

Was Adam With Eve When She was Deceived by the Serpent?

by [Rich Deem](#)

Introduction

Was Adam with Eve at the time the serpent ([Satan](#) in the form of a snake)¹ deceived her about eating the forbidden fruit? Another page about [Satan](#) on this site off-handedly says "We don't know where Adam was at the time of Satan's temptation." Another believer, Claretta, challenged me on what had seemed obvious to me—that Adam was AWOL at the time Satan approached her. However, Claretta pointed out that [Genesis 3:6](#) says, "...she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, *who was with her*, and he ate it" (emphasis added). If one only reads that part of the story, it would seem like an open and shut case that Adam was with her the whole time. However...

[The Fall?](#)

The serpent's deception

Let's first look at the passage in context, so we can see what it really says:

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ([Genesis 3:1-6](#))

The first clue can be found in verse one. It says that the serpent was "more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made." Would it be considered "crafty" if the serpent had approached both Adam and Eve at the same time? I think not. It would make more sense trying to entice them one at a time. From the sequence of verses presented, it seems as if the action is continuous from the serpent's deception until Eve

eats the fruit. However, verse six begins with "when," implying that the preceding conversation might have happened some time before Eve actually went to the tree in the middle of the garden. The next thing we notice about the passage is that Adam is not mentioned until he is presented with the fruit to eat. If he was really with Eve and the serpent, why didn't he say anything? You would have thought he would have at least supported his wife when she mentioned about God saying not to eat of the fruit.² The absence of any input from Adam seems suspicious.

Adam and Eve are caught

The Bible sometimes leaves out details in order to be brief. However, we can fill in some of those details by reading what happened next. Of course, Adam and Eve were caught, and God questioned them about what had happened. First God asked Adam:

...Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ([Genesis 3:11-12](#))

Adam's response was to blame Eve for giving him the fruit (and ultimately, God, who gave Eve to him). If

Adam had been with Eve at the time the serpent was deceiving *them*, you would think he would have blamed the serpent. However, when God asked Eve, she did blame the serpent:

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ([Genesis 3:13](#))

So, Eve blamed the serpent and Adam blamed Eve, making it sound like they were not together when the serpent was tempting Eve. There is an even bigger clue that follows:

To Adam He [God] said, "Because you *listened to your wife* and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ([Genesis 3:17](#))

God seems to have been in on a conversation that we never heard in the original passage. In the conversation with the serpent, Eve simply embellished what God had told Adam about not eating from the tree in the middle of the garden. She never said that the serpent was right, at that time. So, it seems that after Eve left the serpent, she had a conversation with Adam, convincing

him that the forbidden fruit was actually good. Adam was not condemned for being deceived by the serpent, but for believing his wife instead of what God had told him. So, this verse clearly implies that Adam and Eve had a conversation between [Genesis 3:5](#) and [Genesis 3:6](#) in which she convinced Adam to eat the forbidden fruit. Adam wouldn't have needed convincing if he had been with Eve during Satan's conversation.

Paul says Eve was deceived

Besides Genesis, there are other clues that tell us that Adam was not with Eve during the serpent's deception. Paul said Eve was deceived by the serpent:

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ([2 Corinthians 11:3](#))

Paul is even more specific in 1 Timothy:

And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. ([1 Timothy 2:14](#))

If Adam had been with Eve during the serpent's deception, Paul could not have said that Adam was not

deceived. So, we must conclude that Adam was not with Eve during the serpent's deception.

Conclusion

Although not directly stated in the Bible, there are numerous clues that tell us what happened when Adam and Eve rebelled against God and ate the forbidden fruit. The crafty serpent (Satan in the form of a snake) waited for Eve to be alone before approaching her to convince her to disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit. Sometime later, Eve took Adam to the tree in the middle of the garden and convinced him that the fruit was good to eat. When Adam and Eve were caught in their sin by God, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. The New Testament confirms that only Eve was deceived by the serpent, demonstrating that Adam was not with her when the serpent approached her.

Why Wouldn't God Want Adam and Eve to Have Knowledge of Good and Evil?

by [Rich Deem](#)

INTRODUCTION

The Bible says that God created Adam and Eve and put them in a beautiful garden full of trees with good fruit. However, God also created a tree that would give the eater the knowledge of good and evil - commanding Adam not to eat its fruit. Why would God create something that was banned and, specifically, why would it be a tree whose fruit offered knowledge of good and evil? Isn't knowledge good?

