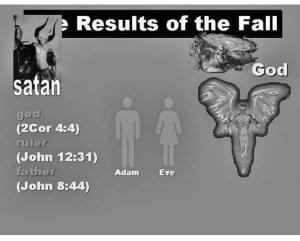
- Gen. 2:25 Before the fall, Adam and Eve were naked and unashamed.
- Gen. 3:7 Adam and Eve cover their nakedness—the sexual areas. Their "eyes were opened" to their nakedness.
- · Job 31:33 Adam hid his sin

This brings us to the last component in the process of the fall, the multiplication of sin. This is the also the physical extension of the fall or, the physical fall.

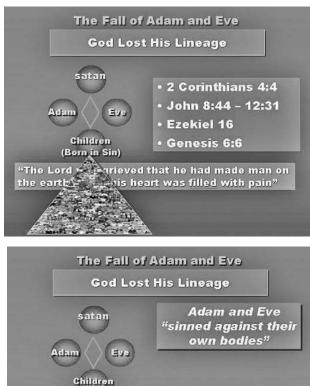
Eve realizes her sin with Lucifer, feels guilt, fear and shame. She can go the right course of recovery: confess, repent and walk a path of recovery and healing. Or she can attempt to justify her sin and entice Adam to join her. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve take the latter path and they, too, partake of the "fruit" and engage in pre-marital, unsanctioned sexual relations. Thus sin multiplied from Lucifer to Eve to Adam and through them. . .their lineage.

This is the traditional Biblical evidence that the physical fall involved the sexual parts.

By the way, . .you might want to remember that the physical fall, was also "spiritual" because it involved the union of Adam and Eve's spiritual bodies as well as their physical bodies.



As we survey the expanse of all human history fraught with wars, pain and sorrows, we can only imagine the exhaustive list we could draw of "the consequences of the fall." All link back toward the "change of lineage." that took place with the first human ancestors. This is the single most essential result. All other consequences are an extension of that core result. Our lineage was changed by the sin of the first human ancestors; changed from being the Godly seed, the descendant of God and, instead, being born of a new "god" "ruler" and "father"



(Born in Sin)

Through the condition of the spiritual and physical fall laid down by the first human ancestors, God lost his lineage. Adam and Eve could not be "True" parents and, instead, gave birth to a lineage of sin and death. Instead of God, a usurper, an interloper had been enpowered, by them, as a false "god", "ruler" and "father". . .this was satan and since that time, fallen humanity has been the front line of God and satan seeking to exercise their execlusive sovereignty.

The greatest consequence of the fall, however, was that God had to experience an overwhelming grief for the first time in his life. He was not destined to experience grief and sorrow. This is the greatest injustice of all injustices. (Read Father's speech. . "The Pinnacle of Suffering."

