

Adam, Serpents and Satan

Adam = “man”

OT: Outside of Genesis 3-5, Adam is only mentioned twice

1. Once in a genealogy listing
2. Hosea 6:7 – “Like Adam, they have broken the covenant...”

Gospels

One reference – Luke 3:38 (genealogy of Jesus)

Rest of NT

Paul: Romans, 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy

How important was Adam’s story in the scheme of the whole Bible?

How did evil enter into the world? The Old Testament not concerned with the how.

Serpents

Mentioned many times throughout both OT and NT

Often used figuratively representing Assyrians (Isaiah), Babylonians (Jeremiah) and for the Leviathan (Isaiah)

Gen. 3 – Serpent was “...more crafty than any of the wild animals...”

➤Note, Genesis text does not say the serpent was Satan

Revelation 12

12:9 “...that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan...”

But read the entire context of Chapter 12 (p. 1925)

Satan

OT mentions of Satan (not including the hassatan of Job):

1. 1 Chronicles 21:1 (p. 656) – compare to 2 Sam. 24:1 (p 518)
2. Zechariah 3:1-2 (p. 1474) – note Satan’s role here

In later Judaism the idea of the devil is identified with evil inclination, but not thought of as a fallen angel

In NT, Satan mentioned frequently and by many names:

Devil	Lord of Death	The Tempter
Ruler of This World	The Great Dragon	(Greek: <i>diabolos</i>)
Wicked One	Ruler of Demons	
The Evil One	Beezebul	
Father of Lies	The Adversary	

We are introduced to the idea of Satan as a fallen angel by Jesus in Luke 10:18

“According to ancient Christian tradition, Satan is a creation of God, not a human creature but an angelic creature of some kind. He, and perhaps other angelic creatures with him, rebelled against God and then became the source of the corruption of God’s good creation.” – *Shirley Guthrie Jr.*

Reminders about Satan:

1. Satan is never as powerful as God, who triumphs in the end.
2. Christians do not “believe in” Satan like we believe in God (Apostles Creed) – that would be considered idolatry.
3. Whenever Satan is brought up or mentioned in the NT it is to remind us that God is more powerful than Satan... Satan cannot win.
4. We should take the power of darkness seriously, but not too seriously, otherwise we spend more time thinking about the power of evil than about God’s saving power.
5. Satan isn’t always where you think he is – wolf in sheep’s clothing?