Background

[Genesis 1](#) describes how God created the universe and life on earth. God's last creation was humanity, being [created in His image](#). [Genesis 2](#) provides the details of how human beings were created. Like most other creation accounts in the Bible, the one in Genesis 2 is brief. Here is what we know. God created Adam "from the dust of the ground" ([Genesis 2:7](#)) and placed him in a garden He had created specifically for him, in a place called Eden ([Genesis 2:8](#)), which is described as being "in the east" (from Israel). We don't know exactly where Eden was, but from the description, it seems it was in what is now Southern Iraq, [probably in the Persian Gulf](#), which would have been dry at the time of the last ice age. Although God had created previous hominid species on earth, modern humans were the first to possess a spirit with which to communicate

with and worship God. The Bible makes it clear that Adam was created outside the garden of Eden and placed in it when everything was ready ([Genesis 2:15](#)). We don't know how mature Adam was at his creation, but presumably he was a young adult. God had created many different kinds of fruit trees for Adam to eat. Of all the trees, Adam was commanded not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, in the middle of the garden ([Genesis 2:16-17](#)). Sometime after Adam was placed in the garden, Eve was created ([Genesis 2:21-22](#)), and the scene was set for Adam and Eve to obey or reject God.

Why set Adam and Eve up to fail?

Skeptics often complain that God set Adam and Eve up to fail. However, God had to give Adam and Eve a choice. Without free will to choose, Adam and Eve would have been mere puppets. True love always requires choice. God wanted Adam and Eve to choose to love and trust Him. The only way to give this choice would have been to command something that was not allowed. Since God had planted in the garden *all* the different trees from which we now get fruit,¹ the test was not too difficult. Adam and Eve had plenty to eat and a large variety of fruits from which to choose, and

could have chosen to believe God. They were only commanded not to eat from one tree out of the many.

Why did God choose the knowledge of good and evil?

Since everything else God planted in the garden was good, the natural choice of something to choose from would be knowledge of evil. God's plan for Adam and Eve was to enjoy each other and their fellowship with Him without the influence of evil. God did not want Adam and Eve to experience evil or even know about it. However, Satan had already rebelled against God and then tempted Eve to join him in rebellion against God. Satan used the oldest ploy in his playbook of deceit - God is a cosmic killjoy who is trying to keep something good from you.² Satan first asked Eve about the tree from which they were told not to eat.³ Eve told Satan they were not to eat of the forbidden fruit or they would die. Satan's reply indicated that God was a liar and that He just wanted to keep something good (the fruit) from them, saying, "God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."³ So, Adam and Eve gained knowledge of the difference between good and evil through direct experience, instead of through instruction by God. The text suggests that Adam and Eve had enjoyed daily walks with God through the garden prior to their fall ([Genesis 3:8](#)). The knowledge

of evil brought fear and shame to Adam and Eve ([Genesis 3:10](#)).⁴ So, the knowledge of good and evil was not a good thing, since it ruined their innocent relationship with God and each other.

Return to innocence?

This is somewhat speculative, but I believe that we believers will lose our knowledge of evil in [heaven](#). [Isaiah 25:8](#)⁵ says that God will wipe all the tears from us and our reproach will be removed (see also [Revelation 7:17](#) and [21:4](#)).⁶ We will be able to experience and enjoy God directly⁷ without influence or knowledge of sin and evil.

CONCLUSION

Skeptics claim that God set up Adam and Eve to fail by giving them a test that was either too difficult or deceptive. However, the Bible makes it clear that God gave Adam and Eve all they needed - with lots of different trees from which to eat fruit. It is clear that Eve knew she should not eat from the one tree in the middle of the garden that she was instructed to avoid. Instead of believing God and trusting Him, after all He had done for them, Eve chose to believe the lies of Satan (in snake form) and believed that God was lying to her. She ate the forbidden fruit and convinced her

husband to do the same, resulting in their loss of innocence and a broken relationship with God and each other. Yes, they now had knowledge of good and evil, but it wasn't quite as originally advertised by the snake. We still have the same choice as Adam and Eve. We can gain the knowledge of evil by directly participating in it or we can believe God and avoid the things He has said are bad for us.