

The God who doesn't wipe out rebels

Adam and Eve:

1. **Who did he create made "in his own image"?** Man
2. **Who was given dominion on all creation?** Man
3. **What did God say about all his creations, including man? 1:31** They were good
4. **Who named all the creatures of the earth?** Man
5. **What did God create because he cared for Adam so much, he didn't want him to be alone?**
Woman
6. **Were Adam and Eve ashamed of their nakedness?** No, they were pure and had no lust

The One and Only Prohibition:

There is one element of Chapter 2 that sets the stage for Chapter 3. Genesis 2:17 records the prohibition to Adam and Eve: "But you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will certainly die." The garden is a completely paradise, but there is that one prohibition.

The Serpent:

1. **Who/what is the serpent?** The serpent may be the embodiment of Satan, or maybe a symbolism of Satan, but the Bible doesn't really care to explain which.
2. **How did the serpent communicate with Eden?** We do not know the communication arrangements, but it doesn't affect the main points.
3. **Is Satan competing with God in some power struggle?** Genesis 3:1 – "*the serpent was craftier than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made*". Satan is not some competing anti-God with equal powers to God. Satan was created as well. He is dependent on God. This is not like Star Wars with equally powerful dark and light forces.
4. **Where did Satan come from?** Elsewhere he is portrayed as part of the angelic number who rebelled against God.
5. **What was the thing that got Satan thrown out of heaven?** Satan once held special standing in God's court and was gifted with prudence (wisdom). He rebelled and his prudence turned into craftiness (once what was a strength is now a vice). He then turns his craftiness (sneakiness and deceitfulness) towards the woman.
6. **Why would Satan choose to manifest himself as something God had created?** Satan obviously manifests himself in another form (a snake) to deceive. Of course, Satan wouldn't manifest himself as some scary monster or what he truly is (evil).

The Tree of Knowledge of good and evil:

1. **Does God hate fruit?** God could have just as easily said "Do not drink from this river" or "Do not eat these berries". **Is this really about grabbing a quick snack or is there more?**

2. **What was the fruit?** The bible never says what kind of fruit it was or if it has some magical ability when eaten. This is all secondary information. Something occurs in Eve's mind, heart, and soul!!

Knowledge versus No-Knowledge

1. **Here's the point:** God creates us and pronounces what is good and what is evil. If at any point we come along and say "No, I will declare my own good even if it doesn't match your views." Then we are standing over and against God.
2. **Let's look at an illustration.**

More Important, the tree or the rebellion

1. **Read first bullet...**
2. **Was this temptation of the serpent JUST an invitation to break a rule?** The temptation of the serpent was not just an invitation to break a rule. Sin is not just breaking a rule. What is at stake is much deeper, bigger, sadder, uglier, more heinous. It is a revolution by man. A rebellion. It makes me and you god and de-Gods the true God.

Satan's evil tactics:

Satan says: "Did God REALLY say that? That you cannot eat from any tree in the garden?"

1. **How does Satan use Skepticism?** Satan actually tries to put Even in a position to question God even though his actions cannot be judged. He is the only maker, the designer. We often forget if all of existence is from God, then we have no right or place to question him.
2. **How does Satan use Exaggeration?** Satan makes God out as the cosmic party pooper. Like God exists only to spoil our fun and not let us do what we want to do. Satan is trying to plant this Eve's mind.

Eve replies: "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden"

Eve does correct Satan on his exaggeration

Eve says "You must not eat from the tree that is in the middle of the garden"

Eve successfully pushes Satan's exaggeration away.

Eve adds: "and you must not touch it or you will die"

Did God say anything about not touching it? God never said anything about touching it.

Why did eve add this extra prohibition? Did God's rule get under her skin? Did it rile her up?

Eve's first sin is a sin against the goodness of God. Eve made a point to note the meanness of God's prohibition despite having everything else one could ask for. Eve flirts with the idea that God is trying to limit her pleasure and enjoyment.

The serpent declares **"You will certainly not die. God knows that when you eat of it, you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

1. “You will certainly not die”. This is the first overt contradiction to what God said. The serpent denies the doctrine of judgement. The serpent basically says God is not all-knowing and does not know what he’s talking about.
2. **How is what the serpent promises partly true and totally false?** Her eyes will be opened all right, she will see the difference between good and evil. God says so himself in Gen 3:22.

The True Repulsiveness of the rebellion:

1. **What is the difference between how God knows evil and how the woman will know evil if she eats from the fruit?** We must understand that God knows good and evil, every circumstance, every outcome; complete omniscience, so he can know evil without becoming evil. The woman is going to learn about evil very personally. She will learn about it by becoming it. (A doctor knows about diseases from the outside, a patient knows the disease personally from the inside)
2. **What does Eve’s choice really declare? What’s the big deal about knowing what is good and evil?** Although your choices to declare what is good is grounded in infinite-knowledge, I want this God-like function. In your wisdom you told me not to eat from that tree and that you hold the key to what is good and evil. I want to make my own choices. I don’t need you.
3. **What is Eve actually saying to God when she decides she wants to know good and evil?** God himself must now on be regarded, consciously or not, as a rival or enemy. Eve is saying “I pronounce my own good, thank you very much, and I do not need you to tell me what I may or may not do.”
4. **Is Adam guilty?** Adam is present during the whole thing, no less guilty.