

Sin and Serpentology

Genesis 3:1
Small Group Questions
WEEK OF AUGUST 2-8, 2026

- (1) Read Genesis 2:8 through the end of chapter 3 together.
 - (a) Think back to our study in Genesis last year if you can: Where does Genesis 2 fit in the Creation week?
 - (b) What at the beginning of chapter 3 signals that not all is well in Paradise? How do we account for that?
 - (c) Contrast the events of chapter 2 with chapter 3?
- (2) Remember from the sermon (and, more importantly, from Scripture!) the important of history to theology.
 - (a) What indications from Genesis 2-3 do we have that Moses intends us to read Genesis 3 as history?
 - (b) How does history serve as a vital vehicle for the theological truths of sin and salvation? (Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15 are helpful here if you want to anchor your answers in obvious passages of Scripture.)
 - (c) Why do many people struggle to see a historical retelling of actual events in Genesis 3?
 - (d) What do we give up and risk if we take Genesis 3 as truth-telling myth rather than a true historical record?
- (3) As we meet the serpent, what clues do we have that this is not *merely* a Garden-variety serpent?
 - (a) How do Jude 6, Revelation 12:9, Revelation 20:2, and Matthew 12:26-29 help us understand what's going on in Genesis 3:1?
 - (b) God has not told us much about the origin of evil in the cosmos, and Genesis 3 only focuses on the origin of evil on earth (and humanity specifically). Nevertheless, many theologians see in Isaiah 14:3-21 and Ezekiel 28:2-19 more than mere oracles against ancient kings. What might be gleaned from these passages that could be meant to give us insight into the fall of the angels, led by Satan?
- (4) How might we minister to those struggling with the fact that God sovereignly allows (and even ordains!) that his perfect image-bearers to be tempted into sin?
- (5) We're going to look much more closely at the anatomy of the fall next week. But what clues do we have even here in verse 1 that standing against temptation requires us to cling to the Word of God in Scripture?
- (6) How to Romans 6:1-12 and Colossians 2:11-15 point us to our need for Christ in order to be rescued from the catastrophic impact of sin since our first parents fell to the tempter?