

Genesis, part 6 – Satan’s Strategy Against Eve – Genesis 3:1-7

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the animals that the LORD God had made.” Genesis 3:1a

The real tempter here in the Garden of Eden was Satan himself.

“The great dragon was cast out of heaven, the old serpent, called The Devil and Satan . . .”
Revelation 12:9

Satan was God’s greatest angel but something went wrong in his heart.

“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend into heaven . . . I will make myself like the Most High God.’”
Isaiah 14:13

“You were in Eden, the Garden of God . . . I ordained you as a guardian cherub (angel).”
Ezekiel 28:13a, 14a

“You were blameless in all your ways until unrighteousness was found in you.” Ezekiel 28:15

“Your heart became proud because of your beauty . . . and you sinned. So, in disgrace, I drove you out . . . I threw you down to earth.” Ezekiel 28:17

“And he said to the woman, ‘Did God really say: “You shall not eat from the trees of the Garden?”’”
Genesis 3:1b

“And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the Garden.’”
Genesis 3:2

“But from the tree that is in the middle of the Garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will surely die.’” Genesis 3:3

“And the serpent said to the woman, ‘You shall not surely die! For God knows that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’” Genesis 3:4, 5

PART ONE – Satan caught Eve alone when Adam wasn’t around

Satan knew that **only Adam** had actually heard God’s command not to eat from this tree.

#1 – When God commanded Adam about the tree (Genesis 2:17), Eve wasn’t even created yet.

#2 – When God spoke to Adam and Eve about their disobedience, He addressed His comments **only** to Adam.

“Have **you** eaten from the tree that I commanded **you** not to eat from?” Genesis 3:11

In Genesis 3:11, both “you’s” are masculine singular even though Adam and Eve were both standing there.

Eve had only heard about this command from Adam – and Satan knew this made her more vulnerable if Adam wasn’t there to re-iterate it.

Satan also knew that isolated and outside of biblical community, Eve was more vulnerable to attack.

PART TWO – Satan tried to get Eve’s focus onto what she didn’t have and off of what she did have.

Eve had everything in the whole world except **one thing!**

Satan tries to turn Eve’s attention off everything God **had** given her and onto the one thing God had **not** given her!

PART THREE – Satan urged Eve to doubt God’s goodness to her

“For God knows, that in the day when you eat from that tree, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God . . .” Genesis 3:5

PART FOUR – Satan denied that disobeying God would bring the consequences that God said it would

“And the serpent said to the woman, ‘You shall not surely die! . . .’” Genesis 3:4

Satan gets Eve to **ignore** God’s warnings about sin and its consequences.

Satan’s Strategy Against Eve:

#1 – He got Eve spiritually isolated

#2 – He got Eve to focus on what God hadn’t given her

#3 – He got Eve to believe that God was holding out on her

#4 – He got Eve to ignore God’s warnings about the consequences of sin

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate.” Genesis 3:6a

Getting Eve to disobey God was not yet “mission accomplished” for Satan.

Adam was the “federal head” of the human race and it was only by spiritually polluting Adam that Satan could spiritually pollute the entire human race.

“Then Eve also gave some of the fruit to her husband [Adam], and he ate.” Genesis 3:6b

There are two levels of death that the Bible tells us about:

- Physical death
- Spiritual death

In His mercy, God did not make Adam and Eve’s physical death instantaneous because He wanted to give them time to repent and be forgiven.

However, Adam and Eve did experience **immediate** spiritual death.

“Then Adam and Eve heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day. And the man and his wife hid themselves among the trees of the Garden from the presence of the LORD God.” Genesis 3:8

“Then the LORD God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ And Adam said, ‘I heard You in the Garden and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.’” Genesis 3:9, 10

What had happened is that Adam and Eve had become “spiritual corpses.”

“There is no truth in him . . . for he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44

So What?

Satan is still **“alive and well on planet earth”!**

Goal #1 = to destroy people’s souls by getting them to reject Jesus Christ and stay spiritually dead.

Goal #2 = to deceive Christians into disobeying God and bringing disaster on themselves just like Adam and Eve did.

Satan is still using the exact same strategy that he used on Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Part #1 of Satan’s strategy: Just as with Eve, Satan tries to get us spiritually isolated.

Satan didn’t attack Eve when she was alone by accident.

He knew that had she been in biblical community together with Adam, luring Eve into sin would have been much harder.

Part #2 of Satan's strategy: *Just as with Eve, Satan tries to breed discontent in our lives.*

Part #3 of Satan's strategy: *Just as with Eve, Satan tries to get us to question God's love for us.*

Part #4 of Satan's strategy: *Just as with Eve, Satan keeps assuring us that God really doesn't mean what He says about the consequences of sin.*

"As followers of Christ, how can we defend ourselves against Satan's strategy?"

". . . take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5

The battle between us and Satan is fought in our minds – on the battlefield of our thought-lives.

*We must discipline our minds to praise God at all times for what we **do** have.*

"Praise the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within praise His holy name." Psalm 103:1

"Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits." Psalm 103:2

"Be sure your sin will find you out." Numbers 32:23

When we get shaky, we must have fellow believers around us – with whom we're in biblical community – who can exhort us with God's truth.

*The secret to repulsing Satan is to always praise God for what we **do** have instead of focusing on what we **don't** have!*

*When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged thinking all is lost.
Count your many blessings, angels will attend
Help and comfort give you til your journey's end.*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God has done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God has done!*