

Genesis 3:1, YHWH Elohim

It is interesting that immediately following the Fall, Adam and Ishah focused their attention on their problem and not its solution. The last thing perfect people with perfect bodies in a perfect environment, functioning under a perfect plan, and living a perfect life in complete innocence should be worrying about is their nakedness. They had been naked from the beginning. The problem was not their nakedness but attitude of soul. Until they entered into spiritual death, their nakedness never crossed their minds. But now they have the knowledge of human good and evil.

Once the human mind perceives the guilt of sin, it has at its option the two human-viewpoint problem-solving devices of human good and evil. If the person decides to function under the three arrogant skills, these are the solutions he will choose. This process is demonstrated by our original parents in:

Genesis 3:1a - Now the serpent [Satan; see Revelation 12:9 & Revelation 20:2] was more skillful, ingenious, intelligent than any creatures of the field which Adonai Elohim [Jesus Christ] has made. In addition, Satan said to the woman ...

Satan is the most ingenious creature ever created by the hand of God and therefore his deceit takes on ingenious proportions as well. Note that he circumvents Adam's authority over his wife and goes directly to Ishah with his propaganda. His intent is to destroy the perfect marriage between these two perfect humans.

If Satan had instead attacked Adam and he had sinned first, and the woman had obeyed her husband's command to eat the fruit, then the volitional challenge of the forbidden tree would have been neutralized. Ishah could have claimed before the Lord that she was following His divine mandate to obey her husband and thus had not sinned. This would have left the woman innocent and Satan would still be guilty of all charges. Thus, Satan must convince the woman independent of her husband, to violate the divine prohibition. The conversation between Satan and Ishah was very involved as the Great Deceiver took his time setting the stage for his mental assault on the woman's soul.

The Holy Spirit doesn't permit us to enter into the dialogue until the middle of verse 1 where we find the Hebrew conjunction APH. This word is used to indicate a break in a context which is in progress. Thus, we pick up where Satan has set the stage for the insertion of the lie.

One way of defining propaganda is to tell a target audience a lie while presenting it as truth in hopes that the target doesn't have enough sense to know the difference. The first thing Satan attacks is the Person of Jesus Christ:

Genesis 3:1b - Indeed, Has God said ...

Satan is a former servant of Jesus Christ. He served as the Anointed Cherub, which means he was the honor guard of the second Person of the Trinity.

Ezekiel 28:14 - You are the Anointed Cherub who guards. I placed you into that honored position.

The word "Anointed" translates the Hebrew word "*mashiah*" which comes over into the English as Messiah and is translated in Greek by the word, "*Christos*." Thus, "Anointed Cherub" means that Satan in his pre-fallen status was the honor guard of the Anointed One, Jesus Christ.

Now the reason I point this out is that the second Person of the Trinity is certainly no stranger to Satan. Satan knows perfectly well who He is. He is also aware that the Lord has been conducting Bible class in the Garden every afternoon since His creation of the first couple.

Genesis 3:8 - And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day ...

The term “cool of the day” refers to late afternoon when the setting of the sun caused a light zephyr to blow across the Garden. The correct title for the second Person of the Trinity, introduced in Genesis, is “LORD God.” To better clarify this principle, I quote from the:

New Scofield Study Bible, New American Standard. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988, p. ix: The Divine Name

The personal name of God...is found in Hebrew as a four-letter sequence of two semivowels (Y,W) and two consonants (H,H)--that is, YHWH. Traditionally, reverent Jews considered this divine name too sacred to pronounce, and so in reading the text of the Old Testament they regularly substituted for it the noun “Adonai,” which means “lord” or “master.” In the Middle Ages rabbinic scholars combined the consonants and semivowels of “YHWH” and the vowels of “Adonai” and thus (accidentally) created a new form, “Jehovah.”

It should be stressed that “Jehovah” does not appear in the Hebrew text, and that “LORD” (printed in capital letters) is a special way to indicate typographically the personal divine name. Hence, one should remember that “Jehovah Elohim” is not an accurate transliteration of what is found in the Hebrew text, which actually has “YHWH Elohim.”

Please observe footnote number 3 at Genesis 2:3:

Up to this point the general term “God” has been used. “LORD” is added to “God” in Genesis 2:4, and continues to be used for several chapters. So, beginning in verse 4 we have deity referred to as “LORD God” or “Jehovah Elohim”:

Genesis 2:4 - This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and heaven.

That Jesus Christ is the Member of the Trinity Who was the Agent of creation is brought out in John 1:3, John 1:10; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16, Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:2, Revelation 4:11. Further, whenever there is a visual presence of God manifest before men, the Person who is visible is Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, these manifestations are called “Theophanies,” while in the New Testament they are referred to as “Christophanies.”

The creative act of Genesis 1:1, which is mentioned in Genesis 2:4, is accomplished, according to the verses just mentioned, by Jesus Christ Who is called in verse 4, Jehovah Elohim. Thus, Jesus Christ is the divine Agent who created human life.

Genesis 2:7 - Then the Lord God [Jehovah Elohim: Jesus Christ] formed [yatsar; to create from already existing materials] man of dust from the ground [biological life], and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [neshamah, soul life]; and man became a living being [human life].

The chapter continues to reveal the administrative works of Jesus. Genesis 2:8 and Genesis 2:9 tells us He landscaped the garden of Eden causing all the trees to grow including the Tree of Life.

In Genesis 2:15 we learn that it was Jesus Christ—Jehovah Elohim—who escorted Adam into the Garden and delegated him the responsibility of cultivating its crops. However, there was one tree in the Garden that the man was not to harvest for food—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Adam is warned by an imperative of prohibition and the statement of a penalty clause to avoid eating this tree's produce.

Genesis 2:17 - From the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat **[imperative of prohibition]**, for in the day that you eat from it dying you shall surely die **[punishment clause]**.

The comments and activities of our Lord continue to be the subject for the rest of chapter 2:

Genesis 2:18 - Jehovah Elohim says “It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Genesis 2:19 - Jehovah Elohim from out of the ground formed every beast of the field and bird of the sky and brought them to the man.

Genesis 2:21 - Jehovah Elohim caused Adam to go into a deep sleep after which he removed one of his ribs.

Genesis 2:22 - Jehovah Elohim fashioned a woman and brought her to Adam.

Then we see in Genesis 3:1 that of all the beasts that Jehovah Elohim created in Genesis 2:19, the serpent was more “skillful, ingenious, intelligent than any.” It is at this point that we are allowed access to the Satan-possessed serpent's conversation with Ishah.

Now, Satan is perfectly aware of Who said what in Genesis 2:16, Genesis 2:17: The LORD God, Jehovah Elohim— Jesus Christ—issued the imperative of prohibition. Yet he does not attribute the quote to its proper source, indicating his qualifications to work in journalism. Instead of attributing the quote to Christ, he assigns it to God—Elohim: “Indeed, has Elohim said ...”