

Text: Gen 3, et al

Last week we told the story of the fall of man, this week I want to go back to that passage and talk about the serpent.

Of course, the serpent isn't merely a serpent, he (it?) is a creature somehow connected to Satan.

The presence of Satan in the story does cause curiosity. How and when did Satan fall? What does his fall mean? The Bible talks about Satan being cast out of heaven. When did that happen? Or has it happened yet?

There are a lot of questions we have about Satan, though I would say he isn't someone we should focus our attention on.

Before we get into Satan, however, I should make one thing clear.

Adam is responsible for sin among men. Satan was the tempter; Adam was the sinner who plunged mankind into sin and death. It does no good to blame human sin on Satan.

And of course, Satan is responsible for his own sin, and will be judged for it.

The story of Satan:

I. The "pre-quel" (Gen 1.31)

- A. Satan and all the angels are part of what God made
- B. At the end of creation, God saw all that he made was very good — this includes Satan

We note that Satan fell out of his position, but on the seventh day, his fall was in the future.

II. The serpent in the garden (Gen 3.1-3, 2 Cor 11.3, Rev 12.9)

- A. The character of the serpent: crafty
- B. The words of the serpent: deceitful
- C. The work of the serpent: deceiving Eve (2 Cor 11.3)
- D. Identity of the serpent: the great dragon, Satan, the devil (Rev 12.9)

We don't know exactly when Satan "fell" himself, but at the latest, it was Genesis 3.1 (I think that it was in Genesis 3.1)

III. The serpent in heaven (Job 1.6-12, Rev 12.10, Ezek 28.11-19)

- A. Satan converses with God in heaven about Job (Job 1.6-12)
- B. Satan is called the “accuser of the brethren” — in heaven? (Rev 12.10)
- C. Satan apparently originally occupied a place in heaven (Ezek 28.11-19)

IV. The serpent cast out of heaven (Rev 12.7-12)

- A. Apparently, this is something that will occur in the future
- B. The casting out of Satan is one of the last steps of God asserting his authority in the end of days
- C. Satan will cause much trouble on the earth in those days, knowing his time is short

V. The final destiny of the serpent (Rev 20.1-3, 7-10)

- A. At the beginning of the millennium, Satan will be confined
- B. At the end of the millennium, Satan will be released, but will ultimately end in the lake of fire

Conclusion:

The story of Satan is a sad tale. We don't look into it to glory in it or to boast against the powers of Satan.

Our purpose is to understand the story and rejoice in the salvation our God has given us despite the influence of Satan in the world.