

— Genesis 3.1 —
Genesis Series 10
The Serpent

Gen 3 ¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

* **What is the serpent** (Hb., *nachash*)?

* **Is “cunning”** (Hb., *arum*) bad?

Prov 22.3 A prudent (Hb., *arum*) man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

Prov 13.16 Every prudent (Hb., *arum*) man acts with knowledge, but a fool lays open his folly.

Mat 10.16 “[B]e shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.”
[NASB]

* **Who is speaking** through the serpent?

Rev 12 ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

2Cor 11 ³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

* **Why is Satan called the “great dragon” and a “serpent”?**

Isaiah 27 ¹ In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent (*nachash*), Leviathan that twisted serpent (*nachash*); And He will slay the reptile (*tannin*, dragon) that is in the sea.

* **What is Leviathan**, and what does it represent in the Bible?

Job 41 ¹ “Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook...? ...
⁷ Can you fill his skin with harpoons, or his head with fishing spears? ...
⁹ Indeed, any hope of overcoming him is false; Shall one not be overwhelmed at the sight of him? ...
¹⁵ His rows of scales are his pride, shut up tightly as with a seal ...
²⁰ Smoke goes out of his nostrils, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes.
²¹ His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth ...
²⁴ His heart is as hard as stone ...
²⁷ He regards

iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood ...
³³ On earth there is nothing like him, which is made without fear.
³⁴ He beholds every high thing; He is king over all the children of pride.”

Psalms 74 ¹³ You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters.
¹⁴ You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces

* **Ezekiel 28 & Isaiah 14** give us the most detail about the identity and background of Satan. What is going on there?

Ezekiel 28 ² “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas,’ Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god ...
⁵ By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches),”
⁶ ‘Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god,
⁷ behold, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, the most terrible of the nations; And they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, and defile your splendor ...
¹² Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.
¹⁴ You were the anointed cherub who covers (see Exo 25.20-22) I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.
¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.
¹⁶ By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, and you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.
¹⁷ Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.”

Exo 25 ²⁰ And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings ...
²¹ You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark ...
²² And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim

Isaiah 14 ⁴ [T]ake up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: "How the oppressor has ceased, the golden city ceased!
⁵ The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers; ⁶ he who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he who ruled the nations in anger ... ⁹ Hell from beneath is excited about you, to meet you at your coming ... ¹¹ Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, and the sound of your stringed instruments; The maggot is spread under you, and worms cover you.' ¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.

*** What is envy in the Bible?**

1Kings 3 ²⁵ And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other." ²⁶ Then the woman whose son was living ... said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."

*** How would envy and hostility possibly arise for Lucifer?**

*** What appear to be the roots of Lucifer's first sin?**

John 8 ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Psalms 8 ⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? ⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet (fulfilled by Christ, see Heb 2.8).

– _____ So thought the majority of the early church fathers.

Heb 1 ¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

– There is also an attitude of _____.

Gal 4 ¹ [T]he heir, as long as he is a child, ... ² ... is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. ³ Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

– _____ So thought a minority of the early church fathers.

1Cor 6 ³ Do you not know that we shall judge angels?

Mat 27 ¹⁸ For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

Lk 1 ⁷¹ That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,

Mark 15 ¹⁰ For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.

Acts 7 ⁹ "And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt."