

MONDAY The Origin of the Controversy on Earth

Two Accounts of Creation

Genesis 1 = God revealed Himself = **Elohim** = eternal /self-existing God, created something out of nothing / exists above & **outside** His Creation.

Genesis 2 = Repeats Creation account = God reveals Himself by covenant name **Yahweh** = loving “up-close-and-personal” God—Yahweh (Jehovah), who exists everywhere **inside** His Creation.

Genesis 1:31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

- No hint /evil / Creation = how did evil come into human experience
- If God created world entirely good = how did evil arise here?
- Eden = Among / many beautiful fruit trees, God placed two trees in center of Garden— tree of life/ tree of **knowledge** of good / evil.
 - So concept of evil = existed somewhere
- God warned Adam/ Eve to avoid eating from it / He clearly explained partaking of its fruit would result in death **Gen 2:16–17**
- This = Lord’s only prohibition = His intention was to protect them
 - God places boundaries = for our benefit
- Adam/Eve could exercise their free will = to eat from either.
- If they avoided = fruit of that tree, they would continue life in paradise—that was God’s **covenant of life** w/ them.
- First 11 chapters/Genesis = contain 2,000 yrs of world history
- Don’t know how long Adam/Eve had been in Garden
- **Genesis 3:1** storyline sweeps past their early time of life in Garden, fast forwarding to day Eve = encountered serpent at prohibited tree.
- Accustomed to this creature = she would not have been alarmed.
- God did not initially create serpent /in snake-like form we see today.
- Not until after Fall—when God pronounced curse on /creature—did it have to slither on ground / for its remaining existence **Gen 3:14**
- What Eve did not realize = serpent had been possessed by Satan

- used it as medium – transforming himself to masquerade as messenger of light = **2 Corinthians 11:14**
- Reflecting dazzling beauty w/ which God had originally created Lucifer = creature in tree captured her attention.
- When he spoke w/soothing charm, her curiosity was captivated.
 - A talking serpent?
- W/O Adam by her side, Eve was vulnerable to Satan's seduction.
- **Revelation 12:9** identifies serpent = as great dragon / that serpent of old, called the Devil / Satan, who deceives the whole world;
- Great deceiver knew what God had warned couple,
 - but subtly twisted/distorted God's words
 - as he attempted to engage her in conversation.
- **Genesis 3:1** In his cunning fashion = asked Eve, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of **every** tree of the garden'?"
- Serpent first uses = **question to cast doubt on God's command**,
- Eve enthusiastically defended / great liberty God had given them , declaring fruit from this particular tree = only thing He prohibited, warning that its consumption = would bring death.
- **What was Eve's mistake? She engaged in conversation w/ devil.**
- This emboldened him. **Genesis 3:4** Now Serpent directly contradicted God w/ his great lie, "**You shall not surely die**"
- Coercing her to eat =he claimed she would become like God.
- Eve was deceived = ate fruit, thinking it was = right thing to do

ABSG QUOTE Here and elsewhere in Scripture, the nature of this conflict is primarily over **what** and **whom** to believe, which is itself integrally related to love. And that is because your beliefs about someone, the kind of person that he or she is, and whether he or she can be trusted, deeply impact whether you will love and trust that person and, in this case, listen to what that person tells you. **UNQUOTE**

- went to find Adam working nearby in Garden = to share tasty treat.
- Apostle Paul clearly explains difference
 - between her deception / Adam's reaction
- **1 Timothy 2:14** Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.
- Her sin = unintentional/ his was not = He knew = forbidden fruit.
- Don't know for certain why, but he consciously made decision to declare his independence from God =thru willing transgression.
- But =God came to seek / save = guilty sinners

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

- First mention of Gospel = less than 30 words = Lord unveils His everlasting covenant / outlines = end of great controversy = that began in heaven between God/ Satan—between good/ evil
 - **Jesus = Seed of the woman**
 - Seed of serpent = Satan's offspring = **1 John 3:10** described as "children of the devil" and identified by their refusal to "practice righteousness"
- Serpent bruised Christ's heal = at Cross
- But Jesus dealt Satan = final blow = at Cross / triumphed over Satan
 - Destroying devil's power of death
- Revelation describes = first resurrection of righteous to eternal life
- **1 Corinthians 15:53–55** when Christ returns to deliver promised gift of immortality, death will be "swallowed up in victory"
- **How does this both reinforce the reality of the conflict and yet provide hope for us in the midst of it?**